



HPTN

HIV Prevention
Trials Network

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Lessons Learnt from the Implementation of HPTN studies

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Introduction

- Community Engagement, Recruitment and Retention.



- are key components of scientific research
- require an active and functional input
- in order to achieve quality study conduct

Community Engagement

- Effective CE is through concerted efforts in partnership with CAB & Stakeholders
- CAB & stakeholders have greatly assisted in
 - Community mapping,
 - Community Sensitization,
 - Potential participant referral,
 - Information & results dissemination
- CE has yielded attractive accrual rates and high retention





Recruitment

- Targeted community sensitization increases the chance of identifying potential participants
 - The quality & efficiency in recruitment is enhanced by
 - Pre-screening at community level & analysis by the rest of team at site
 - Male partner Involvement to promote male support
 - Snowball technique & referrals by stakeholders
- [HPTN 076, 082, HVTN 703/HPTN 081]

RETENTION

- *It starts at recruitment*
- Creation of a conducive environment-
- locator verification prior to enrolment & regular update
- Tracking time spent per study procedure [RPI] HVTN 703/HPTN 081
- Identification of participants who display a pattern of late or missed appointments
- Participant engagement- through retention meetings & activities
- Courtesy calls-participants feel cared for
- Flexibility- afterhours/ weekend clinics
- Immediate follow up- defaulters
- Regular communication with CAB

Summary

- Lessons learnt from previous studies have shaped our CE, recruitment and retention strategies
- We have learnt that:
 - CE a critical process, does not end with community education- includes participant engagement activities and constant interaction with stakeholders
 - Quality study conduct is premised on the quality of the participant and team work
 - The 3 key components are intertwined and therefore relaxing on 1 seriously affects the quality of study conduct



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