

Number enrolled: 106

Number of couples retained: 104

Greatest retention challenge:

How to make the participants understand the
importance of coming to the study as a couple.

STRATEGIES

- At the screening visit, study staff emphasize that the partner is of equal importance as the index in the study. At each visit, the nurses talk about the importance of this being a study on couples during counseling sessions.
- Study staff try to involve the partner in clinic activities along with the index.

Lilongwe

Number enrolled: 251 couples

Number of couples retained: 233 couples.

Lilongwe

Greatest retention challenge:

- ◆ Relocation and seasonal migration: some clients relocated outside the study catchment area which makes it difficult for study staff to trace them when need arises.
- ◆ Discordant result - if index client is female, some partners do not adhere to study visits.
- ◆ Long stay at the clinic-leads to boredom, hence clients miss their next scheduled visit.

Lilongwe

Unique retention strategies :

- *Provision of cell phone to clients for easy communication.*
- *Formation and maintenance of HIV discordant couples' support groups.*
- *Conduct reminder visits by phone to all clients a week before the scheduled quarterly visits.*
- *Targeting to book not more than 5 couples per day.*
- *This will assist to overcome the problem of overstaying at the clinic.*

Site: Rio de Janeiro/Brasil

. Instituto de Pesquisa Clínica Evandro Chagas/Fiocruz (IPEC)

Number enrolled: 105 IPEC

3 HSE

1 HNSC/RS

Total: 109 couples

Number of couples retained: 101 -IPEC

Site: Rio de Janeiro/Brasil

. Instituto de Pesquisa Clínica Evandro Chagas/Fiocruz (IPEC)

Greatest retention challenge:

- ◆ To maintain with the participants a relationship based on confidence and co-responsibility
- ◆ Keep long-term interest in study participation
- ◆ Conciliate the various study visit procedures (clinic, counseling, pharmacy, gynecology, sample collection) with couple's personal agenda
- ◆ Keep couples coming within the period window

Site: Rio de Janeiro/Brasil

. Instituto de Pesquisa Clínica Evandro Chagas/Fiocruz (IPEC)

Unique retention strategies

- ◆ *Scheduling study visits on Saturdays and out of business hours.*
- ◆ *Provide taxi or site's car whenever there is a need of quick displacement (job, children, etc.)*

National AIDS Research Institute, Pune, India

Number enrolled:

Run In Phase : 10 Couples

Full study : 165 couples

*Number of couples retained: 174/ 175**

** Partner got married and migrated*

Greatest retention challenge

Pune, India

- ◆ Partners' retention
 - Marital discord
 - Partners entering into 'other' stable relationship
 - No visible benefits to the partners
- ◆ Relocation/ Migration
 - Work place changes
 - Native place: Parents offer support

Retention strategies

- ◆ *Formation of Retention Management Committee*
- ◆ *Looking at retention issues pertaining to index and partner separately and focusing on respective problems*
- ◆ *Partner centered counseling*

HPTN 052 Soweto

Number enrolled:50

Number of couples retained:50

HPTN 052 Soweto

Greatest retention challenges:

- ◆ *Unemployment and poverty*
- ◆ *Informal workplace*
- ◆ *Keeping the partner participant interested*
- ◆ *Relationship problems*

HPTN 052 Soweto

Unique retention strategies:

- ◆ *Birthday gifts and messages*
- ◆ *Social gathering for participants (Quarterly)*
- ◆ *Information sessions*
- ◆ *Anniversary events*

Hospital Nossa Senhora da Conceição ***#12201***

Number enrolled: 90 couples

Number of couples retained: 88 couples

Drop out causes:

593-058-00-6/593-058-01-1 – withdraw consent

593-092-00-1/593-092-01-6 – moved to Rio

Separations, index on study:

593-083-01-2

593-077-01-4

593-041-01-0

593-048-01-2 (new partner)

Hospital Nossa Senhora da Conceição

#12201

Greatest retention challenge:

- 1. Keep couples married*
- 2. Having non-infected partner coming to scheduled visits (don't feel sick, labor restraint)*

Hospital Nossa Senhora da Conceição

#12201

Unique retention strategies:

Couples whose jobs impede attendance to the clinic during working days (one partner is sailor and one couple lives in a metropolitan city)

UZ Parirenyatwa CRS

Number enrolled: 240 couples

Number of couples retained: 221

UZ Parirenyatwa CRS

Greatest retention challenge:

- ◆ *Relocation to neighbouring countries*
- ◆ *Lack of commitment in cohabiting couples*
- ◆ *Cultural values/norms if male is the –ve partner*

UZ Parirenyatwa CRS

Unique retention strategies

- ◆ *Reminder calls/reminder letters*
- ◆ *Reimbursement of tickets for those from outside Harare/use of study vehicles*
- ◆ *Intensive couples counseling and referrals to marriage counselors*
- ◆ *Encourage to attend support groups.*

YRG CARE, Chennai, India

Number enrolled: 250 couples

Index & Partner Termination : 9

Number of couples retained: 239

YRG CARE, Chennai, India

Greatest retention challenge:

- 1. Coming to site as a couple is a challenge*
- 2. Spouse of female Index not willing to bring her to site*
- 3. Participant travelling a very long distance*
- 4. Couples separation is the greatest challenge*
- 5. Change in participant mobile numbers and contact persons numbers*
- 6. Some times contact person doesn't help to contact the participant staff*
- 7. Few participants don't hold a mobile*
- 8. Retention staff go in search of participant*

YRG CARE, Chennai, India

- ◆ **Unique retention strategies**
- ◆ Linkages with local NGO, CBO and positive networks help us ensure retention is high
- ◆ Linkages with private and public medical providers (offering them continuing Medical education or other technical inputs as required)
- ◆ Offering psychosocial support and other social or medical linkages to PLHIV in the catchment areas
- ◆ Developing sufficient rapport with family members or personal care givers (this is on a case by case basis depending on a participant's willingness to introduce personal care givers to retention staff)

Hospital Geral de Nova Iguaçu - HGNI

Number enrolled: 76 couples

Number of couples retained: 71 couples

- ❖ 06 partners out of the study (Reason: termination relationship);*
- ❖ 01 new partner was enrolled in the study;*

Hospital Geral de Nova Iguaçu – HGNI

Greatest challenges for retention

- *Instability of couple's relationship;*
- *Participants' work vs Study visits;*
- *Moving to a different neighborhood;*
- *Drug abuse;*

Hospital Geral de Nova Iguacu - HGNI

Unique retention strategies that our site is using

- ◆ *Help couples to overcome relationship instability;*
- ◆ *Offering “after hours” study visits;*
- ◆ *Transportation and meals reimbursement ;*
- ◆ *Phone contacts, from specific staff members, to discuss the reasons he/she missed visits;*
- ◆ *Close monitoring of the participants’ needs in order to fulfill study requirements and to improve their quality of life;*

Thibelo Study Site

Botswana Harvard Partnership Gaborone/Botswana

Number enrolled: 77 couples

*Number of couples retained: 75
couples and 1 Index*

Thibelo Study Site-Gaborone

Greatest retention challenge:

- ◆ *Relationships breaking up due to social problems*
- ◆ *Movement of participants out of study area*
- ◆ *Strain on work environment due to frequent study visits*

Thibelo Study Site-Gaborone

Retention strategies:

- ◆ *Couples Social Counseling upon request*
- ◆ *Transport re-imbusement to the participants current residence*
- ◆ *Negotiated times of study visit e.g. as early as 7a.m.*

Kisumu Site (Kenya)

Number of couples enrolled: 59

Enrollment started: Nov 2009

Retention to date: 59 (100%)

Kisumu Site (Kenya)

Greatest retention challenge:

- ◆ *Out-migration of participants (esp. for work)*
- ◆ *Other important challenges*
 - *Missed visits despite reminders*
 - *Competing needs for participant time (farming, childcare, funerals)*
 - *Couples not attending together*
 - *Changes in couple status*

Kisumu Site (Kenya)

Some solutions developed:

- *Locating migrated participants through next of kin*
- *Provided a safe environment for children at the study clinic so that families can spend significant time there*

CHRU Wits-Johannesburg Site

Number enrolled: 45 Couples on Study

Number of couples retained: 2 partners withdrew consent

CHRU Wits-Johannesburg Site

Greatest retention challenge: Breakdown in partner relationships

CHRU Wits-Johannesburg Site

Unique retention strategies:

- ◆ *Toll Free number*
- ◆ *Psycho Social Support (Counselling)*