

**TITLE**

**HIV care and prevention cascades indicate low engagement among young trans women at high risk of and living with HIV in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

**PRESENTER**

**Emilia Jalil**

**AUTHORS**

**E. Jalil<sup>1</sup>, B. Grinsztejn<sup>1</sup>, C.M. Jalil<sup>1</sup>, C. Castro<sup>1</sup>, A.L. Ferreira<sup>1</sup>, N.M. Fernandes<sup>1</sup>, L. Kamei<sup>1</sup>, I. Moura<sup>1</sup>, C. Oliveira<sup>1</sup>, D.R.B. Bezerra Waite<sup>1</sup>, W. da Silva Santos<sup>1</sup>, E. Bastos<sup>1</sup>, E.C. Netto<sup>1</sup>, S.W. Cardoso<sup>1</sup>, B. Hoagland<sup>1</sup>, V.G. Veloso<sup>1</sup>, E.C. Wilson<sup>2</sup>**

**INSTITUTIONS**

**<sup>1</sup>The Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), Evandro Chagas National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; <sup>2</sup>San Francisco Department of Public Health, Trans Research Unit for Equity, San Francisco, United States**

**BACKGROUND:** Youth are the only age group facing a rise in HIV. The HIV prevention and care needs of young trans women in middle-income countries are understudied despite the extraordinary risk this population faces. We evaluated the HIV prevention cascades among young Brazilian trans women and examined the association between HIV-related risk factors and engagement in HIV prevention.

**METHODS:** We assessed baseline data collected in 2022 from BeT - a status neutral intervention to increase HIV prevention behaviors among young trans women ages 18-24 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We describe the HIV care and prevention cascade among young trans women. Odds ratios were also calculated to determine correlates of HIV testing, post-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

**RESULTS:** We enrolled 165 participants with a median age of 21 years (interquartile range 18-24), 64.4% identified as Black. Among 23 participants living with HIV, 9 (39.2%) were linked to care, 5 (21.7%) missed an HIV appointment in the last 6 months, and 9 (39.2%) were virologically suppressed. Of the 142 HIV-negative young trans women, 109 (76.8%) had ever been tested for HIV in the past 12 months, 91 (64.1%) and 120 (84.5%) were aware of PEP and PrEP, respectively. Only 19 (13.4%) ever used PrEP. Young trans women who had ever done sex work had significantly higher odds of HIV testing (OR:3.20, 95%CI:1.00-10.41, p=0.014) as did those who had recently used substances (OR:3.29, 95%CI:1.00-10.41, p=0.042). Young trans women who had food insecurity had a borderline association with lower PrEP use (OR:0.35, 95%CI:0.10-1.12, p=0.084) as did youth who had depression (OR:0.32, 95%CI:0.07-1.10, p=0.095).

**CONCLUSIONS:** None of the HIV care and prevention cascade indicators measured among young trans women in Brazil were meeting UNAIDS targets, except for ever HIV testing. HIV prevention interventions may benefit from examining strategies to reach young trans women who use substances and do sex work. Instrumental support like food and mental health care may improve prevention behaviors among those who are least engaged in HIV prevention.