# Manicaland HIV/STD Prevention Project Epidemic Status Report 2023 

NYAZURA AND 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 West Valley, Nyazura 1-161, Mahere and Nyazura new builds. In rounds 7,8 and 9 of the survey, the numbers of adults who participated were $1,446,1,239$ and 1,352 respectively. These numbers fluctuated due to changes in migration and changes in survey eligibility criteria.

## KEY RESULTS

- $10 \%$ men and $13 \%$ 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
- Big 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
- 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. In round 9 , there was a reduction in men who said they were at risk of getting infected themselves in the future ( $35 \%$ vs $46 \%$ ) but an increase for women ( $58 \%$ vs $35 \%$ )
- The proportion of young women (aged $15-19 y r s)$ who reported having started sex fell from $28 \%$ in round 7 ('before Covid-19') to $21 \%$ in round 8 ('during Covid-19') and increased again slightly to $25 \%$ 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 $83 \%$ in round 7 ('before Covid-19') and $91 \%$ in round 8 ('during Covid-19') to $74 \%$ in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased'). The proportion of these women reporting using pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) ) increased from $14 \%$ in round 7 ('before Covid-19') to $20 \%$ in round 8 ('during Covid-19') and $27 \%$ in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased')
- Fewer men had more than one sexual partner in the last month in round 8 ( $3.2 \%$ 'during Covid-19') than in round 7 ( $4.1 \%$ 'before Covid-19'). The proportion increased to $4.0 \%$ in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased')
- Levels of HIV testing increased slightly for men and declined slightly for women during Covid-19
- The proportions of people living with HIV who reported being on ART remained high throughout the Covid-19 outbreak


NYAZURA GRAPHS


