



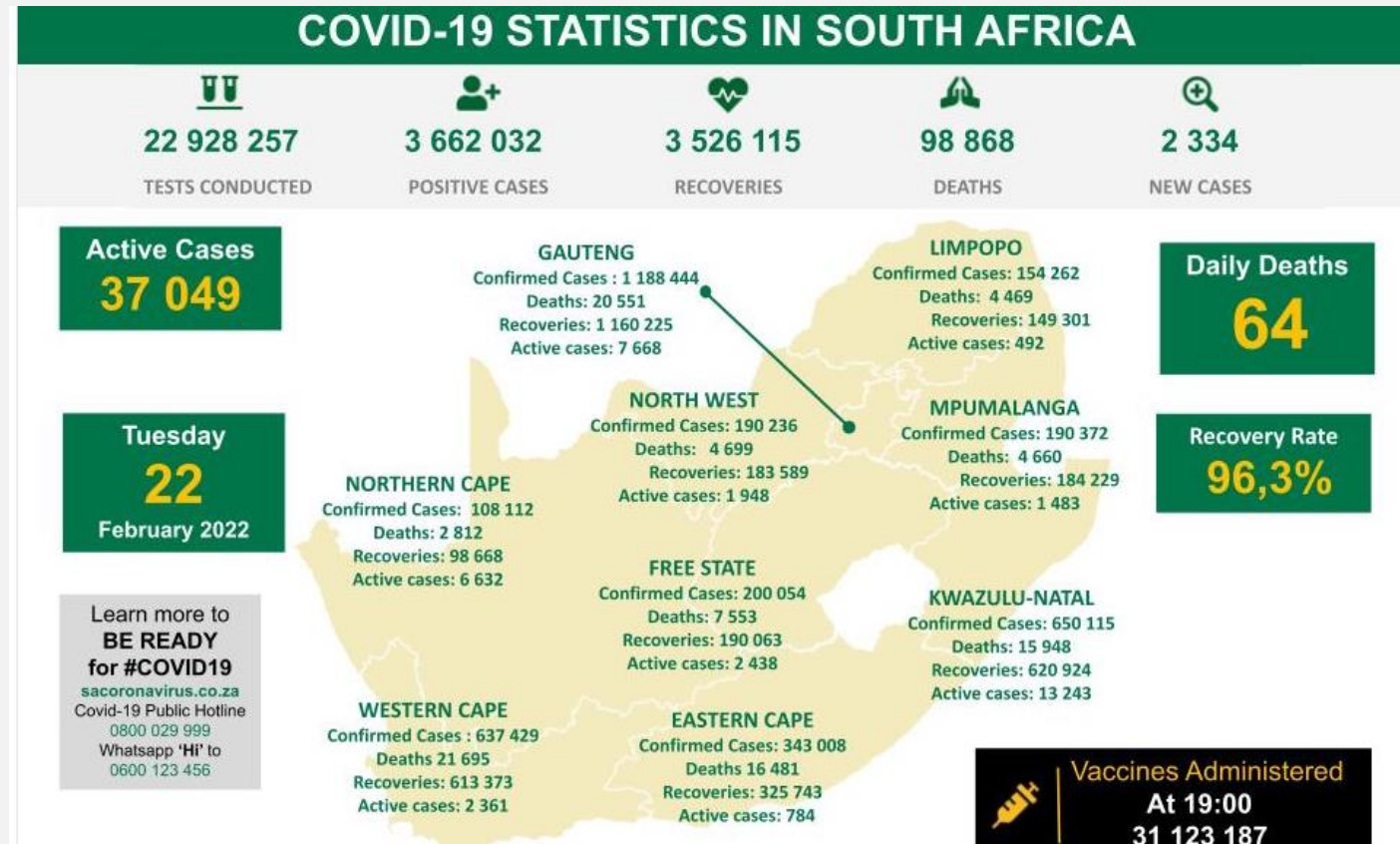
ASSURE

AFRICAN SOCIAL SCIENCES UNIT
OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION


Lessons learned: Barriers towards HIV Vaccine Acceptance as it translates to COVID- 19 vaccine acceptance amongst adolescents

**PRESENTER:
PROF JANAN DIETRICH, PHD**

COVID-19 stats in SA



COVID-19 Vaccination in SA

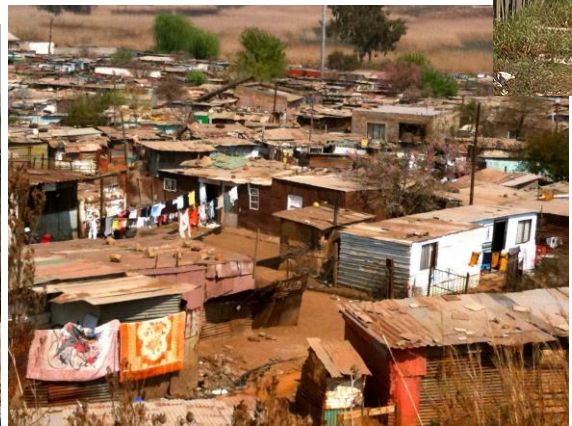
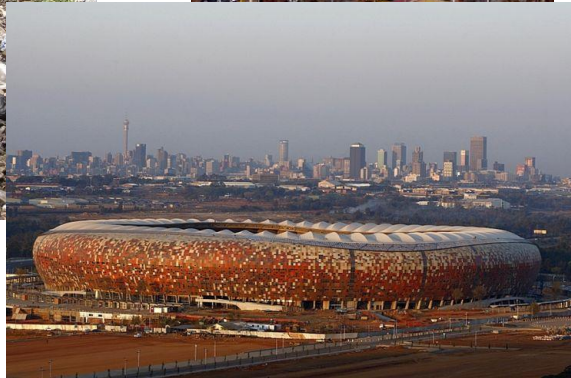
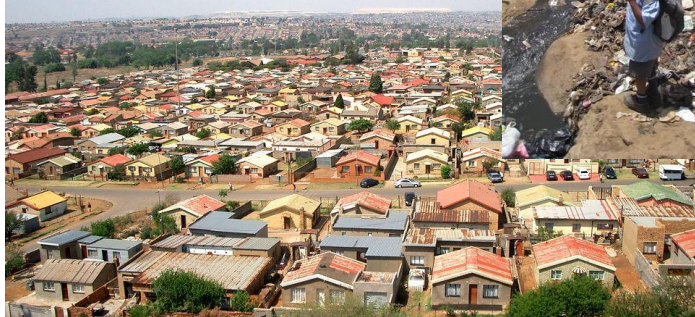
 COVID-19 Total Vaccination Summary as at 17:00 22 Feb 2022							
Total Number of Vaccines Administered							
Total Number of Johnson & Johnson Vaccines Administered				Total Number of Pfizer Vaccines Administered			Total Number First Dose Administered
7,647,570				23,475,617			20,210,657
Total Number of First Dose Vaccines Administered		Total Number of Booster Dose Vaccines Administered					
7,148,778		488,790					
Sisonke - Total Number Vaccines Administered		National - Total Number Vaccines Administered		First Dose	Second Dose	Booster Dose	Adults
740,757		8,808,813		13,061,879	9,980,432	433,306	18,936,131
First Dose	Booster Dose	First Dose	Booster Dose				12 - 17 Years
499,879	240,878	8,848,899	257,912				1,274,526

HIV and Youth

Southern Africa has the highest HIV prevalence in the world, with young people disproportionately affected.

Adolescents and young adults account for **one-third** of incident HIV infections in South Africa.

Girls and young women are particularly at risk, **with nearly 2,000 young women acquiring HIV every week.**



Key Barriers to Vaccine Acceptance

Context matters!!!

High rates of unemployment with basic needs not met.

COVID-19 and HIV are at the bottom of youth priorities.

Willingness to participate in biomedical HIV prevention studies after the HVTN 503/Phambili trial: A survey conducted amongst adolescents in Soweto, South Africa

Kennedy N. Ot wombe, BEd, MSc¹, Kathleen J. Sikkema, PhD², Janan Dietrich, BSc, MA¹, Guy de Bruyn, MBBCH, MPH¹, Martin van der Watt, N.Dip.², and Glenda E Gray, MBBCH, FCPaeds (SA)¹

¹Perinatal HIV Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

²Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Duke University, USA

Abstract

Objectives—Adolescents may be appropriate for inclusion in biomedical HIV prevention trials. Adolescents' overall willingness to participate (WTP) in biomedical HIV preventive trials was examined, including after the prematurely discontinued phase IIB HVTN 503/Phambili HIV vaccine trial, in Soweto, South Africa.

Methods—An interview-administered cross-sectional survey was conducted among 506 adolescents (16–18 yo) between October 2008 and March 2009. The assessment included WTP in HIV prevention trials, sexual and substance use behavior, and related psychosocial constructs. Multivariate logistic regression analyses examined predictors of WTP in biomedical prevention trials.

Results—The sample was primarily female (n=298, 59%) and 50% of all participants were sexually active. WTP in general was high (93%), with 75% WTP in a vaccine trial after being informed about the HVTN 503/Phambili trial. Less exposure to stressors (OR 2.8, CI: 1.3–6.3) was associated with adolescents' WTP in HIV biomedical prevention trials overall. Those with less exposure to stressors (OR 1.7, CI: 1.1–2.8) and not sexually active (OR 2.1, CI: 1.4–3.3) were predictive of WTP after the HVTN 503/Phambili trial. A higher number of sexual partners was associated with unwillingness to participate more generally ($p=0.039$) and specifically after the HIV vaccine trial ($p=0.0004$).

The AYA ZAZI Study

- ❖ **AYAZAZI** (meaning '*Knowing Themselves*' in Zulu) was a youth-centred, multi-site, interdisciplinary, prospective cohort study.
- ❖ Focused on HIV prevention among 352 adolescents and young adults aged 16-24 years.
- ❖ Youth residing in Soweto and Durban, who reported HIV-negative or unknown status at enrolment.
- ❖ Participants followed-up for up to 18 months
- ❖ Retention rate of over 90%



AYAZAZI Youth Engagement

- ❖ AYAZAZI was guided by a youth engagement framework:
 - prioritizes youth-friendly spaces
 - provides opportunities for young people to be meaningfully involved in all steps of the research process

- ❖ Participants contribute feedback regarding their study experience and offer suggestions to improve study procedures.

- AYAZAZI hires, trains, and supports youth to serve as integral members of the research team.

- Adult-ally team members aim to model equitable partnerships throughout the research process.

Youth Engagement as a framework for HIV prevention among young people



- ❖ Recognise the rights of young people to participate in decisions that impact their lives.
- ❖ Acknowledge the skills young people have and can contribute.
- ❖ Young people are recognised as valuable stakeholders in creating policies, research questions, programmes and environments that will affect them or be utilised by them.

References: Cahil, 2007, Flicker et al., 2008

Youth Engagement in Action

- ❖ Employ young people
- ❖ Youth Engagement Committee (YEC)
- ❖ Youth-friendly study lounge
- ❖ Youth-friendly communication tools
- ❖ Engagement with Adolescent Community Advisory Board (ACAB)



Willingness to participate in HIV vaccine trials

WTP

- Safety and trust
- Personal gain
- Personal cost
- Altruism
- Social approval
- Financial factors
- Convenience

Facilitators

- Free medical care (93.3%)
- Benefits of HIV vaccines (92%)
- Guaranteed safety (90.54%)

Barriers

- Prospect of losing one's job as a result of participation (73.34%)

Key Lessons

Community engagement (Engage, Engage and Engage again!) alongside vaccine development, testing and rollout.

Engage key stakeholders and influencers (including parents and youth)

Know the context – what works in one area might not work in another.

Acknowledgements



Contact Prof Janan Dietrich – dietrichj@phru.co.za OR team@assureafrica.com
for social science research collaborations in sub-Saharan Africa

We wish to thank all participants, investigators, collaborators, funders and site study staff.

