

Teens Taking Charge for HIV Prevention



More than 30 percent of all new HIV infections globally are estimated to occur among youth ages 15 to 25 years, according to the World Health Organization. And young people's risk of becoming infected with HIV is closely correlated with the age of sexual debut. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports 21 percent of new HIV acquisitions in the U.S. occur among young people. Most of these infections occur due to sexual activity, and about half of the youth who are living with HIV do not know it.

HPTN researchers recently initiated the first HPTN study to enroll U.S. adolescents under the age of 18 exclusively. [HPTN 083-01](#) is evaluating safety, acceptability, and tolerability of a pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) regimen containing long-acting injectable cabotegravir (CAB LA) for adolescents assigned male at birth. A companion study, [HPTN 084-01](#), is expected to start soon and will examine whether injectable CAB LA for PrEP is safe, acceptable and tolerable for adolescents assigned female at birth in South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. HPTN 083-01 and HPTN 084-01, collectively known as 'the Twins'

studies, will also provide an ideal opportunity for study participants to balance the perceived risks and benefits of HIV prevention options.

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HPTN Responds to European Medicines Agency Positive Opinion Regarding Dapivirine Ring



The HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) congratulates colleagues from the Microbicide Trials Network (MTN) for the recent positive scientific opinion from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) regarding the dapivirine vaginal ring use for HIV acquisition risk reduction among cisgender-women in low-and middle-income countries outside the European Union. Based on the EMA's assessment of the quality, safety, efficacy and benefit-risk balance, the World Health Organization may include the ring in its recommendations and guidelines for HIV prevention, potentially adding another option to the HIV prevention toolbox. Two large clinical trials found the ring reduced HIV infection risk by approximately 30 percent in cisgender women ages 18 to 45 in east and southern Africa.

The HPTN is committed to preventing HIV among all women worldwide deemed at increased risk of acquiring HIV.

Shoutout



[HPTN 084-01](#) community educators recently held an online best practices training. Twenty-seven participants representing clinical research site staff, adult and adolescent community advisory board members, HPTN LOC community and clinical representatives, and HPTN 084-01 study leadership met over two days. The group discussed innovative ways to engage adolescents and their parents/guardians on sensitive topics such as sexual activity and contraception. HPTN 084-01 (The LIFT Study) is a clinical trial examining whether injectable cabotegravir for PrEP is safe and acceptable for adolescent females assigned female at birth.

Network Member Spotlight

Calvin Mbede, a member of the [HPTN 075](#) study team and study coordinator at the Kisumu CRS in Kisumu, Kenya, has supported HIV prevention research community efforts since 2010. His passion has been working with different populations, including adolescent girls and young women, men who have sex with men, female sex workers and people living with HIV/AIDS.



What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?

I enjoy the beginning of a study when the community anticipation

gives us the extra push to implement successfully. Each time, it is a learning process as we listen to community members' thoughts and ideas. It makes the whole experience worthwhile knowing that the small role I play could someday change lives.

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Hot Off The Press

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