

Adolescent mothers living with HIV & their children:

Evidence on accelerating access to services and rights

TeleECHO™ on Pediatric and Adolescent HIV treatment and care

Safeguarding the future:

giving priority to the needs of adolescent and young mothers living with HIV

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In Collaboration With Laurie Gulaid, Alice Armstrong, Ider Dungerdorj

unicef 
for every child



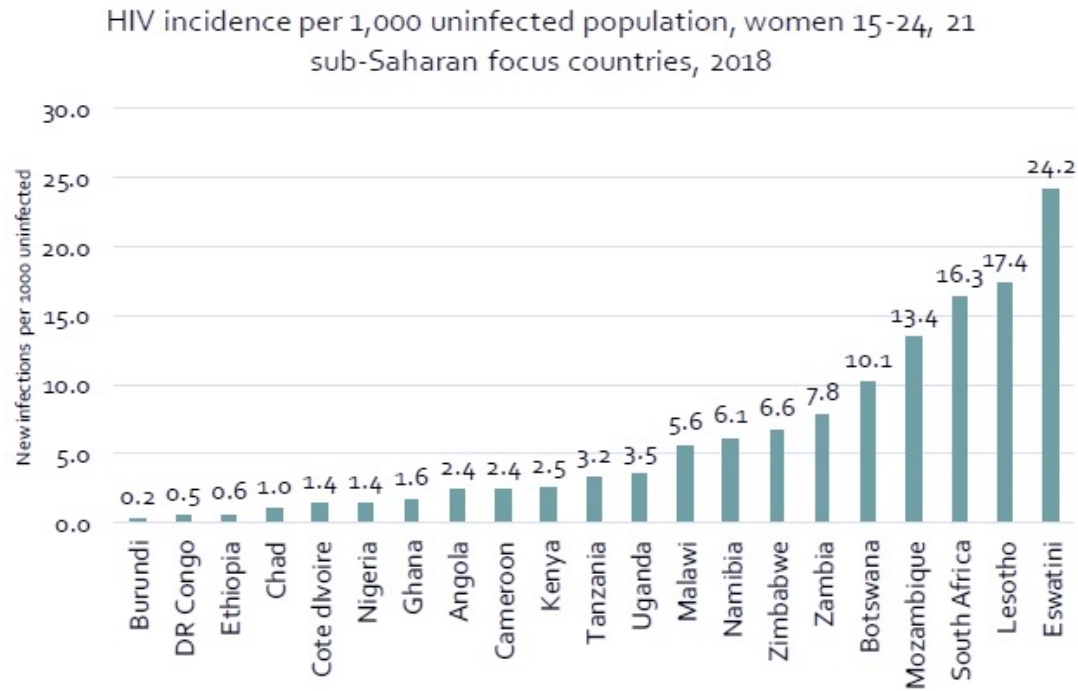
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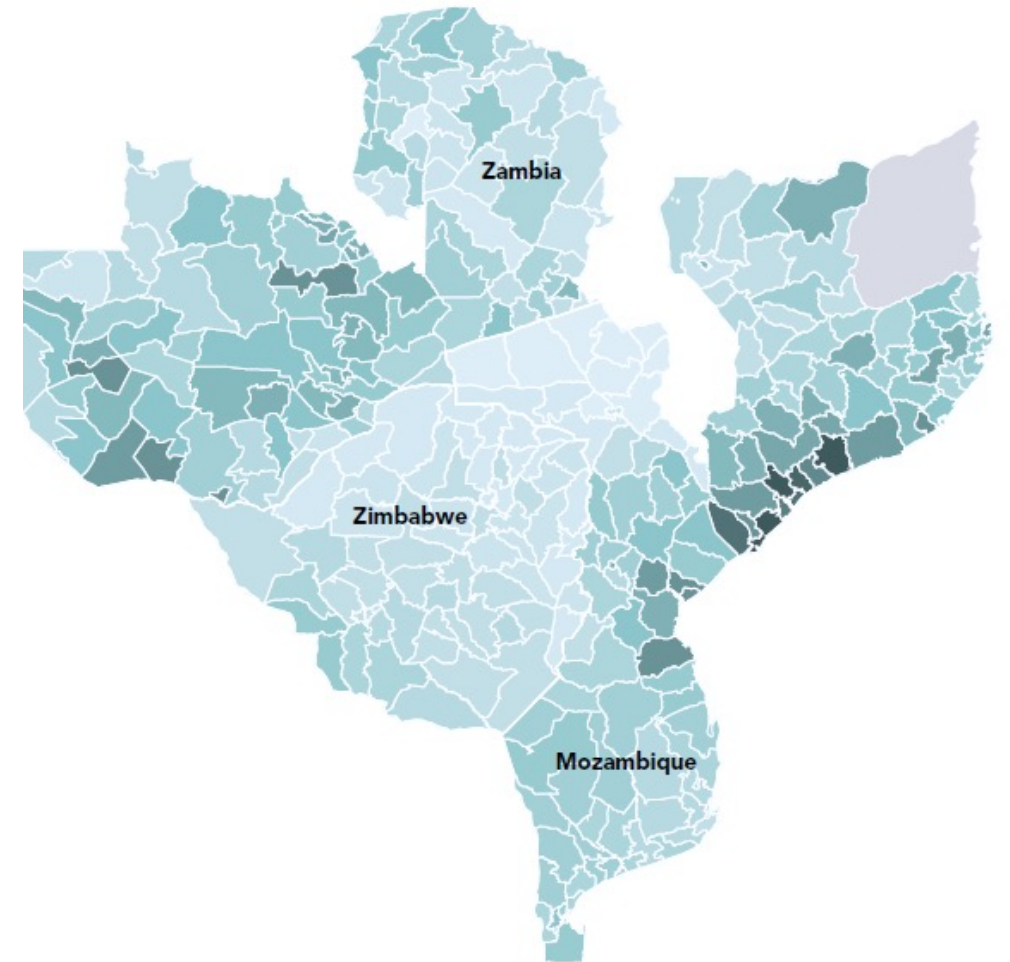
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Adolescent motherhood and HIV

435 million African adolescents by 2050



Persisting incidence of HIV in 15-24 year olds, particularly young women



Systematic reviews

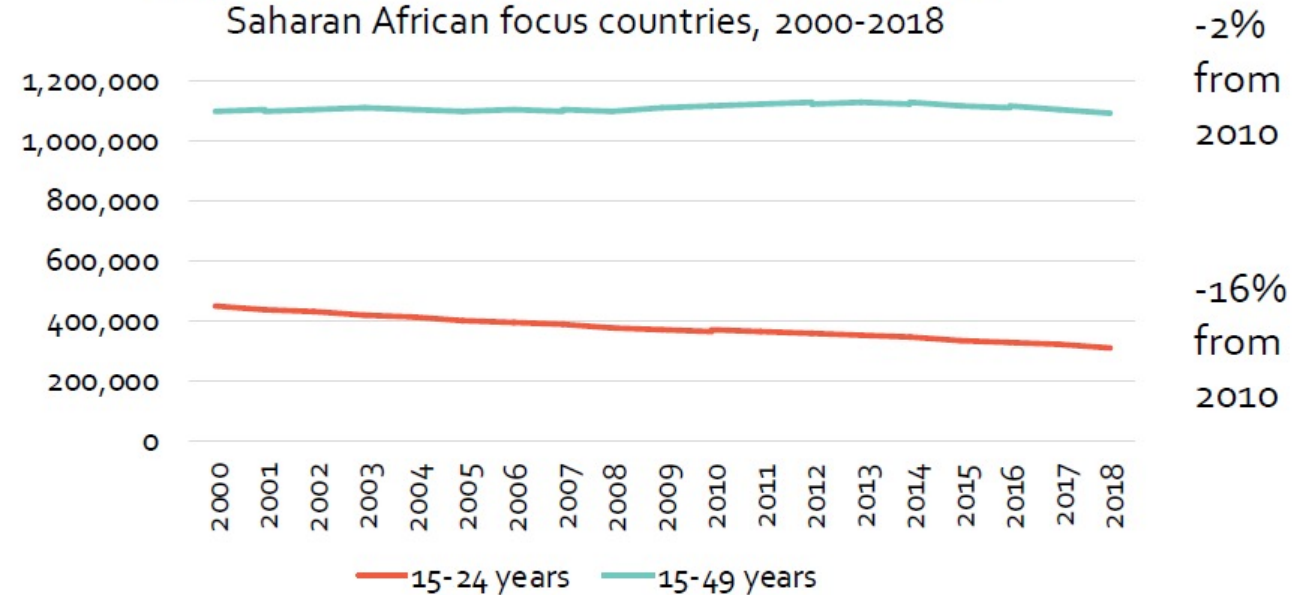
Table 3 Subgroup analysis of the prevalence of adolescent pregnancy in Africa, 2003–2018

Subgroup	Number of studies	Total Sample	Prevalence (95%CI)
By Sub-region			
East Africa	16	36,977	21.5 (17.3, 25.7)
Southern Africa	6	24,581	20.4(18.9, 21.7)
West Africa	16	53,277	17.7 (14.1, 21.4)
Central Africa	7	86,792	15.8 (10.3, 21.3)
Northern Africa	2	35,626	09.2 (05.8, 12.5)
Sub Saharan African countries	45	201,627	19.3 (16.9, 21.6)

Pregnancy among AYPLHIV

- ever: **5%-41%**
- multiple: **24.1%**

Estimated number of births to HIV+ women, 21 sub-Saharan African focus countries, 2000-2018



In 2000 41% of HIV+ PW were 15-24

In 2018 28% of HIV+ PW were 15-24

Pregnancy, motherhood and service access among adolescent mothers LHIV

- 18%** have two or more children
- 99%** unintended pregnancies
- 23%** ANC service package access
- 27%** HIV+ known status before pregnancy
- 6%** never started ART
- 34%** started ART before pregnancy
- >60%** children <2 years old
- 72%** HEU children tested <2 years old
- 5%** Self-reported child living with HIV

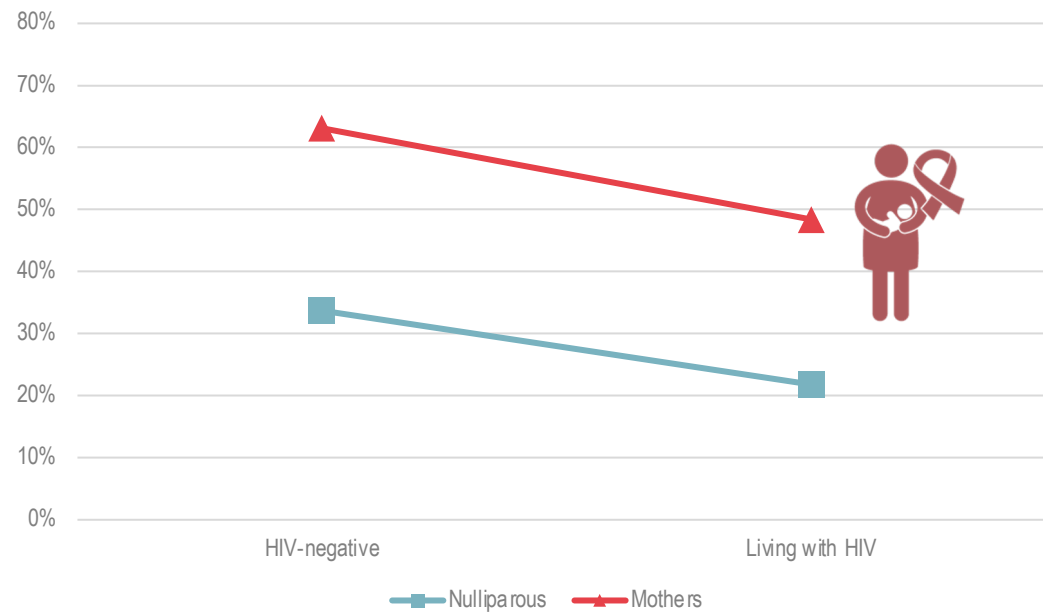


Contraception uptake and condom use

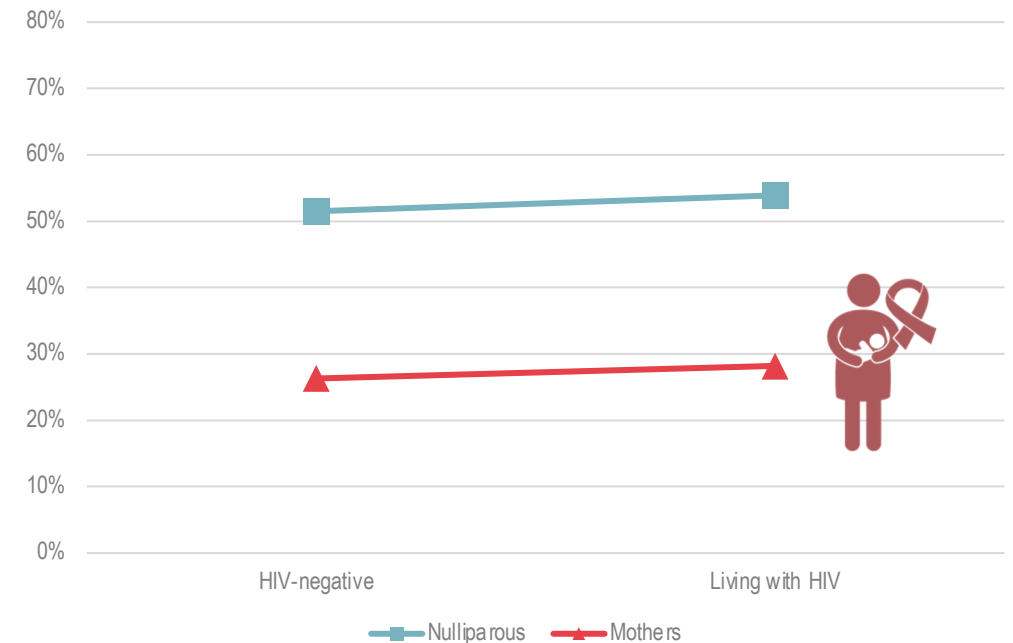
Among 10–24 year old adolescent girls and young women in South Africa

(strategy 2)

Hormonal contraception



Condom use



Systematic review: ever any method: 33%-79%
current modern: 12.5%-66%

Clinic accelerators for better HIV outcomes

(strategy 1)

Adherence to ART +28.0%
(11.8% → 44.2%)

No missed clinic appointments +20.8%
(5.1% → 35.4%)



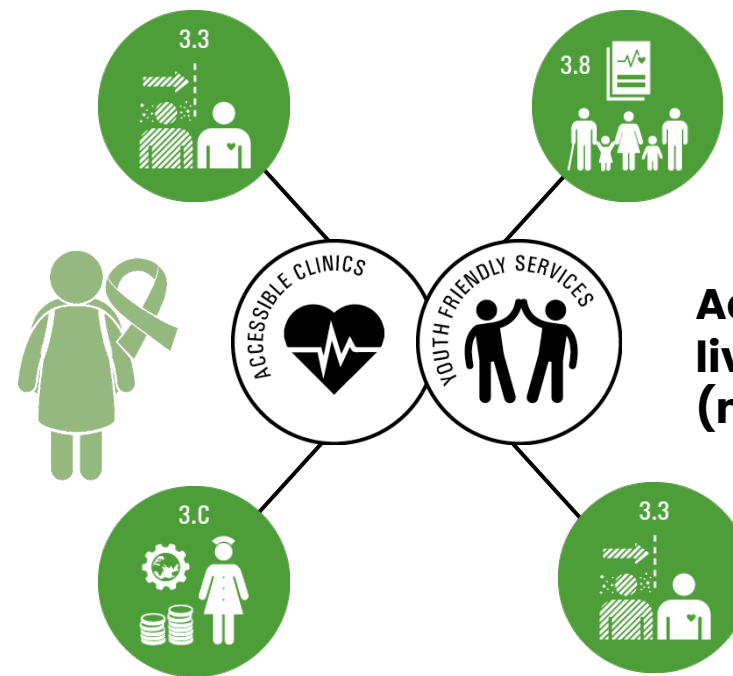
No treatment interruptions +30.3%
(14.3% → 46.3%)

No TB +12.7%
(1.3% → 24.1%)

Mothers living with HIV

Adherence to ART +22.4%
(7.3% → 37.5%)

No missed clinic appointments +15.5%
(2.3% → 28.8%)



No treatment interruptions +25.3%
(9.8% → 40.7%)

No TB +21.7%
(7.5% → 35.9%)

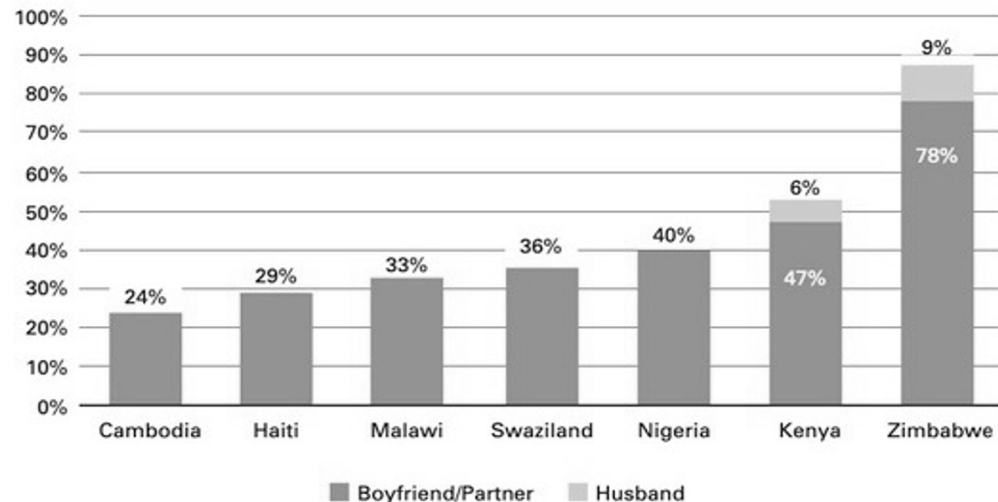
Adolescent girls living with HIV (non-mothers)

Relationships

(strategy 4)

- 68% want two or more children
- 33% sex with casual partner (last sex)
- 34% sex with an older partner (5+ years)
- 23% did not know partner's HIV status
- 45% sexual or relationship/ intimate violence

Figure 28: Percentage of females reporting first sexual violence incident prior to age 18 that was perpetrated by a boyfriend, partner or husband, VACS data

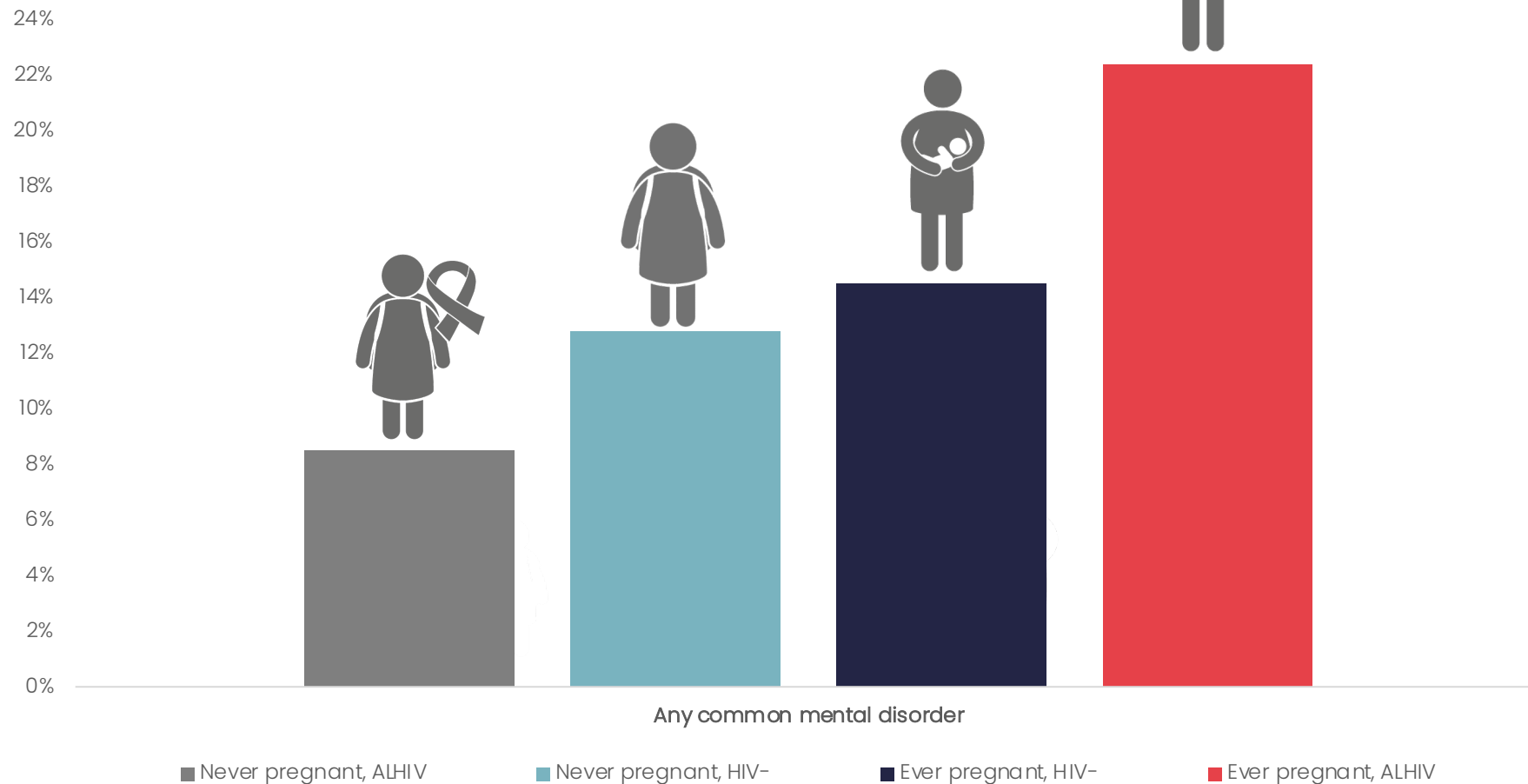


Adolescent motherhood and mental health

(strategy 5)

**1.4 million
unplanned
pregnancies**

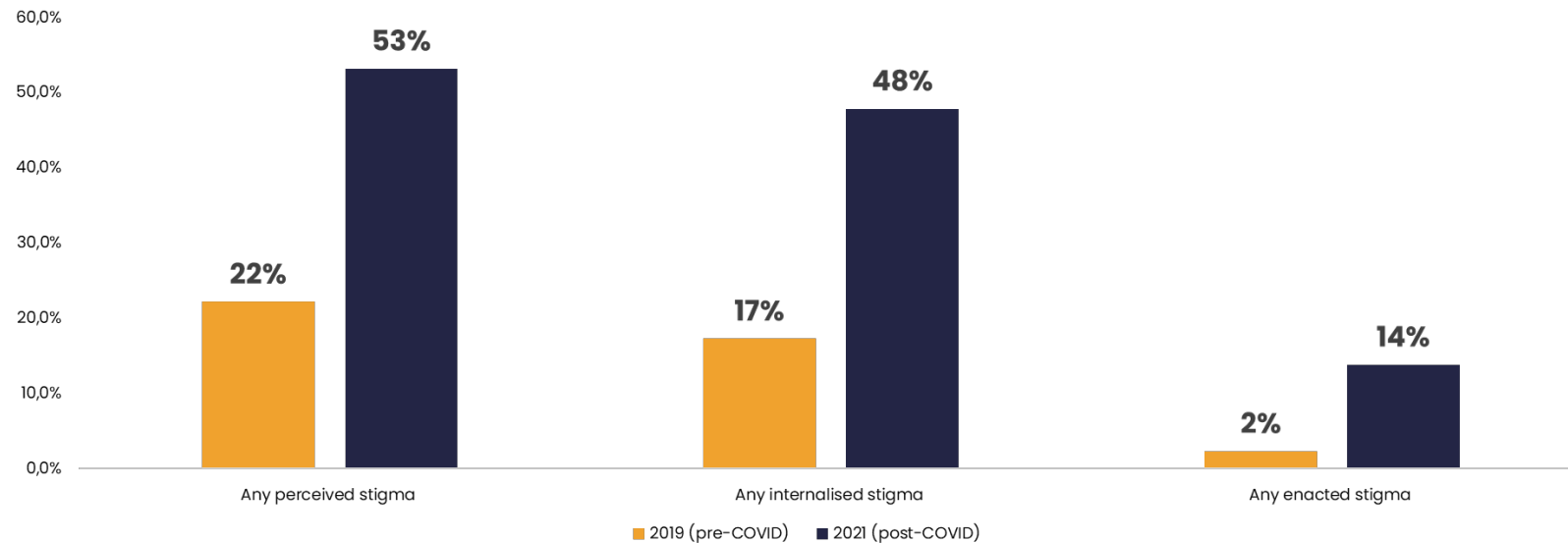
(UNFPA, 2021)



Compounded Stigma Blankets of Shame

(strategy 5)

...we don't walk around (during pregnancy) with the (unborn) baby. Because the witches might curse the baby. We only leave the house for the clinic, or for an emergency, or if we really have to leave the house. (Metsi, 2018)

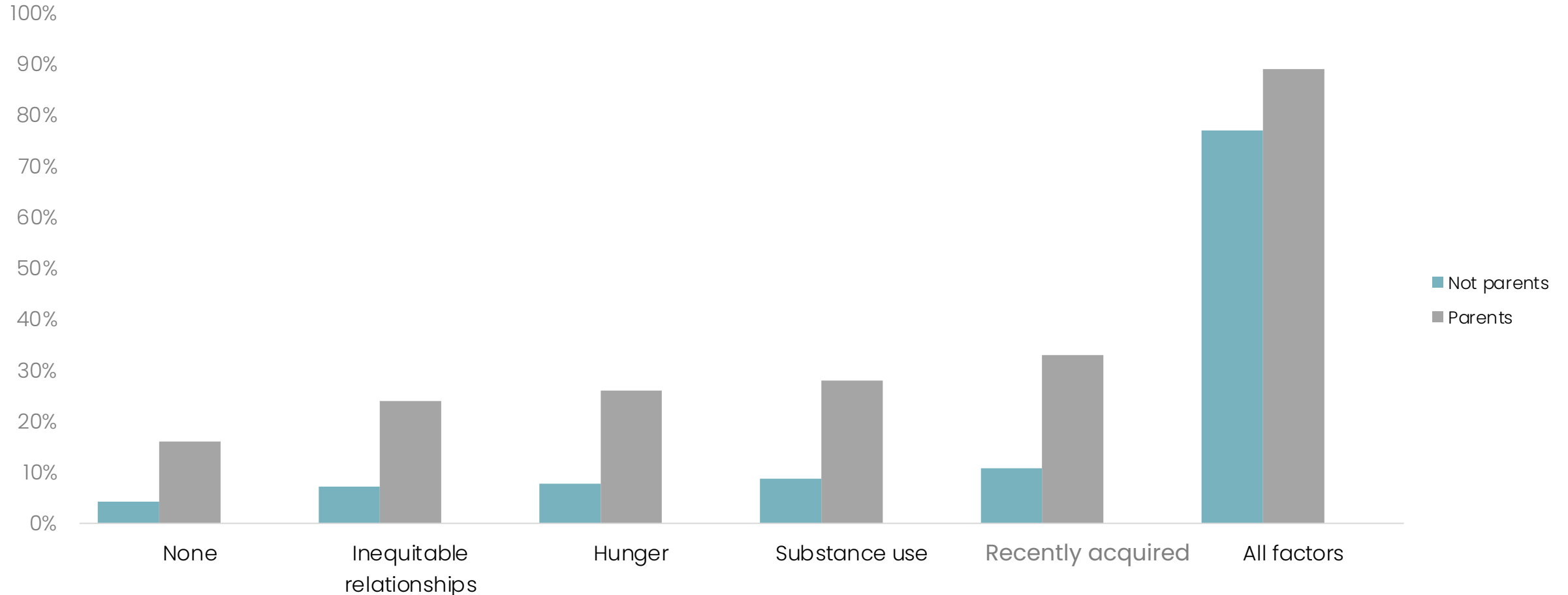


Stigma among adolescent and young mothers living with HIV

(2018–2019 baseline and 2020–2021 follow-up data)

Secondary HIV transmission risk (strategy 6)

% probabilities of secondary transmission risk (viremia & sexual risk taking)



Aspirations & Education

Bright Dreams

(strategy 3)

One day, I will build a school. It will offer karate and chess. Then youth won't become gangsters... My boy will finish school. The school will keep my child and other children there safe.

(Bohlale March 2019)



75%

Stayed in school during pregnancy

AT RISK OF DROP-OUT DURING PREGNANCY

- Being grade delayed
- Household poverty
- Unwanted & unplanned pregnancies
- Limited communication on SRH with caregiver



70%

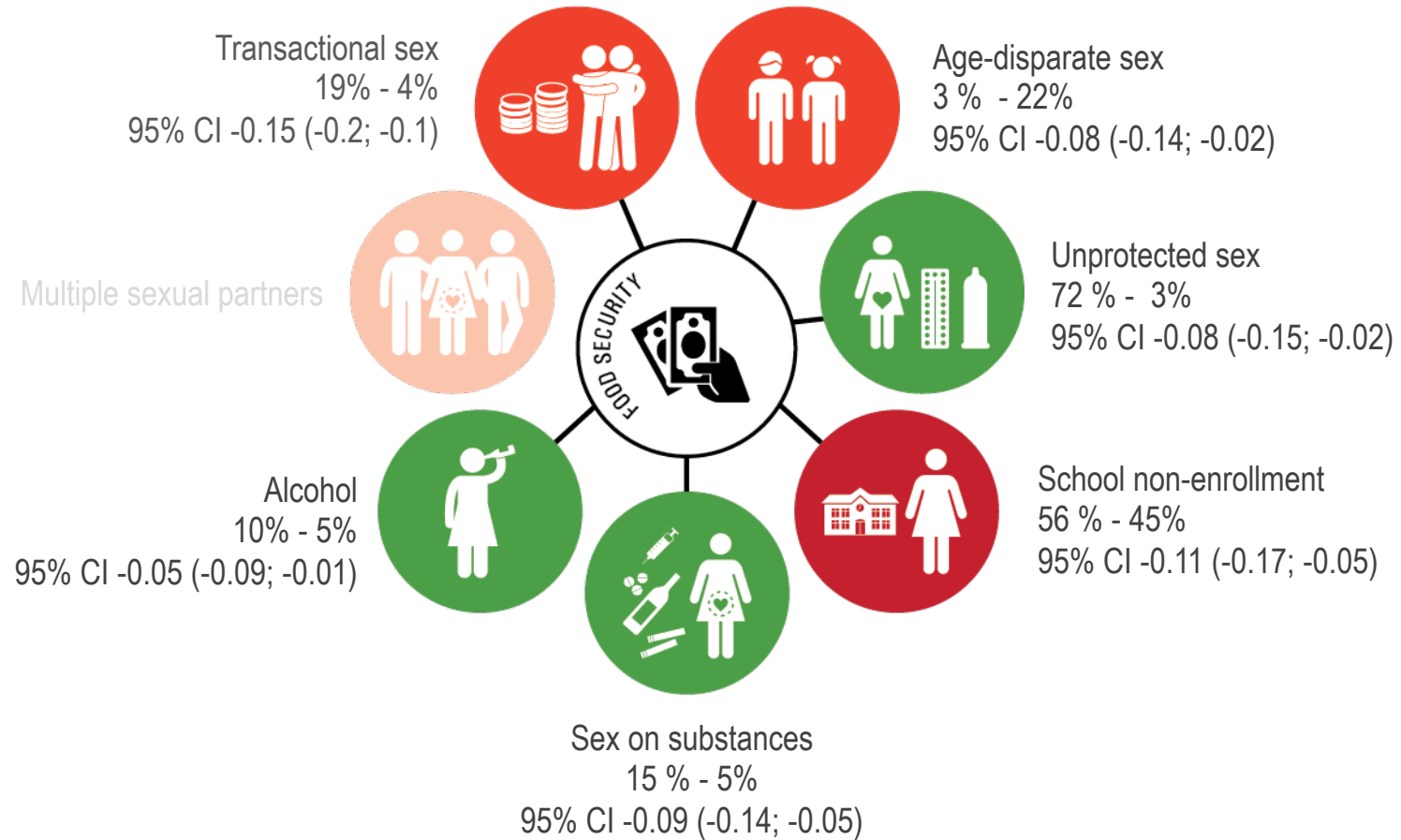
Went back to school after giving birth

AT RISK OF NOT RETURNING AFTER BIRTH

- Dropped out early during pregnancy
- No formal childcare
- No informal childcare (family care)

Food security, Motherhood and School Enrolment

(strategy 7)



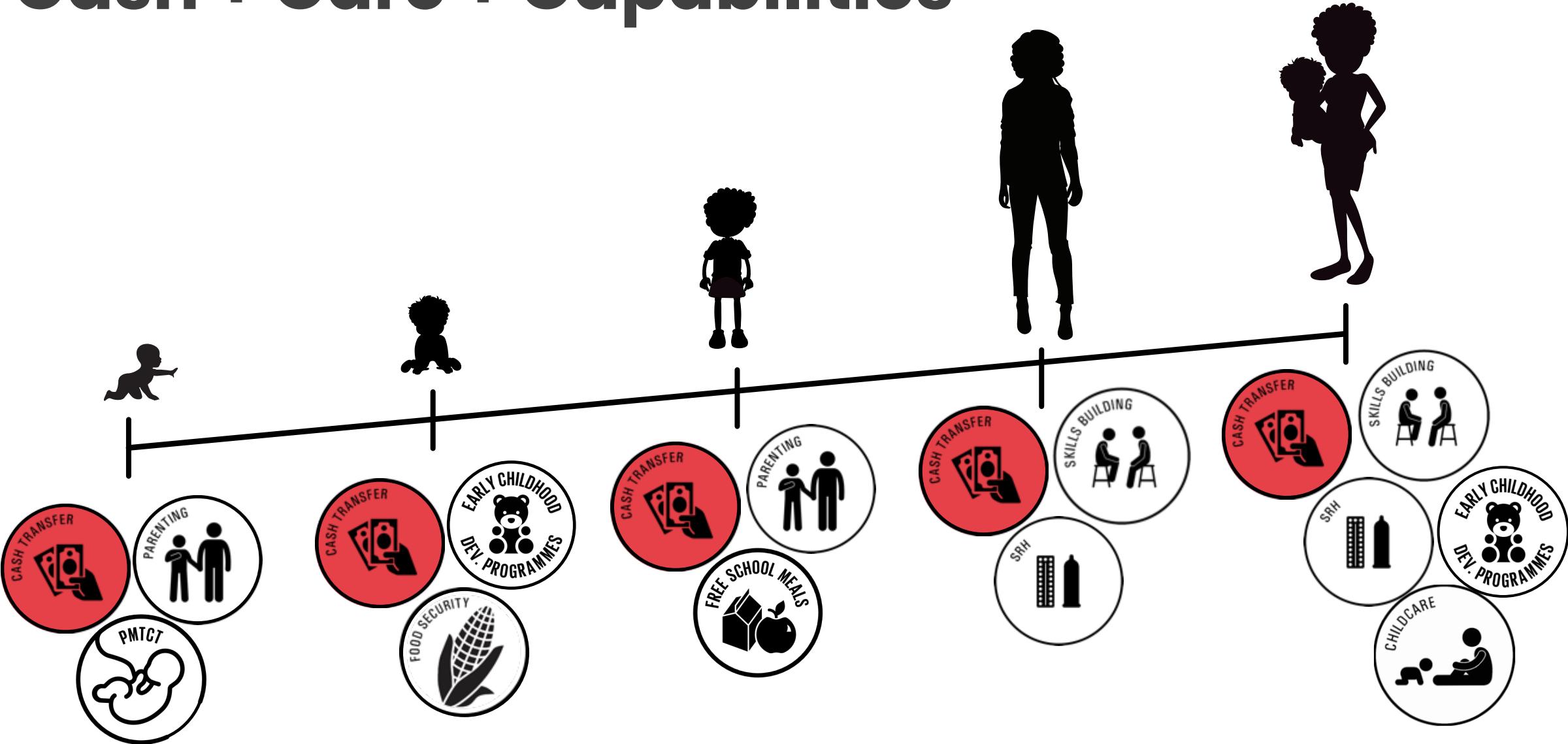
FAMILIAL & SOCIAL SUPPORT (strategy 5)

- Adolescent mother outcomes
- Child outcomes (reported by adolescent mothers)



*Analyses based on 781 mothers

Cash + Care + Capabilities



Thank you to our partners & funders

A wonderful & big team at the Universities of Oxford & Cape Town



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