



Differentiated care for people living with HIV and non-communicable diseases: An account of the experience within the eThekweni Municipality Primary Health Care clinics, Durban, South Africa

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Yukteshwar Sookrajh, Vishen Jugathpal, Lara Lewis, Johan van der Molen, Nigel Garrett, Phelelani Sosibo, Munthra Maraj, Rosemary Van Heerden and Jienchi Dorward

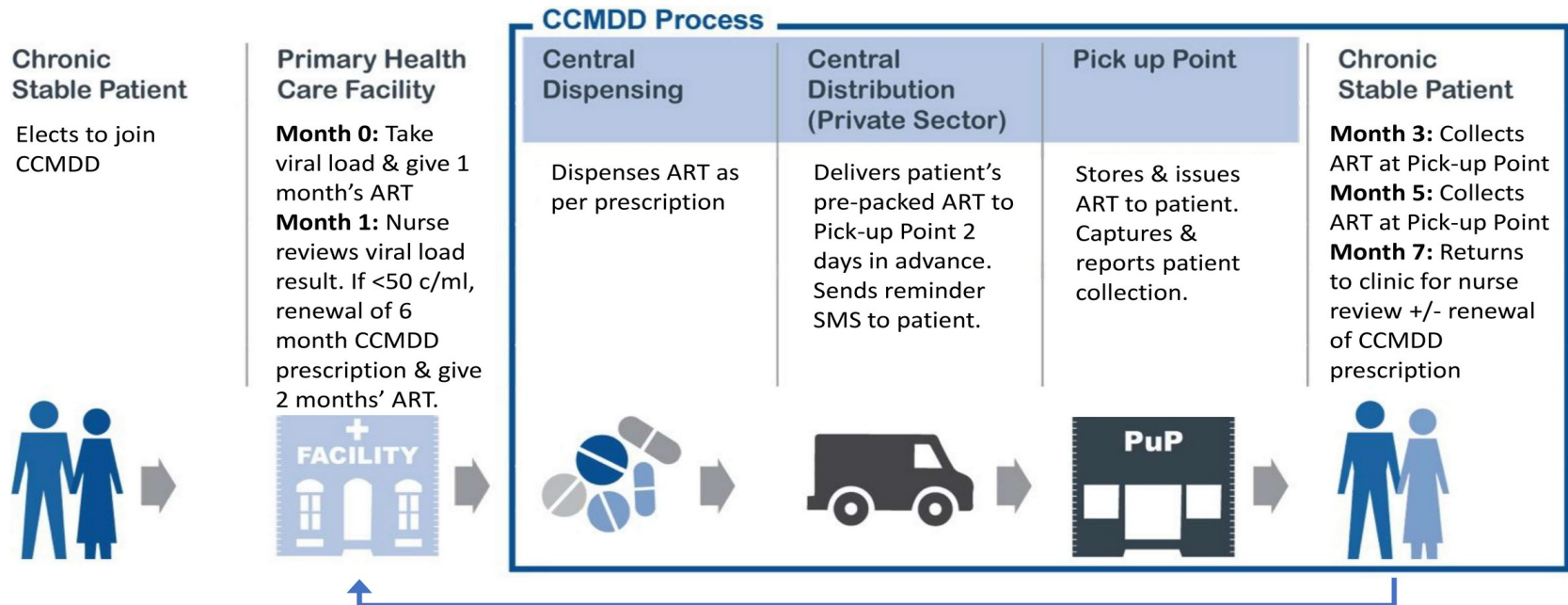


eThekwini District

- The District of eThekwini, containing the city of Durban, is found on the East Coast of South Africa and is the economic hub of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal.
- The District currently has 488 048 adult people living with HIV (PLHIV) in chronic HIV care, with 211 944 (43%) of these patients in care at clinics run by the eThekwini Municipality Health Unit.
- Differentiated models of care (DMoC) have constituted a crucial strategy to reduce waiting times at facilities, to enhance patients' treatment experience, to facilitate their retention in care, and to ensure that ever-increasing numbers of patients are managed effectively to ensure the best clinical outcomes.



The Central Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD) programme allows people who are clinically stable to collect their chronic medication, including antiretroviral therapy (ART) and for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), from community pick-up points and private pharmacies, instead of attending clinics.



Roberts. CCMD: A Public/Private Partnership to Increase Access to ART. 2018
http://files.icap.columbia.edu/files/uploads/ICAP_Grand_Rounds_Project_Last_Mile_Slides.pdf

- With this extensive ARV roll-out, we have witnessed increased life expectancy among PLHIV and this has led to an emergence of co-morbid non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among PLHIV.
- Cardiovascular disease has emerged as the number one non-HIV cause of mortality and morbidity for PLHIV.. (WHO, 2023)
- PLHIV with co-morbid NCDs represents an emerging area of clinical care, and an analysis of DMoC for PLHIV with NCDs requires more time and attention.
- When considering DMoC in eThekweni; the CCMDD approach has been the primary strategy that has been implemented within eThekweni District.



Background



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- South Africa has embraced CCMDD; developed an online electronic prescriber platform – Synchronised National Communication in Health (SyNCH).
- SyNCH allows prescribers to create unique profiles for patients and then electronically prescribe medication, which is dispensed centrally and delivered to various patient selected community based pick-up points.
- Our study aims to explore the implementation of DMoC for PLHIV with co-morbid NCDs.



Objectives



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- We aimed to evaluate the roll-out of DMoC across all Municipal clinics in eThekwini.
- More specifically, we aimed to determine the level of integration between HIV and NCD care for patients who are part of DMoC, i.e. registered on CCMDD.



Methodology



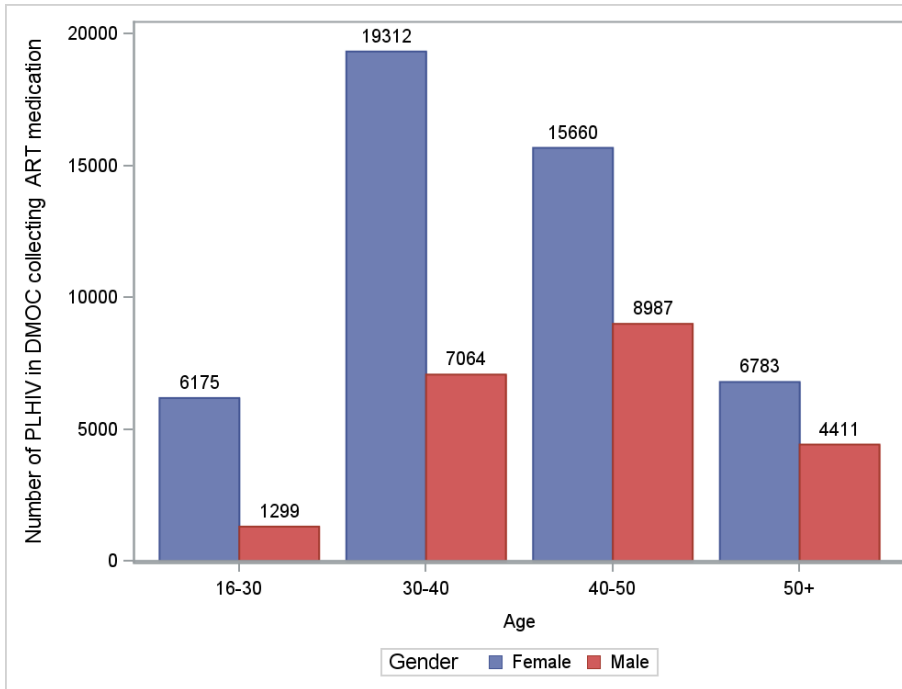
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- We analysed de-identified clinical electronic prescriptions submitted onto the SyNCH prescribing platform from 59 Primary Health Care clinics in eThekweni Municipality from 2022 to 2024 as part of the DMoC programme.
- The analysis included the number of patients offered CCMDD over time, and the prevalence of co-morbidities among patients (particularly HIV and NCDs), and the type of pick-up point to which the medication was delivered.

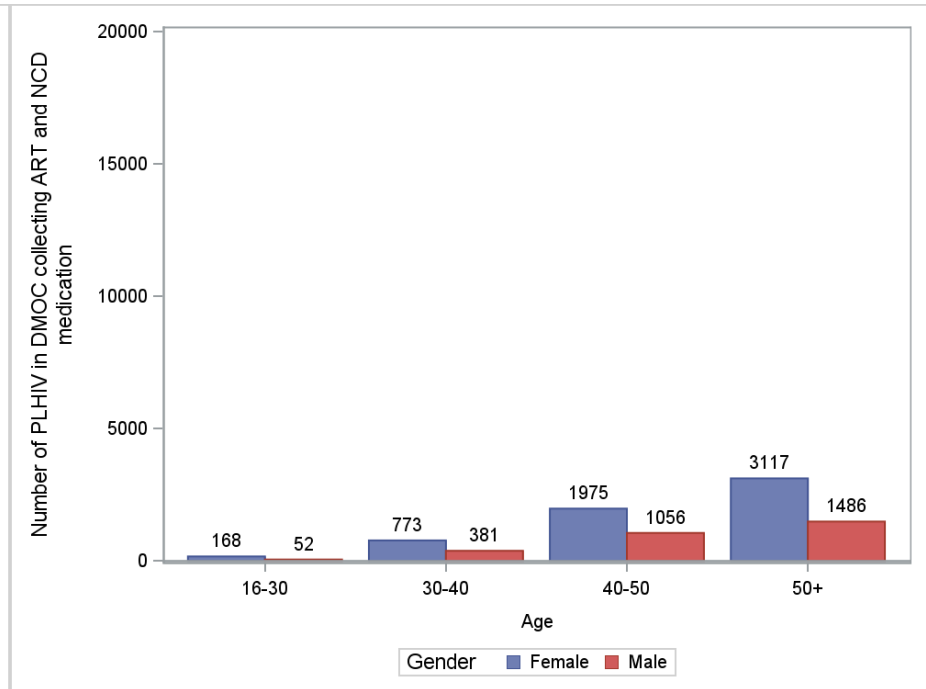
- In 2022, 91 102 PLHIV from the 59 clinics were eligible for CCMDD.
- Between 2022 and 2023, 78 838 PLHIV collected medication through the CCMDD programme.

	DMoC for ARV only	DMoC for ARV and NCDs
2022	89%	11%
2023	87%	13%

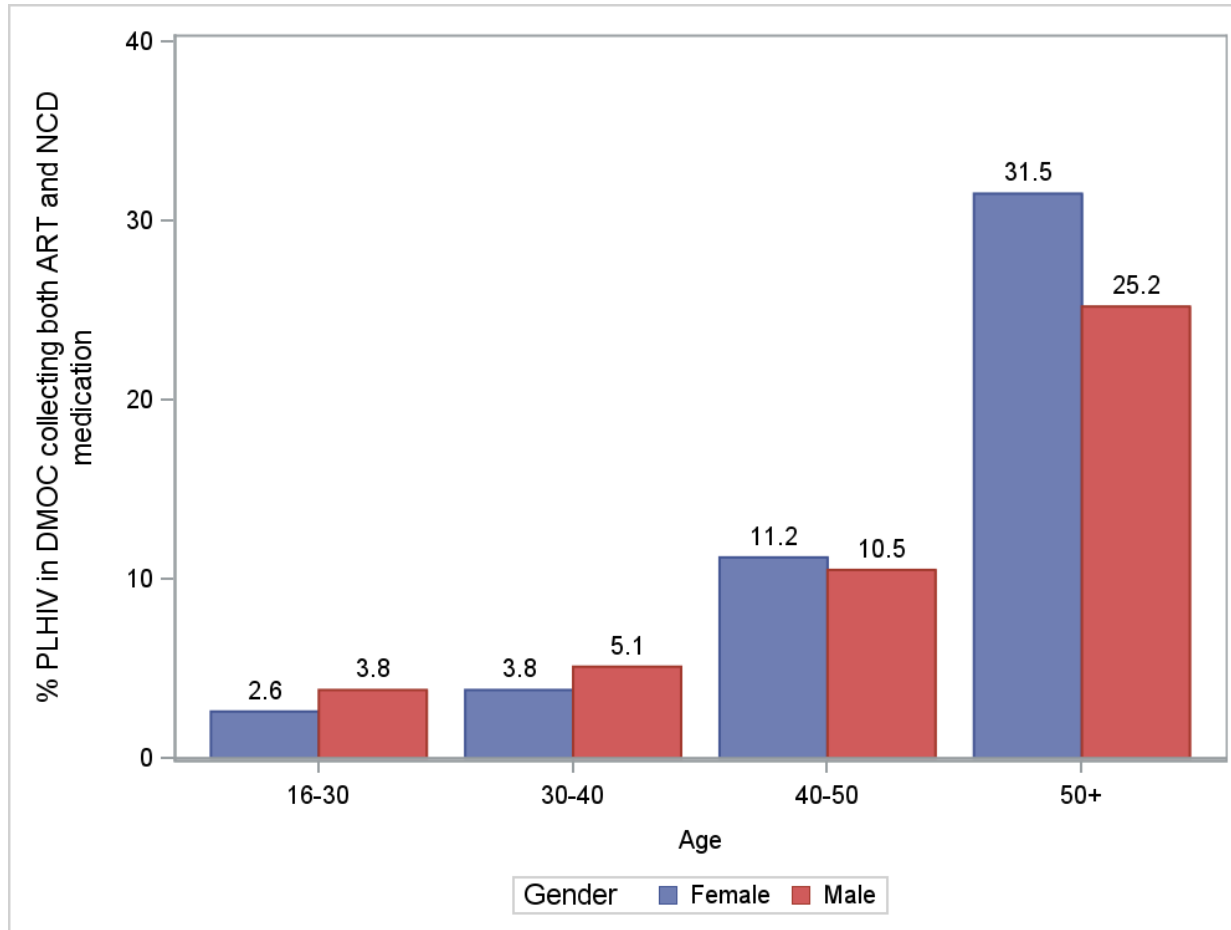
Number of PLHIV using DMOc for ART medication only, based on gender and age



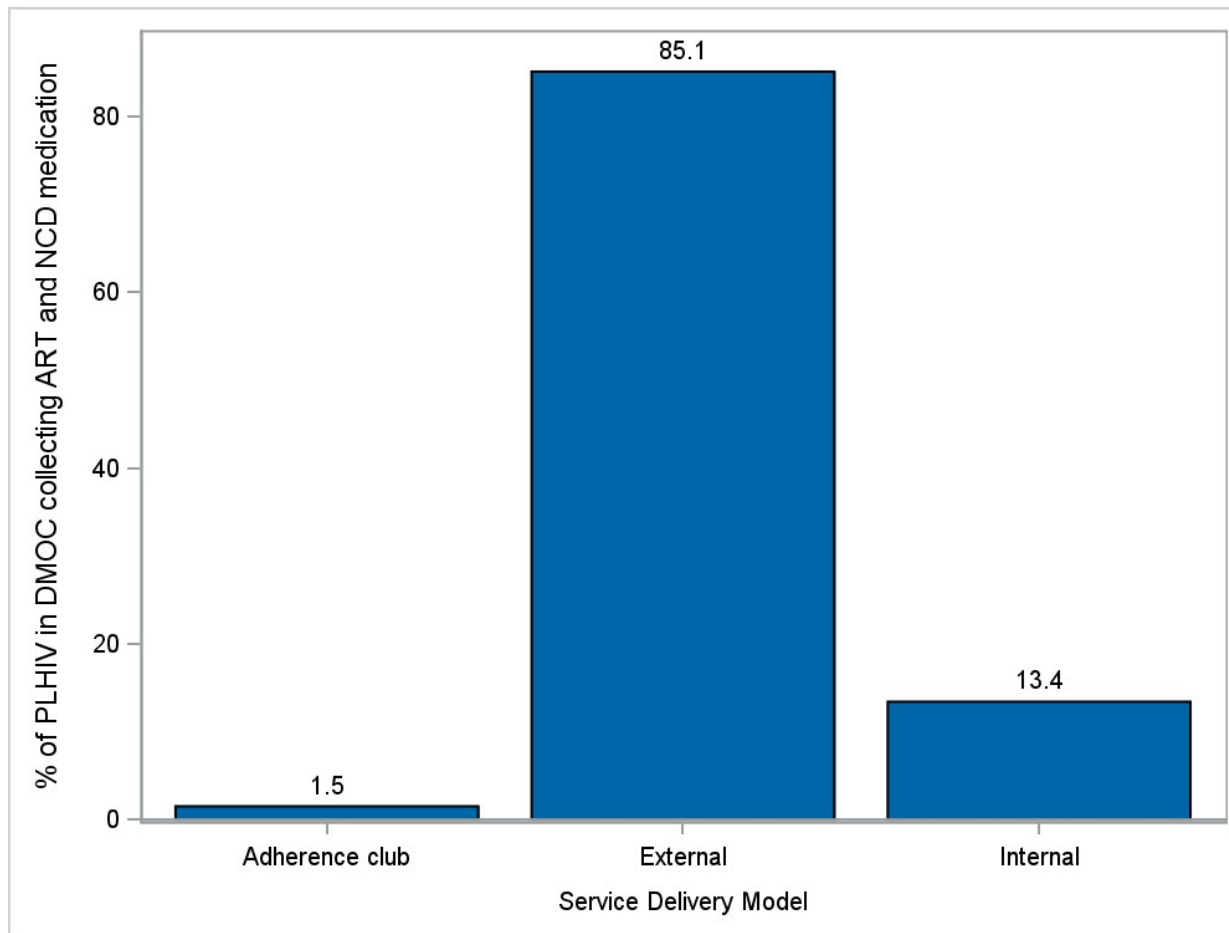
Number of PLHIV using DMOc for ART and NCD medication, based on gender and age



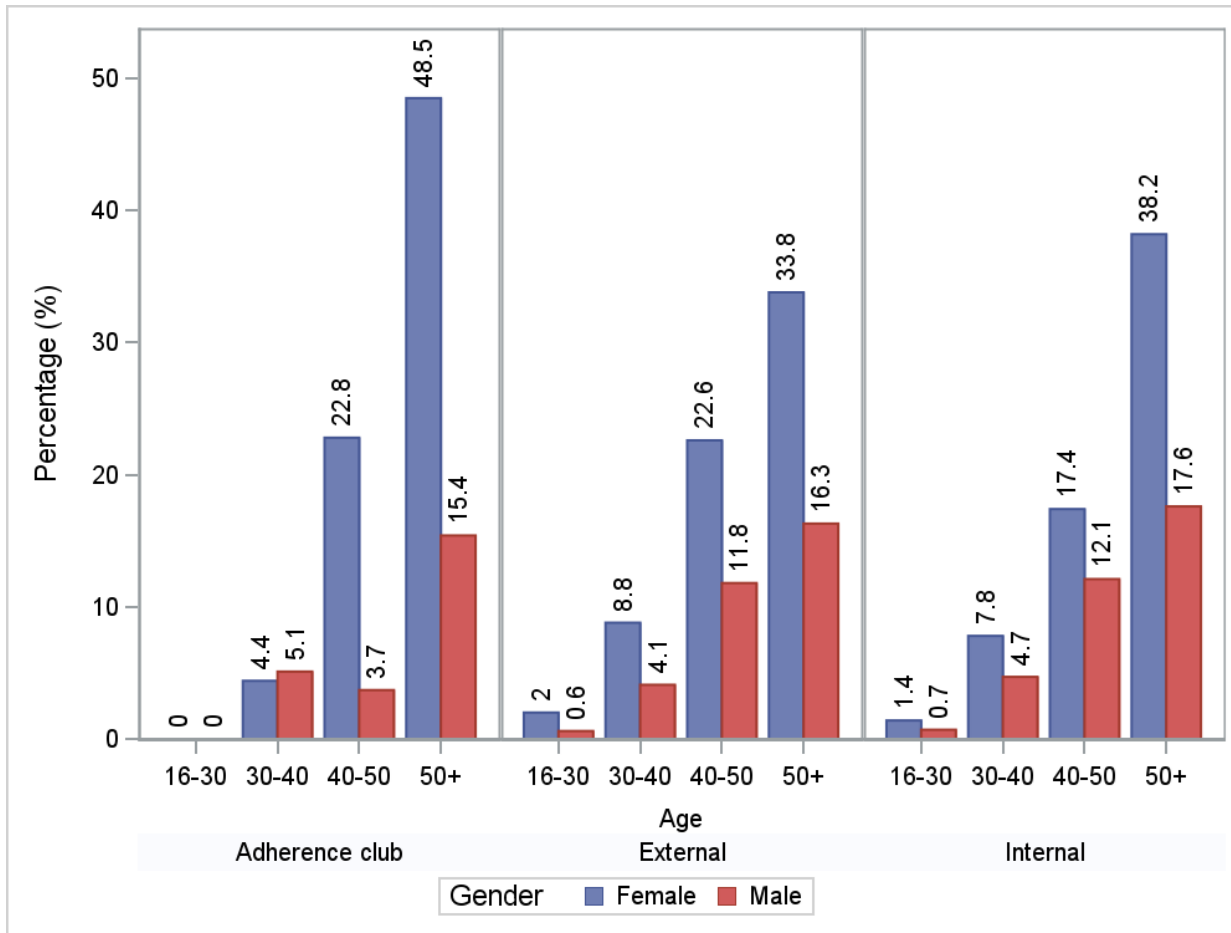
Percentage of PLHIV using DMoC for both ART and NCD medication based on gender and age



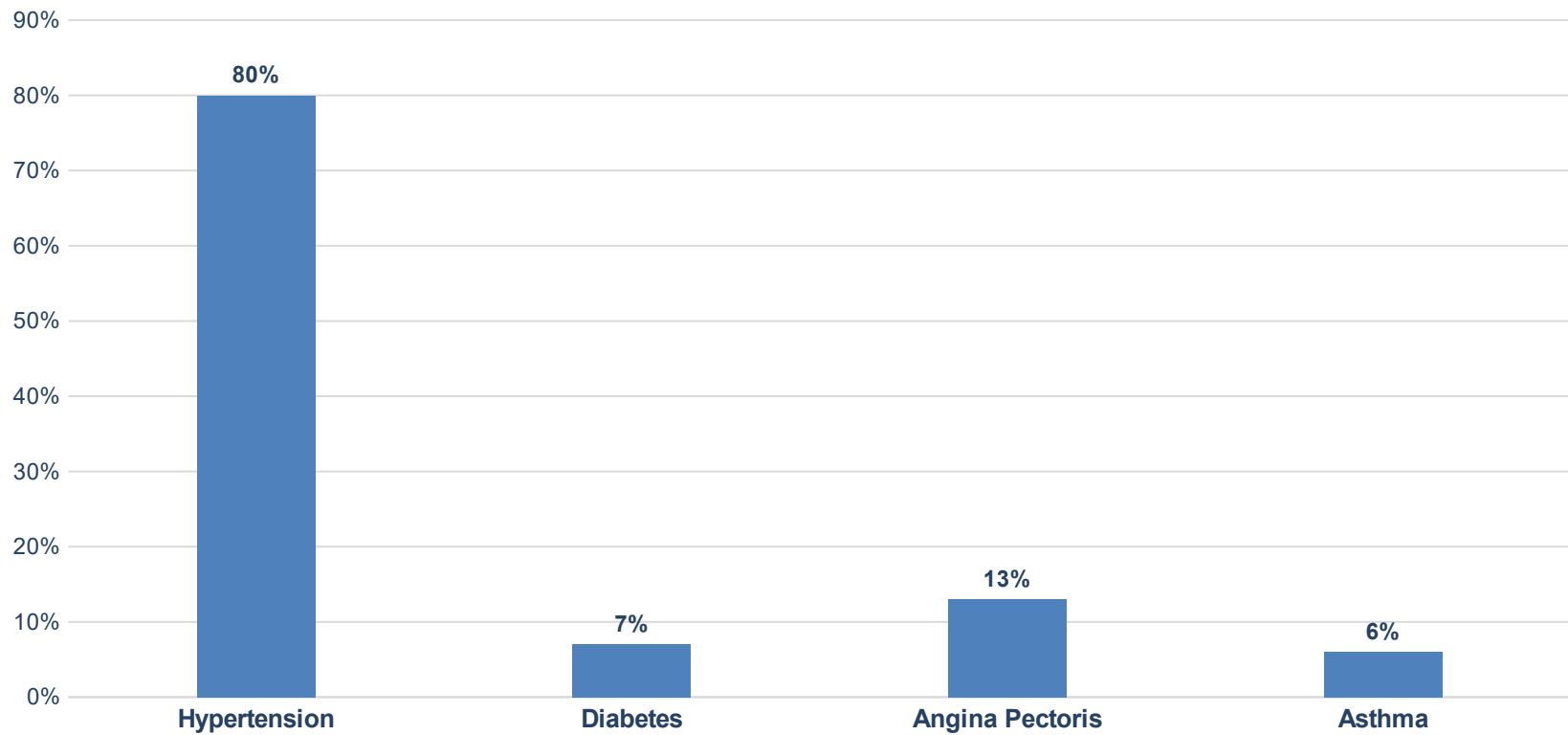
Breakdown of pickup point type among PLHIV using DMOc for both ART and NCD medication



Percentage of PLHIV using DMoC for both ART and NCD medication, by pickup point type



Proportion of conditions of PLHIV on DMoC with NCDs



Conclusion

- With advancing age in PLHIV, the presence of NCDs is an emerging area of clinical care that requires attention.
- The data suggest a moderate increase in the uptake of DMoC for PLHIV with NCDs over the period under study.
- This may not be in keeping with the expected rate of growth in this group when one considers the increasing numbers of patients living with HIV who are ageing.
- This suggests that greater efforts may be required to increase the uptake of DMoC in this specific category of PLHIV.
- NCDs also have their own specific eligibility criteria for DMoC, and further research is required to explore the interaction between NCDs and HIV within the DMoC framework.

References

- World Health Organization. Integrating non-communicable diseases into HIV service packages: Technical Brief. Geneva: WHO; 2023.
URL: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240073470>



Acknowledgments



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