



In the Face of a Global Pandemic and Social Barriers, Cisgender Female Adolescents Enroll in HIV Prevention Trial HPTN 084-01 in Sub-Saharan Africa

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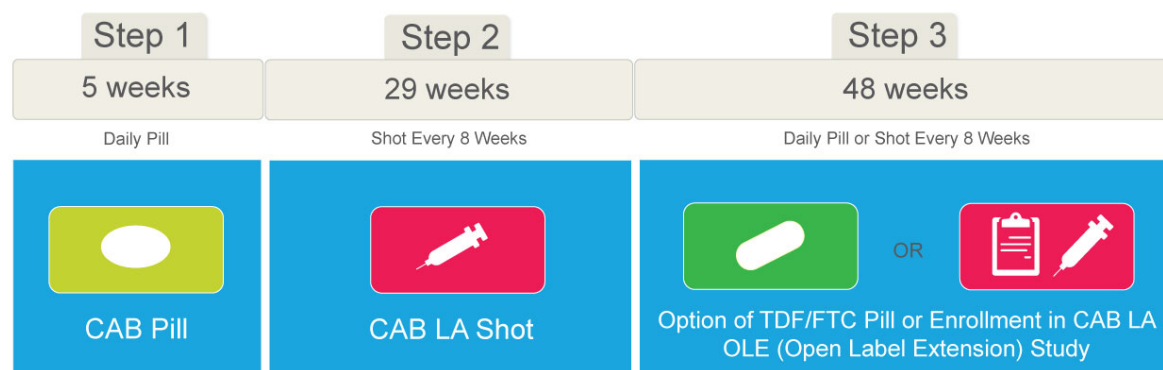
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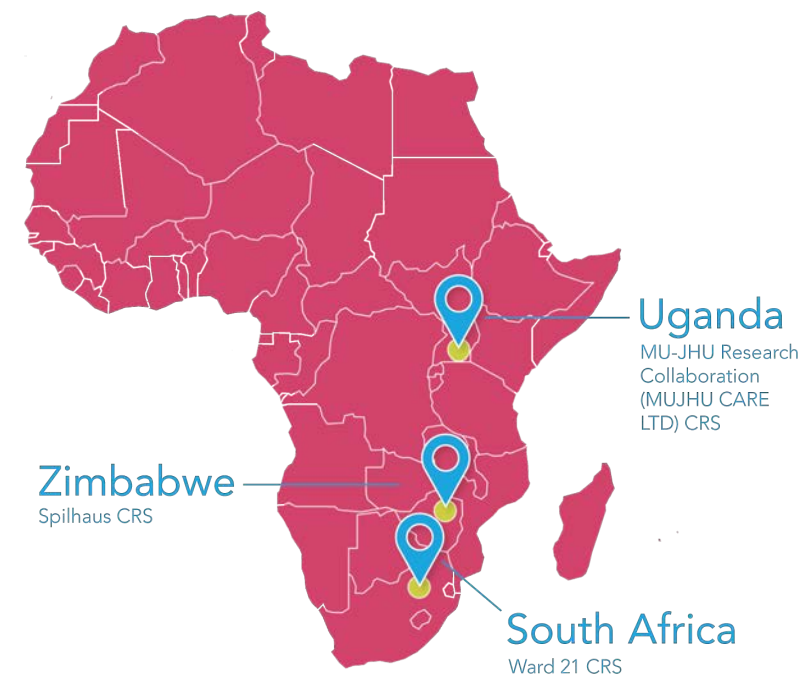
HPTN 084-01

Examining safety, tolerability, and acceptability of injectable cabotegravir (CAB LA) for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for 55 cisgender adolescent females under 18 years of age

HPTN 084-01 Study Participant Plan



*In step 2, the first two shots are four weeks apart and 8 weeks apart after that

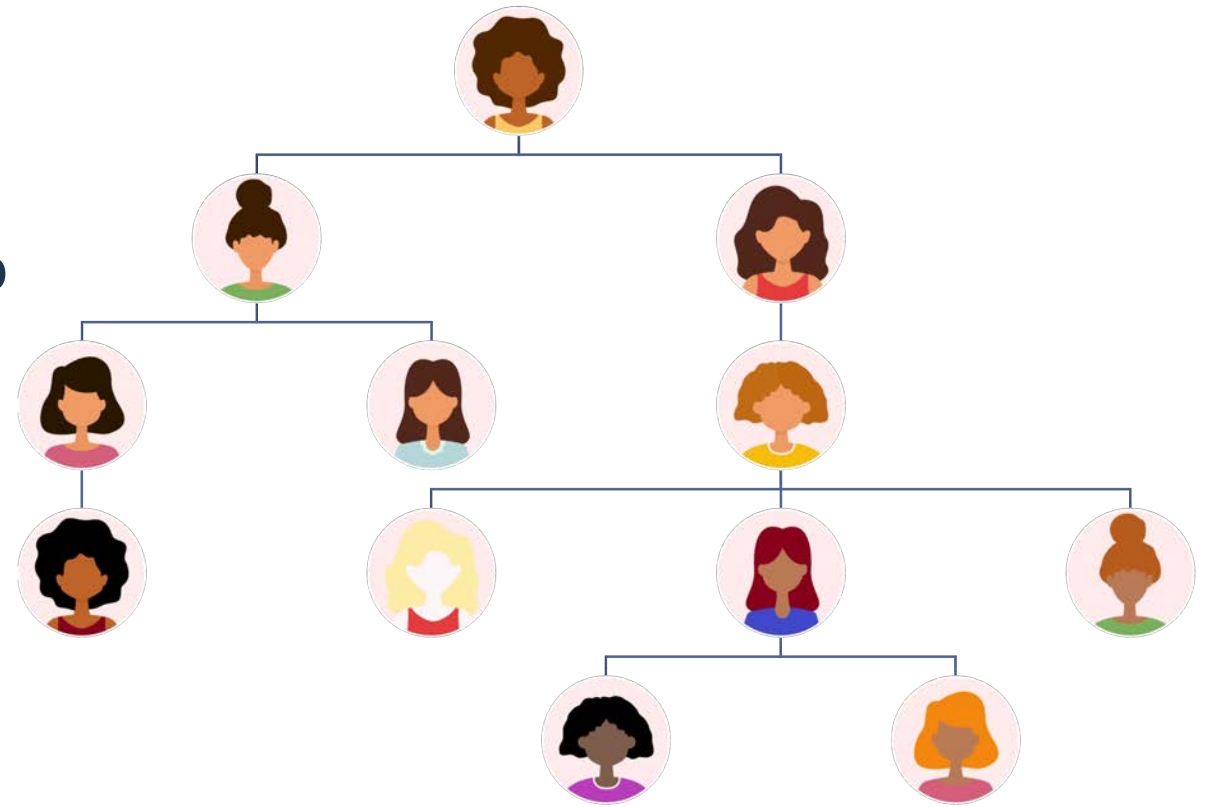


COVID-19 and Social Barriers

- Travel curfews
- Limitation on number of public transport passengers
- Inaccessibility to smartphones, Wi-Fi, and computers for participation on Zoom and Teams
- Limitation on number of people attending gatherings
- Low HIV risk perception, low awareness of PrEP
- Research wariness
- Premarital sex seen as taboo
- Nondisclosure of sexual activity to parents
- ARV stigma
- Disinclination to use contraception
- Study visits conflicting with school
- Parent's lack of familiarity with clinical trials
- Parent's employment related inaccessibility

Snowballing

- Community engagement staff encouraged adolescent participants to refer friends, schoolmates, and family to the study
- PrEP-use ambassadors described the study to prospective participants using text messaging and individual interactions
- Incentives were provided for every 5 referrals made to the study



Community Outreach

- Community health workers and community outreach staff engaged cisgender adolescent girls in the community
- Adult and youth community advisory boards (CABs) helped community outreach staff identify adolescent hang-out locations



Photo Credit: Mary Altaffer/Associated Press via the NY Times

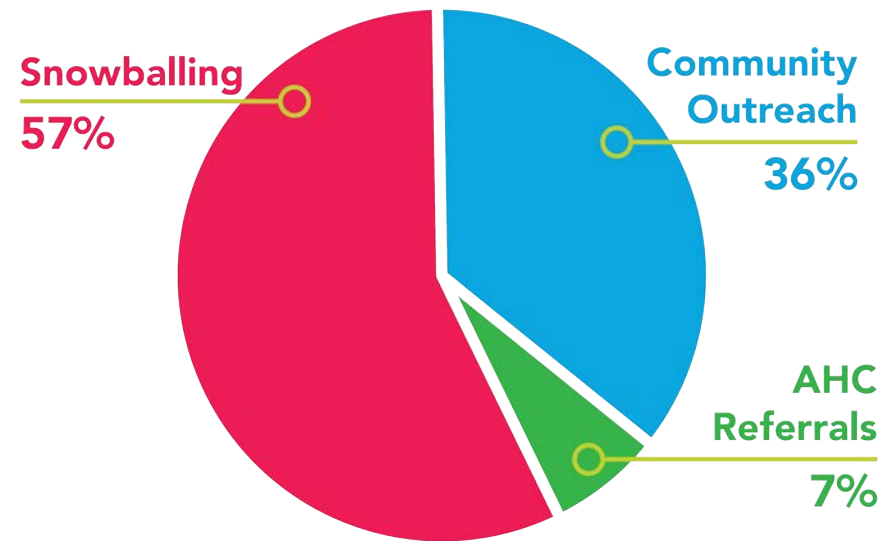
Adolescent Health Clinic Referrals

- With the clinic manager's permission, community health workers and community outreach team provided an overview of the study to adolescent health clinic staff
- Once a relationship with clinic staff was established, study staff were granted permission to explain the study to prospective participants attending the adolescent health clinic
- Prospective participants expressed interest in the study, and clinic staff made referrals accordingly



Enrollment Results

- 300 prospective participants were contacted between November 2020 – July 2021
- Screening to enrollment ratio of 73:55 cisgender adolescent females
- Study fully enrolled 4 months ahead of schedule



Conclusions

- HPTN 084-01 research sites successfully enrolled cisgender adolescent females by using modified recruitment strategies
- Enrollment targets were achieved ahead of schedule
- Researchers in Sub-Saharan Africa should consider these strategies to reach cisgender adolescent females for participation in HIV prevention trials in their regions



Recognition

The HPTN 084-01 protocol team recognizes the courage and commitment of the study participants and their families, the site staff, and the communities that support them.

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- The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.