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# **EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AND ASSOCIATION WITH HIV RISK AMONG YOUNG KENYAN WOMEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DREAMS INITIATIVE**

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IGWG Child Marriage and IPV  
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# Generating evidence around DREAMS

- 3 cross-cutting themes for implementation science research (10 studies across 7 countries)



Assessing effectiveness of community-based **girl-centered programming**



Identifying and reaching **male partners** of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in HIV services



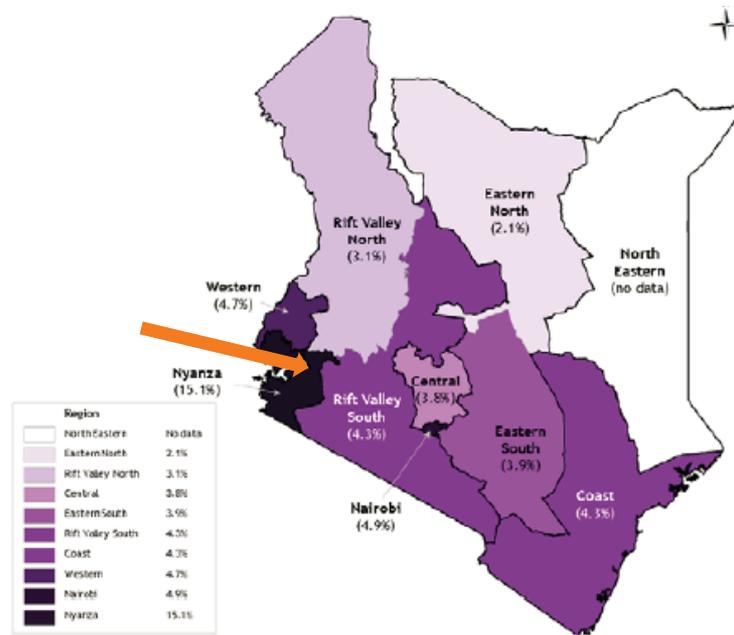
Introducing **oral PrEP** among adolescent girls and young women

# Effectiveness of community-based, girl-centered programming in Kenya

- Do programs identify and recruit most at-risk AGYW?
- Do programs reduce HIV-related risk among AGYW?
- How do program encourage engagement in DREAMS program?
- Is there fidelity to program design?
- What are the costs per beneficiary?

# Study sites: urban & peri-urban site, Kisumu county, Nyanza province

HIV prevalence among adults and adolescents aged 15–64 years by region, KAIS 2012



There were wide geographical variations in HIV prevalence in Kenya with Nyanza region being disproportionately affected.

## Kisumu County

- Median age at 1<sup>st</sup> sex: 16.2 yrs
- Median age at 1<sup>st</sup> marriage: 19.1 yrs
- Median age at 1<sup>st</sup> birth: 19.4 yrs



# Kenya AGYW study

## *DREAMS Intervention Activities* June 2016–September 2017

Phase 1  
data collection  
Oct 2016  
–Feb 2017

Interim  
data collection  
Jun 2017

Phase 2  
data collection  
Oct–Dec 2017

### Surveys

- **DREAMS Girls (n=914)**
- Non-DREAMS Girls

In-depth interviews with  
AGYW DREAMS girls (n=12  
anticipated) and IP staff  
(n=6 anticipated)

Direct observations of  
program activities

Direct observations  
of program activities

In-depth interviews  
with IP staff

Costing work (cost  
per person reached)

Follow-up survey with  
cohort of DREAMS  
Girls (n=914)

In-depth interviews  
with AGYW, and IPs

DREAMS monitoring  
data

# AGYW survey components

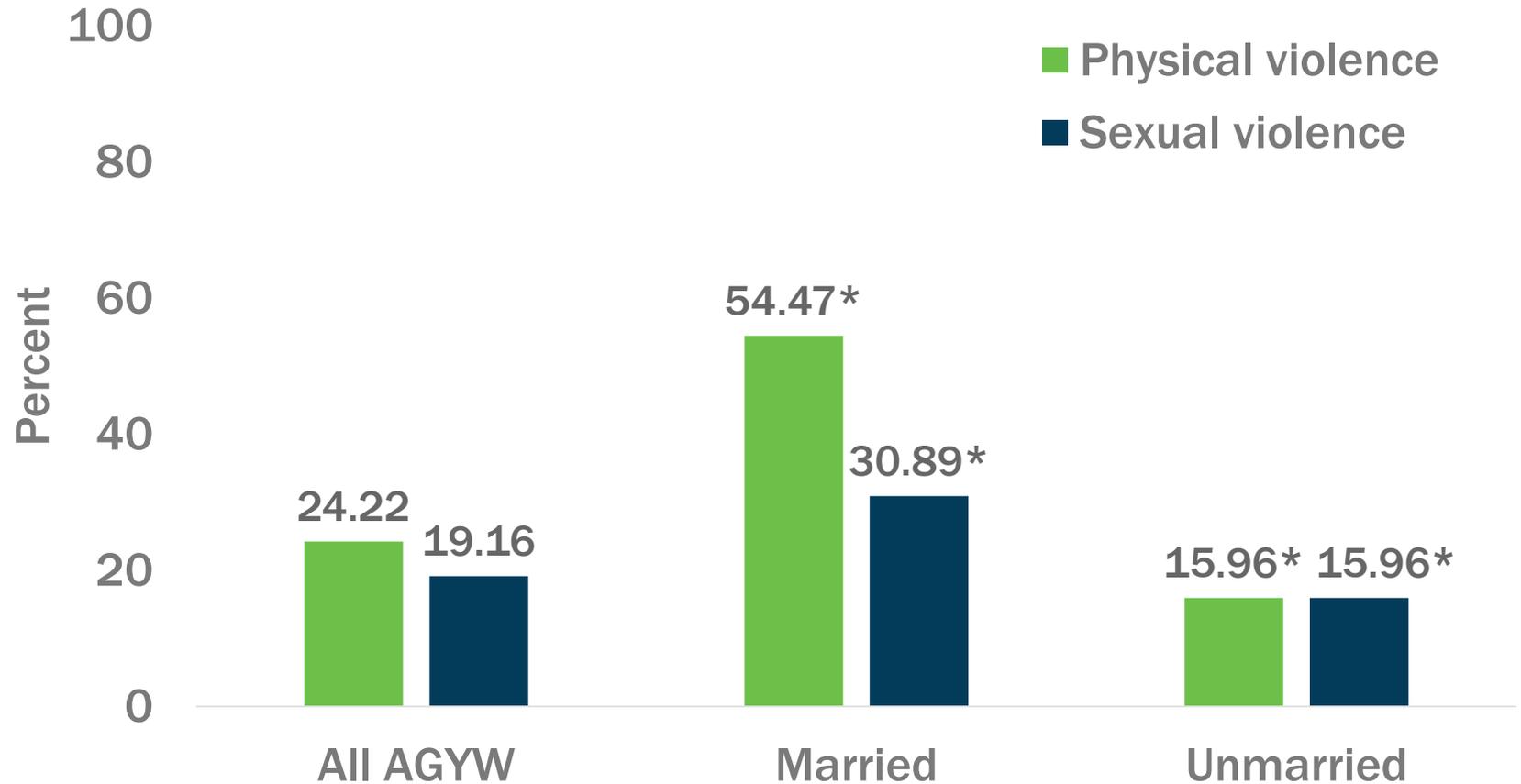
- Socio-demographic factors
- HIV knowledge & risk perceptions
- Sexual behaviors (incl. transactional sex)
- Partner and relationship characteristics
- **Experiences with sexual and physical violence**
- Socio-cultural factors
  - HIV-related stigma & discrimination
  - Gender norms
  - Fertility desires & intentions
  - Access to economic resources
- Social support and connectedness
- DREAMS program exposure

# Questions on experience of violence

- *Adapted questions from WHO Violence Against Women Survey (used in the Global What Works to Prevent VAWG? Programme)*
- *Sample questions:*
  - In the last 12 months how many times has a current or previous boyfriend or partner slapped you or thrown something at you which could hurt you?
  - In the last 12 months how many times has a current or previous boyfriend or partner physically...
    - forced you to have sex when you did not want to?
    - ever used threats or intimidation to get you to have sex when you did not want to?

<b>Respondent characteristics</b>	<b>Percent (n=914)</b>
<b>Age (Mean age: 18.9 years)</b>	
15–19 years	51.86
20–24 years	48.14
<b>Sexually active</b>	
No	38.18
Yes	61.82
<b>Current marital status</b>	
Married	18.82
Not married	81.18
<b>Currently in school</b>	
No	41.79
Yes	58.21
<b>Currently employed</b>	
No	43.44
Yes	56.56

# Experience of IPV in last 12 months (n=574)



\*p < 0.05

# HIV testing, status, & risk perception

		Percent
<b>HIV test in last 12 months</b>		
	No	9.85
	Yes	90.15
<b>HIV status at last test</b>		
	HIV positive	3.29
	HIV negative	87.19
	DK/No response	9.53
<b>HIV+ status by marital status*</b>		
	Married	8.72
	Unmarried	2.02
<b>Likelihood of HIV exposure (n=914)</b>		
	Very likely or somewhat likely	20.40
	Unlikely or not at all	79.60
<b>Likelihood of HIV exposure by marital status</b>		
	Married	25.58
	Unmarried	19.18

\*p < 0.05

# STI symptoms

	Percent (n=565)
Experience of STI symptoms in last 6 months	
No	76.28
Yes	23.72
STI symptoms by marital status*	
Married	39.58
Unmarried	25.24
STI symptoms by exp. of sexual violence*	
No	20.86
Yes	37.36
STI symptoms by exp. of physical violence*	
No	21.27
Yes	21.75

\*p < 0.05

# Sexual IPV & Association with HIV Risk

- AGYW who experienced sexual IPV more likely to perceive themselves at higher risk for HIV
  - $OR_{adj}$ : 2.44 [1.54-3.84]
- AGYW who experienced sexual IPV had increased odds of an STI symptom
  - $OR_{adj}$ : 2.23 [1.34-3.69]

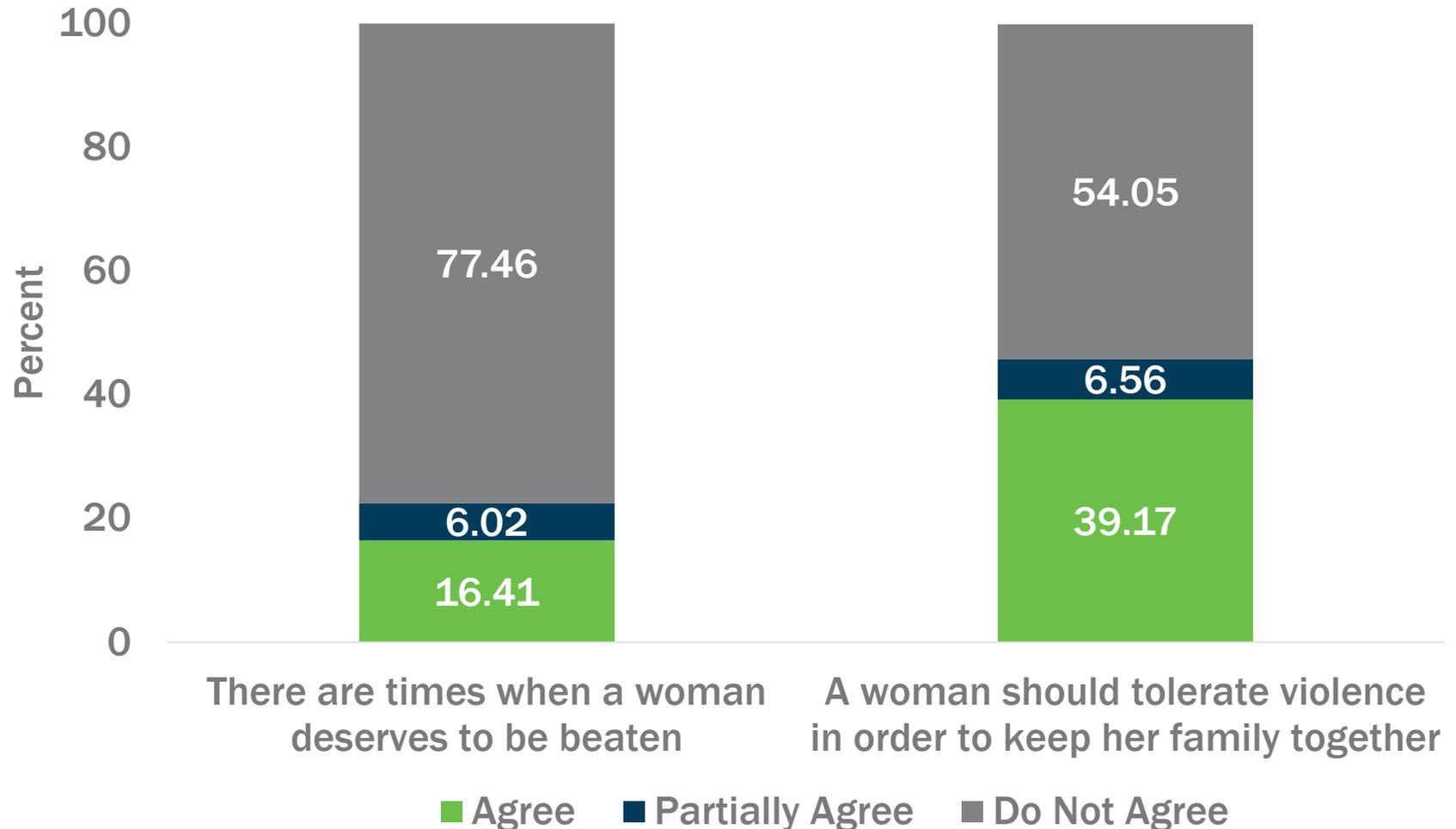
Controlling for socio-demographic characteristics (incl. age, marital status, schooling)

# Sought post-violence care services

		Percent
Sought services, counselling or other help for violence treatment, support and/or prevention in the past year		(n=911)
	No	85.51
	Yes	14.49
Sought post-violence care services by marital status		
	Married	18.02
	Unmarried	13.67
Sought help after experiencing sexual violence		(n=574)
	No	98.08
	Yes	1.92
Sought help after sexual violence by marital status*		
	Married	4.88
	Unmarried	1.11

\*p < 0.05

# Norms around IPV (n=914)



# Social support

	Percent
Safe place to meet with other girls in community?	(n=913)
No	35.38%
Yes	64.62%
An adult woman in the community you can usually go to with problems?	(n=914)
No	39.50%
Yes	60.50%

# Early implications...

- Experience of sexual and physical violence is high among married AGYW
- Experience of sexual violence from intimate partner is associated with increased HIV risk
- Low rates of GBV care seeking services
  - Quality and accessibility of services for AGYW?
- Screening for physical & sexual violence and provision of post-violence care is critical
  - need for system-wide integration—esp. within HIV prevention programs & ANC settings
- Innovative approaches might be needed to tap into social norms that don't support GBV & girls' existing social support networks to prevent GBV and link to care

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