



Manicaland HIV/STD Prevention Project

Epidemic Status Report 2023

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-For

HOBHOUSE AND ALL SURROUNDING AREAS

INTRODUCTION

Round 7 was carried out from July 2018 to October 2019, round 8 was carried out from February 2021 to July 2021 (i.e. during the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic), and round 9 was carried out from July 2022 to December 2022 (i.e. as Covid-19 became less severe due to vaccinations and emergence of less deadly variants of the virus). This report compares the main results on local patterns of HIV infection, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), knowledge and awareness of HIV, and sexual and health-seeking behaviour between the 3 rounds. In rounds 8 and 9, extra questions were added about the Covid 19 virus. For these two rounds, HIV prevalence estimates are based on self-reports for new survey participants and for those who were uninfected in the last round in which they participated.

AREAS COVERED

The survey covered the following areas Hobhouse 1 and 2. In rounds 7, 8 and 9 of the survey, the numbers of adults who participated were 807, 647 and 1,086 respectively. These numbers fluctuated due to changes in migration and changes in survey eligibility criteria.

KEY RESULTS

- 6% men and 8% women were infected with HIV in round 9 (July-December 2022)
- In all three rounds of the survey, HIV prevalence has been higher in men and women who report having had larger numbers of sexual partners in their lifetime
- Increases were found between round 8 ('during Covid'19) and round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased') in the proportions of men and women who reported having had a Covid-19 test, having tested and received a positive result, and having been vaccinated against Covid-19
- Whilst more people in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased') than in round 8 ('during Covid'19) said they had *ever* been in contact with someone who had Covid-19, fewer people said they were at risk of getting infected themselves in the future
- The proportion of young women (aged 15-19yrs) who reported having started sex fell sharply from 29% in round 7 ('before Covid-19') to 16% in round 8 ('during Covid-19') and fell again slightly to 14% in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased')
- The proportion of sexually active women who had a new sexual partner within a year increased sharply from 15% in round 7 (before Covid-19) to 43% in round 8(during Covid-19) and declined abruptly to 12% in round 9 (as Covid-19 eased)
- Amongst women with a recent non-regular partner, the proportion reporting unprotected sex with this partner fell from 86% in round 7 ('before Covid-19) to 71% in round 8 ('during Covid-19') but increased again to 81% in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased'). The proportion of these women reporting using pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) increased from 0% in round 7 ('before Covid-19') to 50% in round 8 ('during Covid-19') and fell to 17% in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased')
- Fewer men had more than one sexual partner in the last month in round 8 (5.2% 'during Covid-19') than in round 7 (7.3% 'before Covid-19'). A further decline to 3% was found in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased')
- The proportions of men and women reporting STD symptoms in the last 12 months remained stable from round 7 ('before Covid-19') to round 8 ('during Covid-19') but increased in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased')
- HIV testing in the last 6 months in men fell from 28% before Covid-19 to 24% during Covid-19 and recovered to 33% as Covid-19 eased. For women, recent HIV testing fell from 42% to 34% before recovering to 36%

Ages 15+years

	MALES									FEMALES												
	Round 7 July 2018-Oct 2019			Round 8 Feb 2021-July 2021			Round 9 July 2022-Dec 2022			Round 7 July 2018-Oct 2019			Round 8 Feb 2021-July 2021			Round 9 July 2022-Dec 2022						
	HIV+ people	Total	%	HIV+ people	Total	%	HIV+ people	Total	%	HIV+ people	Total	%	HIV+ people	Total	%	HIV+ people	Total	%				
1. HIV PREVALENCE																						
1.1 All Participants	15	301	5%	19	276	7%	▲	21	338	6%	▼	34	469	7%	31	367	8%	▲	45	547	8.2%	▼
1.2 Age Group																						
15-19	1	116	1%	0	51	0%	▼	1	35	3%	▲	3	175	2%	1	74	1%	▼	1	40	3%	▲
20-24	1	75	1%	0	48	0%	▼	2	62	3%	▲	4	122	3%	1	64	2%	▼	2	115	2%	▲
25-34	2	42	5%	3	63	5%	—	2	94	2%	▼	7	81	9%	3	82	4%	▼	8	145	6%	▲
35-44	3	19	16%	5	47	11%	▼	3	56	5%	▼	11	63	17%	10	67	15%	▼	14	114	12%	▼
45-54	7	17	41%	11	67	16%	▼	5	43	12%	▼	8	34	24%	16	80	20%	▼	17	87	20%	▼
55+	0	8	0%	0	0	—	—	8	48	17%	▲	3	19	16%	0	0	—	▼	3	46	7%	▲
1.4 Marital Status																						
Single	2	182	1%	0	103	0%	▼	4	105	4%	▲	3	171	2%	2	108	2%	▲	1	81	1%	▼
Married	12	106	11%	19	165	12%	▲	16	222	7%	▼	15	280	5%	13	203	6%	▲	26	364	7%	▲
Divorced/separated/widowed	2	10	20%	0	8	0%	▼	1	11	9%	▲	20	67	30%	16	56	29%	▼	18	102	18%	▼
In non-polygynous union	11	103	11%	18	265	7%	▼	15	219	7%	▲	14	278	5%	15	311	5%	▼	26	364	7%	▲
In polygynous union	1	3	33%	1	3	33%	—	1	3	33%	—	1	1	100%	0	0	—	▼	0	0	—	—
1.5 Education																						
None/primary	1	12	8%	1	32	3%	▼	0	17	0%	▼	7	67	10%	11	72	15%	▲	9	61	15%	▼
Secondary/higher	13	262	5%	18	244	7%	▲	21	321	7%	▼	28	419	7%	20	295	7%	▲	36	486	7%	▲
1.6 Employment Status																						
Formal employment	4	41	10%	10	110	9%	▼	15	203	7%	▼	2	39	5%	0	55	14%	▲	13	117	11%	▼
Informal employment	5	37	14%	7	59	12%	▼	1	42	2%	▼	10	95	11%	6	81	7%	▼	9	93	10%	▲
Unemployed	4	72	6%	2	56	4%	▼	4	51	8%	▲	21	231	9%	16	153	10%	▲	0	49	0%	▼
Student	0	114	0%	0	51	0%	—	1	43	2%	▲	1	118	1%	1	77	1%	▲	23	288	8%	▲
1.7 Number of Sexual Partners in life																						
1	1	45	2%	1	47	2%	▼	4	93	4%	▲	17	251	7%	14	204	7%	▲	25	385	7%	▼
2-4	5	72	7%	8	87	9%	▲	6	131	5%	▼	14	82	17%	12	62	19%	▲	14	98	14%	▼
5+	8	45	18%	10	76	13%	▼	9	62	15%	▲	5	19	26%	4	8	50%	▲	6	15	40%	▼
2. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON KNOWLEDGE, RISK PERCEPTION & STIGMA																						
2.1 Knowledge - Factors Thought to Increase Risk																						
	15+ years old						15+ years old						15+ years old									
	Said Yes	Total Asked	%	Said Yes	Total Asked	%	Said Yes	Total Asked	%	Said Yes	Total Asked	%	Said Yes	Total Asked	%	Said Yes	Total Asked	%	Said Yes	Total Asked	%	
Presence of STDs	246	321	77%	234	277	81%	▲	275	443	62%	▼	452	486	93%	345	370	93%	▲	552	643	86%	▼
Condoms	23	321	7%	58	277	21%	▲	25	443	6%	▼	16	486	3%	47	37	127%	▲	13	643	2%	▼
Withdrawal	14	321	4%	28	277	10%	▲	29	443	7%	▼	13	486	3%	12	370	3%	▲	6	643	1%	▼
2.2 Knowledge - Infant Infection																						
Infants can be infected via breastfeeding	254	321	79%	203	277	73%	▼	328	443	74%	▲	445	486	92%	325	370	88%	▼	609	643	95%	▲
All children of HIV+ women infected	37	321	12%	24	277	9%	▼	35	443	8%	▼	21	486	4%	14	370	4%	▼	17	643	3%	▼
2.3 Knowledge - HIV versus AIDS																						
HIV+ person can always be identified visually	58	321	18%	29	277	10%	▼	44	443	10%	▼	72	486	15%	41	370	11%	▼	65	643	10%	▼
2.4 Stigma (Kusemwa)																						
Willing to care for an infected relative	296	321	92%	266	277	96%	▲	411	443	93%	▼	443	486	91%	355	370	96%	▲	626	643	97%	▲
Cared for a relative with AIDS 6	80	321	25%	55	204	27%	▲	53	203	26%	▼	123	486	25%	116	314	37%	▲	216	476	45%	▲
3. SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR, STD SYMPTOMS & TREATMENT SERVICES																						
3.1 Sexual Behaviour*																						
	15+ years old						15+ years old						15+ years old									
	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	
More than one partner in last month	14	193	7.3%	11	210	5.2%	▼	8	315	3%	▼	2	362	0.6%	2	277	0.7%	▲	3	499	0.6%	▼
One or more new partner(s) in the last year.	66	129	51%	42	197	21%	▼	48	215	22%	▲	46	303	15%	98	226	43%	▲	50	413	12%	▼
15-19s that have started sex	15	119	13%	7	51	14%	▲	4	97	4%	▼	51	175	29%	12	74	16%	▼	16	112	14%	▼
Unprotected sex with recent non regular partner**	66	86	77%	78	88	89%	▲	84	97	87%	▼	30	35	86%	12	17	71%	▼	38	47	81%	▲
Can negotiate for safer sexual relations with spouse	71	168	42%	35	146	24%	▼	43	214	20%	▼	121	317	38%	76	205	37%	▼	84	365	23%	▼
3.2 STD Symptoms - Last 12 Months																						
Genital Discharge	3	296	1%	3	250	1%	▲	10	385	3%	▲	25	511	5%	18	340	5%	▲	45	587	8%	▲
Genital sore/ulcer	1	321	0%	2	250	1%	▲	1	385	0%	▼	10	486	2%	3	340	1%	▼	12	587	2%	▲
4. UPTAKE OF HIV SERVICES																						
4.1 HIV Testing																						
	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	
Ever tested for HIV in life	154	321	48%	173	277	62%	▲	338	443	76%	▲	361	484	75%	281	369	76%	▲	547	643	85%	▲
Tested for HIV in the last 3 years	126	321	39%	13	277	5%	▼	248	443	56%	▲	304	486	63%	9	370	2%	▼	434	643	67%	▲
Tested for HIV in the last 6 months	44	159	28%	54	223	24%	▼	113	338	33%	▲	155	371	42%	111	329	34%	▼	195	547	36%	▲
Tested for HIV in the last 12 months	95	159	60%	105	223	47%	▼	188	338	56%	▲	251	391	64%	54	329	16%	▼	359	547	66%	▲
4.2 ARV Treatment																						
Receiving ART of those HIV+	3	7	43%	16	16	100%	▲	14	15	93%	▼	26	31	84%	30	31	97%	▲	44	44	100%	▲
4.3 Hiv prevention methods																						
Circumcised	65	296	22%	53	277	19%	▼	95	443	21%	▲	305	485	63%	338	370	91%	▲	563	643	88%	▼
Condom Accessibility	241	321	75%	243	277	88%	▲	379	443	86%	▼	0	30	0%	6	12	50%	▲	5	38	13%	▼
Currently using prep***	0	66	0%	1	78	1%	▲	2	84	2%	▲											
5. CORONA VIRUS																						
Risk perception				161	269	60%	▼	182	443	41%	▼				173	356	49%	▼	262	643	41%	▼
Contact with covid 19 infected person	1	277	0%	0	277	0%	—	29	443	7%	▲				12	370	3%	▼	92	643	14%	▲
Vaccine coverage	27	277	10%	0	277	0%	—	360	443	81%	▲				60	370	16%	▼	567	643	88%	▲
Ever tested for covid	25	277	9%	0	277	0%	—	56	443	13%	▲				55	370	15%	▼	269	643	42%	▲
Tested with a positive result	2	25	8%	0	25	0%	—	5	56	9%	▲				5	55	9%	▼	26	269	10%	▲

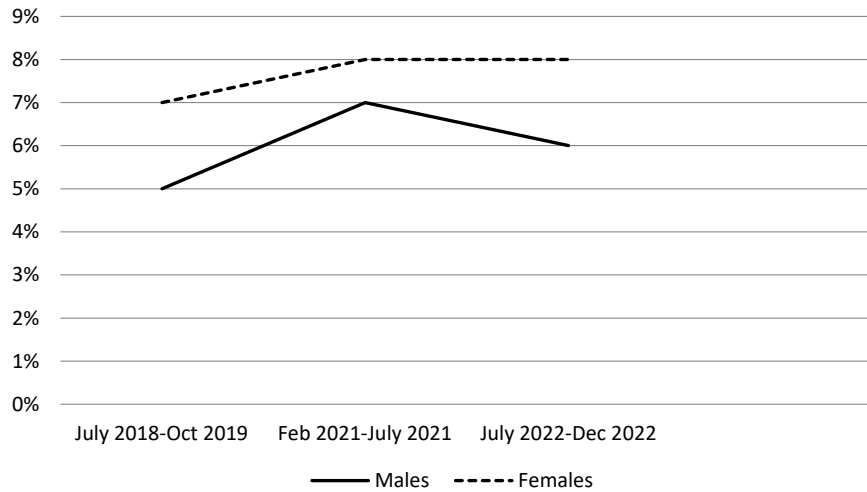
▲ Marks an increase from previous round | ▼ Marks a decrease from previous round | — Marks no change between rounds

* Respondents who reported not having started sex yet were excluded here. ** Respondents with no non regular partners were excluded

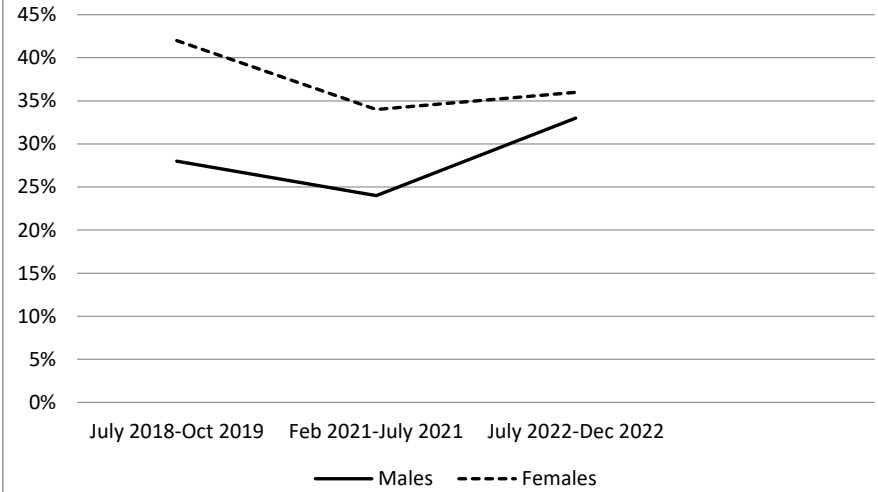
*** Denominator consist of respondents who ever had sex with recent non regular partner

HOBHOUSE GRAPHS

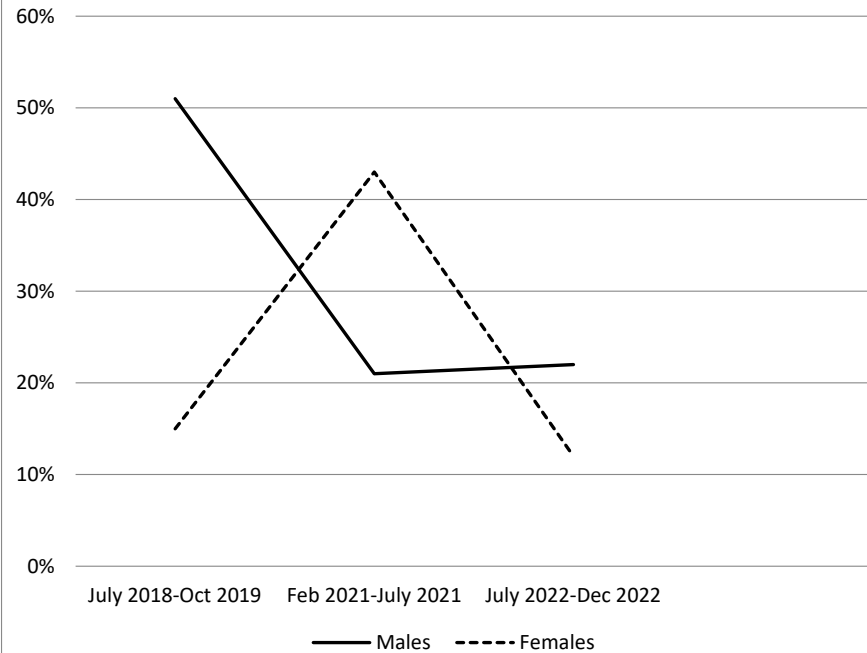
HIV Prevalence



Tested for HIV in the last 6 months



One or more new partners in the last year



Patterns in Covid 19

