

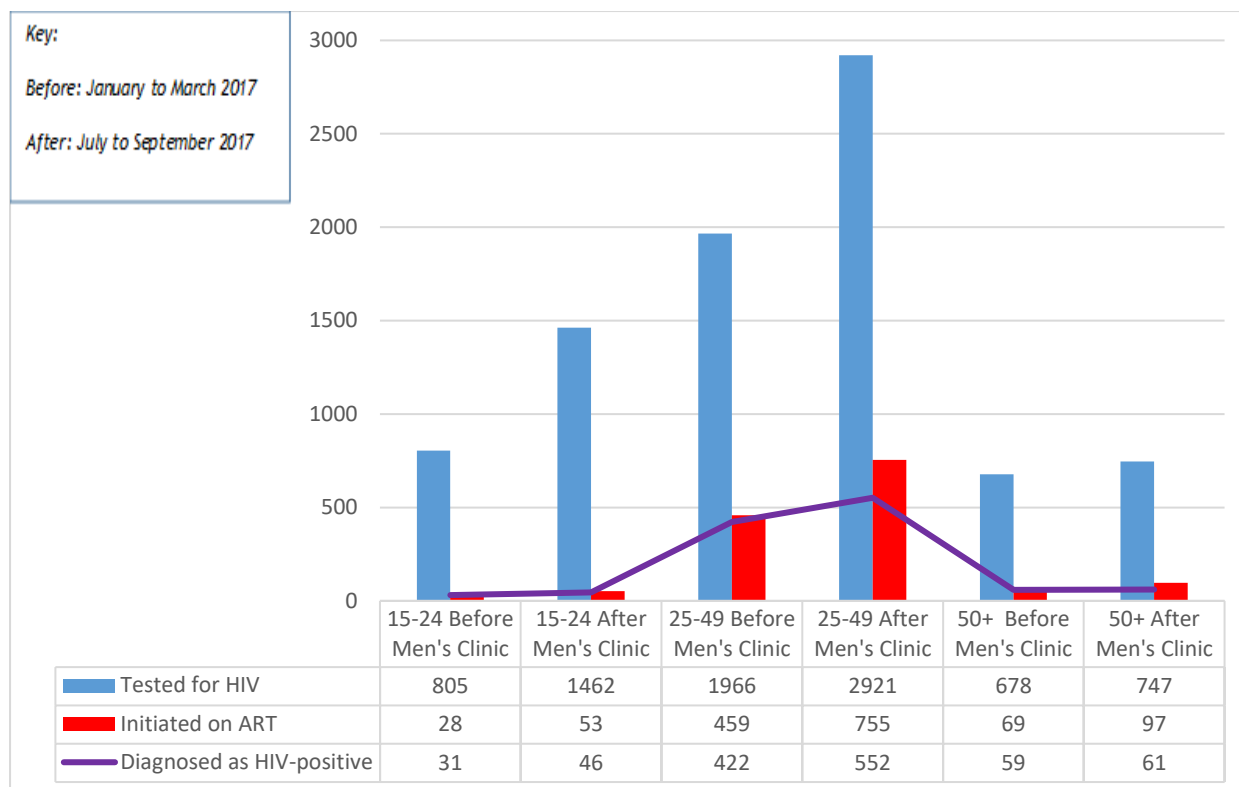
**Title:** Male engagement works to improve HIV services uptake among men

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**Background:** HIV testing services (HTS) are a critical entry point to HIV care and treatment. However, in Lesotho uptake of HTS is lower among men than women (36% of men were tested compared to 58% of women: DATIM, October 2015-September 2016) because cultural and social barriers can prevent or delay men from getting an HIV test. Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) established Men's Clinics in June 2017 for the provision of comprehensive health services for men in health facilities as part of the DREAMS initiative to increase uptake of HIV services among men.

**Methods:** Routine program data were analyzed to examine changes in HIV testing and antiretroviral treatment (ART) uptake among men before (January to March 2017) compared to after (July to September 2017) implementation of the men's health services in seven selected health facilities (two hospitals and five clinics) in Lesotho. Data on HIV testing and ART initiation were abstracted from routine aggregate program data and downloaded into Stata for review and analysis. The Men's Clinics intervention consisted of dedicated clinic space for male clients only to receive services by male nurses and counsellors to help men feel more comfortable accessing services. Comprehensive clinical services (STI Screening and treatment, HIV testing, care and treatment, Pre-P and PEP, TB Services and treatment for other co-infections, Condom distribution and Education, Healthy relationships services and counselling for HIV prevention, Education on PMTCT and Index family testing, and Referral Male Medical Circumcision) were offered at unconventional hours of service (morning, evening, and weekend hours), and through innovative appointment scheduling to reduce waiting times and improve client satisfaction.

**Results:** The results indicate that since Men's Clinics were introduced in June 2017 there was a 49% increase in the number of men tested for HIV; a 29% increase in the number of men diagnosed as HIV-positive; and a 63% increase in the number of men initiated on ART by the end of September 2017.



**Figure 1:** Number of men tested for HIV, diagnosed as HIV-positive, and initiated on ART before and after introduction of the Men's Clinic, by age

**Conclusion:** Providing male-only comprehensive clinical services is a promising strategy for increasing men's access to HIV testing and linkages to care. Future scale-up of Men's Clinics could help in identifying large numbers of men who are living with HIV.