

# Results from the Feasibility of the Ontario HIV Preconception Cohort– Understanding the Factors that Influence Conception Decisions

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From Preconception to Post-partum: Women and Reproductive Issues

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**CHANGING THE COURSE** OF THE  
**HIV PREVENTION, ENGAGEMENT** AND  
**TREATMENT CASCADE**

## Why we Study Preconception Issues in the Context of HIV

- Maternal and fetal well-being strongly linked to preconception health for all people
- In the context of HIV, there are additional considerations that must be explored related to method of conception
- Preconception health is a relatively new discussion in the field of HIV healthcare
  - *Why?* cART for parental well-being and prevention of vertical HIV transmission have increased rates of pregnancy
- Community of PHAs in Ontario and across the world are now asking about preconception
- Reproduction and preconception health are highly topical and timely issues in the field of HIV care, support, and research

## Understanding the Factors Related to Deciding to have a Child

- Very little is known about factors related to reproductive decision making for people living with HIV as they pertain to **method of conception**
- As clinicians who believe in providing support that is informed by community needs, believe it is important to explore the factors that influence a person or couple's decisions related to conception to inform care and counseling
- **Factors may include:**
  - Risk of transmission (vertical or horizontal)
  - Cost
  - Success rate of the method
  - Risks to the fetus

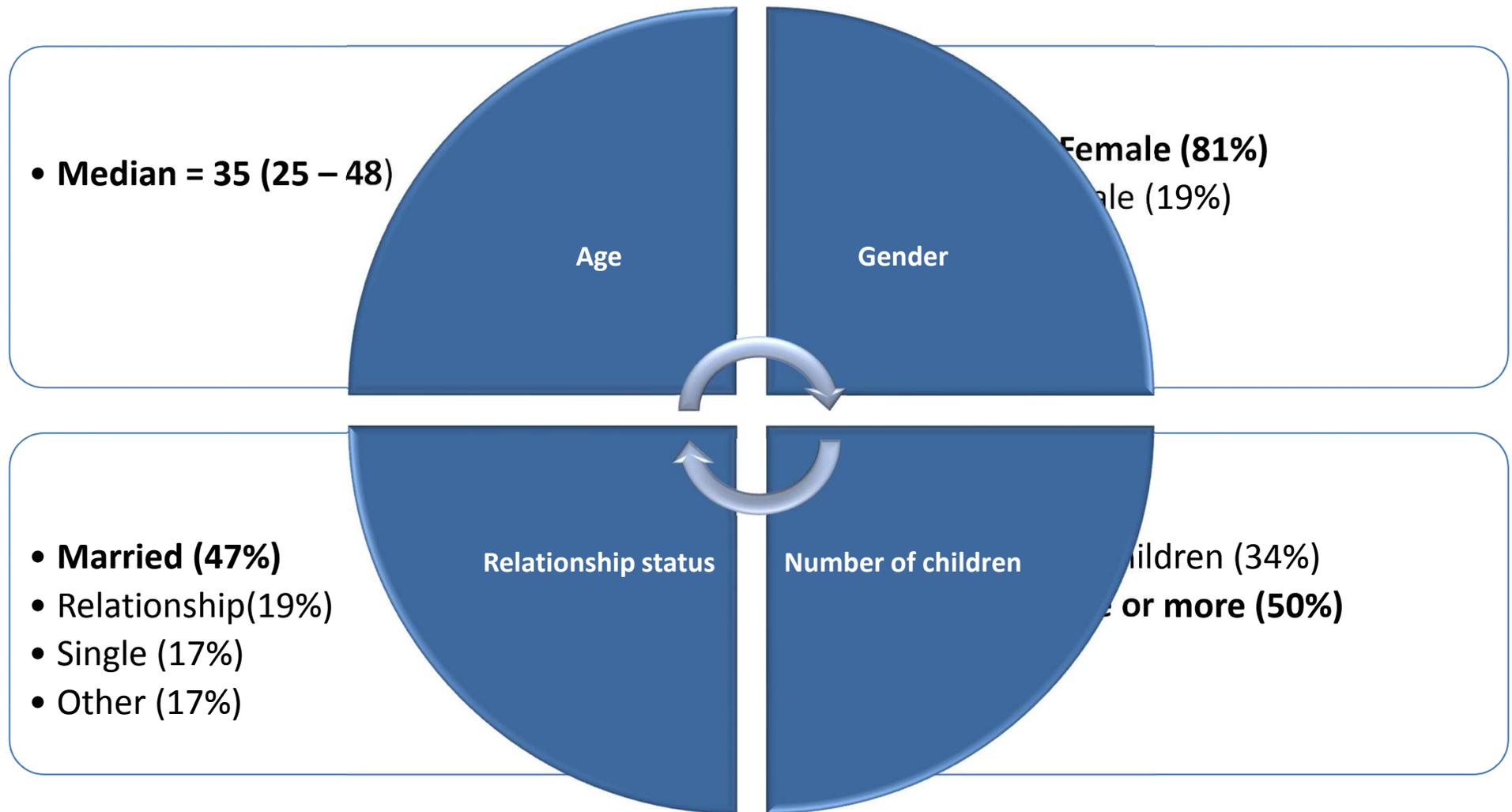
## **Purpose**

- 1) To identify factors related to conception that participants ranked highest (top 3) when considering having a child**
- 2) To explore if there was a difference between participants with and without children**

## **Methods**

- Data from a cross-sectional study “The Ontario HIV Preconception Cohort Study”**
- 58 participants living with HIV from across Ontario**
- The responses for the factors related to deciding about conception were reported as frequency according to participants with and without children.**

## Results: Demographics



## Results Continued

*What factors have you considered when deciding about your choice of conception method?*

### With no children

1. Vertical transmission
2. Horizontal transmission
3. Probability of conception

### With children

1. Vertical transmission
2. Effect of ART on baby
3. Horizontal transmission

## Conclusions and Considerations

- **While similar, results are slightly different between the comparison groups**
- **May be relevant for counseling**
  - Those people without a child may be more interested in methods with higher probability of conception
  - Those people with a child may need addition counseling and support related to ARV use in pregnancy
- **Consistent need to provide care and support related to risk of transmission to fetus and partner**
- **What about *cost*?**

## Next Steps

- **Complete comprehensive analysis of pilot study data**
  - In particular, complete similar analysis between PHA and their HIV negative partners to see if factors vary
- **Develop full scale cohort study to confirm if the results are reproduced in a larger cohort of people living with HIV**

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