# Innovations to Promote Adherence in The Ring Study

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QHAKAZA MBOKODO RESEARCH CLINIC









### Definition of "Adherence"

"The extent to which a person's behaviour corresponds with agreed recommendations from a health care provider."

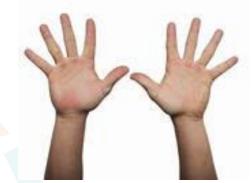
(Rand CS. Measuring adherence with therapy for chronic diseases, American Journal of Cardiology, 1993)

Adherence is more than "simply remembering medications, but rather, a complex issue involving social, cultural, economic, and personal factors".

(Chesney, 2006)



### Hands up!



### 5 interacting dimensions affecting adherence:

Socio -Economic

Condition

Therapy (Product) Patient (Participant)

System

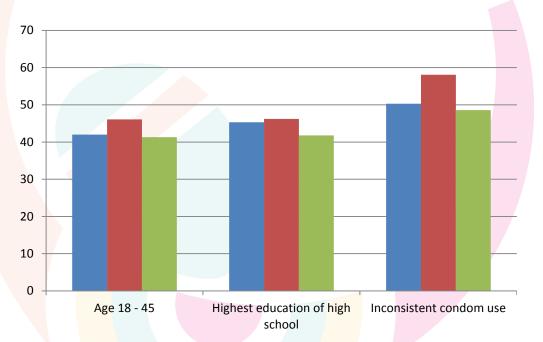
(Adherence to Long-term Therapies: Evidence for Action, WHO, 2003)



### 1. Condition – related Factors

HIV prevalence in Ladysmith in 2012 was 42%

#### **HIV Prevalence per Characteristic**



Nel A, Mabude Z, Smit J, Kotze P, Arbuckle D, et al. (2012)

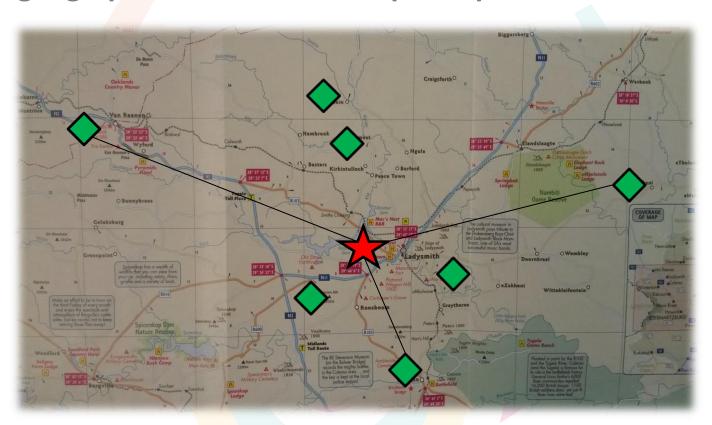
HIV Incidence Remains High in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: Evidence from Three

Districts. PLoS ONE 7(4): e35278. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0035278



### 2. Socio-Economic Factors

Wide geographical distribution of participants



**ACTION:** We arrange early transport for participants



### 2. Socio-Economic continued

Highly migratory population due to seasonal work, unemployment and family/cultural reasons

ACTION: Visit family at home to gain acceptance and support as well as to motivate community involvement





### 3. Participant-related Factors

#### **EDUCATE:**

- Adherence begins before enrolment
- The same message is discussed from transport to consultation and back again to the community
- Files of participants requiring additional attention are flagged



### 3. Participant-related factors continued

#### **MOTIVATE:**

- "Ubuntu" volunteer meetings are kept intimate and informative yet fun.
- Issues raised are immediately addressed by the investigator or site coordinator



### 3. Participant-related Factors continue

#### **COMMUNICATE:**

Ethics approval for sms communication

"Although half the 50 million people in South Africa live below the poverty line, more than 75% among those in low-income groups who are 15 years or older own a mobile phone."

FinWeek, January 22, 2013 by Liesl Peyper

 Community gossip also still alerts us to any potentially harmful rumours which are addressed as soon as possible



### 4. System-related Factors

#### **ENVIRONMENT:**

- Improved the waiting room
- Waiting times improved

#### **STAFF DEVELOPMENT:**

- Effective staff meetings
- GPS to give direction and inspire QM staff
- Toolbox fine tunes the day-to-day functioning on
- On-going training

#### **TECHNOLOGY:**

Retention Viewer







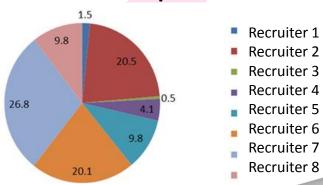


## 4. System-related Factors continued TECHNOLOGY:

- Spread sheets, as used by other IPM sites, are a resource which enables an overview of retention at any given time
- Retention viewer at QM:
  - Is updated daily with IXRS printout from pharmacist
  - Visual reminder of potential late/missed visits
  - Each participant's recruiter and area is easily accessible
  - Tracking of screenings



#### **Enrolments per Recruiter**





### 5. Product – related factors

#### **GOOD PRODUCT:**

- Multiple phase I and I/II clinical trials support the favourable safety profile and tolerability of dapivirine in general and specifically in vaginal delivery formulations.
- Not dependant on sexual act
- But it is dependant on use by the participant

ACTION: We inspect all returned rings, with the participant, which is helpful in initiating adherence and male partner involvement discussions on follow-up

### Thumbs up to Adherence



Transport
Home visits

#### System

Environment
Staff Development
Retention Viewer

Condition

Innovations of Adherence

#### **Participant**

Motivate
Educate
Communicate

#### **Product**

Ring Visualisation

