

## **Abstract**

**Title of abstract:** Voice of Young People to Achieve Zero HIV infection - Results from an SMS-based opinion poll among young people “Zambia U-report”.

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## **BACKGROUND**

Zambia Ureport is a mobile health (m-Health) programme aimed to set up an effective SMS-based mechanism to increase young people participation in the national HIV prevention response; Increase comprehensive knowledge of high impact HIV prevention measures and services among Ureporters; and generate demand for and ensure referral of young people to HIV high impact prevention services. The programme provides confidential, free of charge, individualized and interactive counselling services on HIV, STI to adolescents and youths. It also tracks and reports periodically on key knowledge gaps and emerging issues related to HIV and STI to inform other programmes.

## **RESULTS**

In December 2012 when the programme was launched in Kitwe and again after the Lusaka launch in March 2013 the National AIDS Council sent out a poll to U-reporters via SMS. The question was: “Every day 3 young people are infected with HIV. What should be done to have zero HIV infections in Zambia? Your voice matters!” A total of 1130 responses were received and a thematic analysis performed on the incoming SMS’. Ureporters recommended the following measures to get to zero new HIV infections among young people: Promote abstinence (35%), Teach/Educate young people about HIV prevention (29%), Educate on condom use for protection (27%), Promote faithfulness to one partner (4%), and educate about Male Circumcision (2%). Opinions supporting male circumcision were most common among males (85%); age groups 20 – 24 years (54%) and 15 – 19 years (31%) while abstinence was more supported by the females (51%) and age group 20 – 24 years (69%).

## **CONCLUSION**

Given the potential reach of Zambia U-report and the level of analyses that can be performed on incoming messages, the platform can be used to collect data directly from young people and provide real-time insights to policy makers and programme implementers as we strive toward achieving an HIV-free generation in Zambia.