# Accelerated Model for the Prevention of HIV/HPV Co-Infection Among Adolescent Girls Living with HIV in Parts of Lagos State, Nigeria

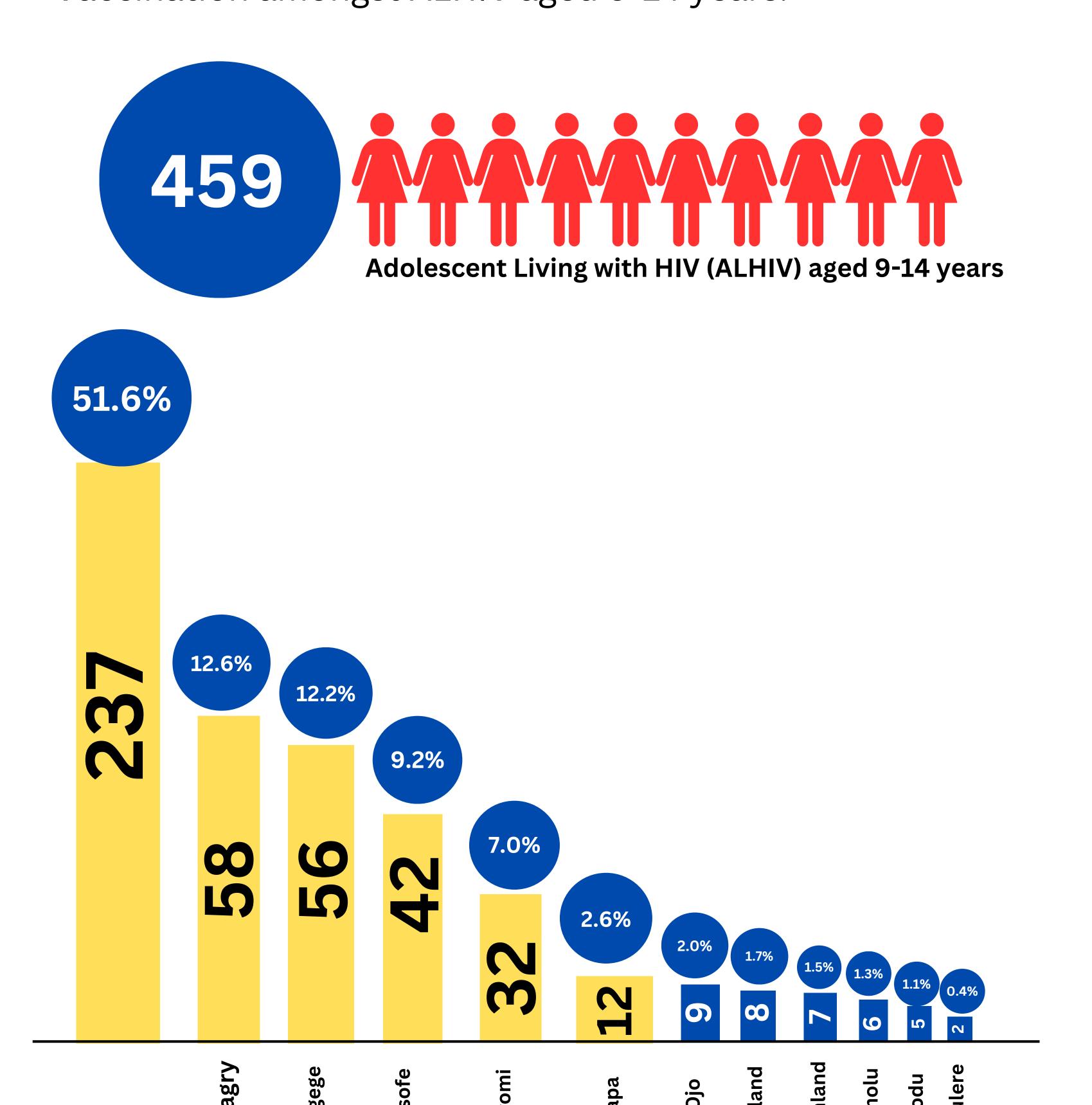
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Abstract Number: 186
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## Background

Nigeria has HIV prevalence of 1.4% with 1.9 million persons living with HIV and adolescents account for 3.5% of this population. Lagos State shares the same HIV Prevalence of 1.4% with National. The USAID supported Integrated Child Health and Social Services Award (ICHSSA 2), being implemented in Lagos State by the Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH), works to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on Children/Adolescents and their households, in addition to preventing co-infections, including Human Papillomavirus (HPV). A total of 12,075 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer annually in Nigeria with 7,968 mortality. Adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV) are at higher risk; but vaccine hesitancy and beliefs, retard the uptake of HPV vaccination. This implementation mechanism seeks to address barriers to first dose HPV Vaccination amongst ALHIV aged 9-14 years.



International Workshop on Pediatrics & HIV 2024, Munich, Germany

#### Methods

With Caregivers' consent, ART pick up dates doubled as HPV Vaccination opportunities for ALHIV. The 'Peer Driven' platforms of Adolescents and Youth Friendly Centers (AYFCs) and OTZ Clubs were used to drive HPV vaccination. Partnership with Government for in and out of -school sensitization, including Town Hall meetings with Stakeholders, to address beliefs. Case Managers visited households to educate families on HPV and facilitated referrals to vaccination points. Routinely reported and aggregated retrospective data were used to assess HPV vaccination rates in eleven localities, over a period of 3 months, sequel to October 2023 roll out in Nigeria.

## Results

Of the 459 ALHIV aged 9-14 years, enrolled on the Project in Lagos, a total of 237 (51.6%) received the first dose of HPV vaccination across eleven Local Government Areas with zero baseline: Badagry 58 (12.6%), Agege 56 (12.2%), Kosofe 42 (9.2%), Ajeromi Ifelodun 32 (7.0%), Apapa 12 (2.6%), Ojo 9 (2.0%), Lagos Island 8 (1.7%), Lagos Mainland 7 (1.5%), Shomolu 6 (1.3%), Ikorodu 5 (1.1%) and Surulere 2 (0.4%).

### Conclusions

Alignment of ART pick up dates and HPV Vaccination, including interface with stakeholders, Peer Driven Platforms and incentivized referrals, increased uptake of vaccination among Adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV). Intentional programming for ALHIV and integration of HPV Vaccination, holds potentials for the prevention of HIV-HPV co-infections.

Key words: HPV, Vaccination, Adolescents, HIV





