

YouthNet

The Effectiveness of Youth Peer Education Programs

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Overall Study Objective

- To determine the effect of youth peer education (YPE) programs on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) behaviors among young people



Triangulated Results

To determine how programs influence youth SRH behaviors

To link *quality* of specific YPE programs to:

- Population survey data measuring YPE exposure and youth SRH behaviors
- Clinic-based data measuring YPE exposure and referrals to STI/HIV diagnosis and use of RH services



Study Design

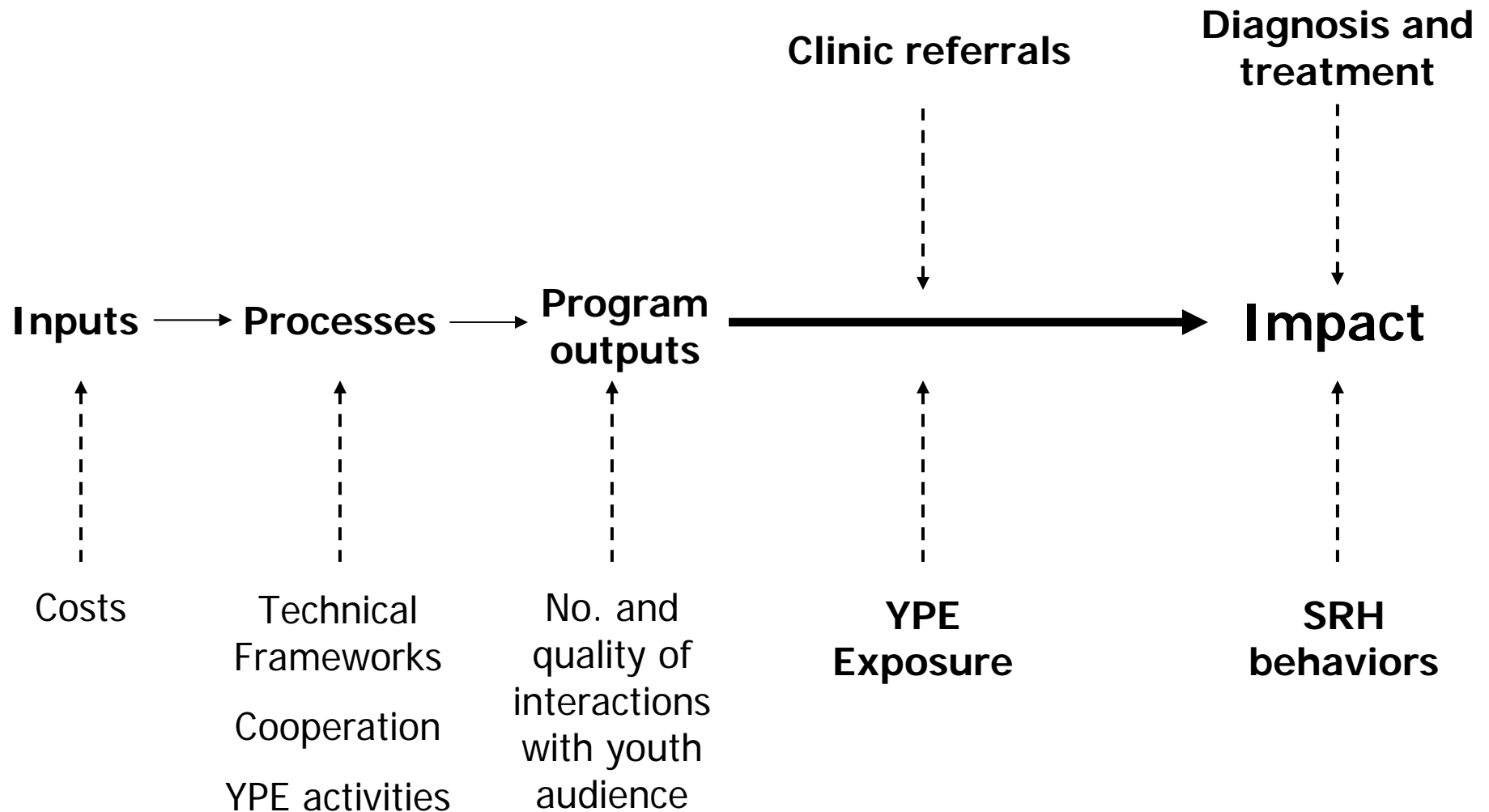
- **Phase 1** – Determine the core components of YPE programs
- **Phase 2** – Determine the impact of specific YPE programs on SRH behaviors and link this impact data to the quality of YPE programming



Phase 1 Methods

- In-depth examination of six community-based programs in Zambia and the Dominican Republic
 - Costs (inputs) and activities (outputs) measurements
 - Process measurements using interviews and focus group discussions
- YPE program assessment tools developed

Phase 2 Design





Phase 2 Methods – Zambia

- Assessed and monitored five YPE programs as case studies
- Program impact was examined using:
 - Surveys in program catchment areas to measure SRH behaviors.
 - Clinic questionnaires with diagnoses at seven clinics in the same program catchment areas to measure use of RH services and STI/HIV testing
- - National survey measuring YPE exposure and SRH behaviors in the Zambia Sexual Behavior Survey 2005 (ZSBS)



Survey Results (1)

Zambia Sexual Behavior Survey (ZSBS):

- Representative sample of 1,695 youth 15-24 years

Total YPE exposure: 43%

- Rural: 42%
- Urban: 45%



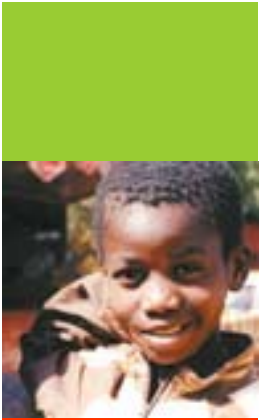
Survey Results (2)

YPE exposure associated with:

- Higher HIV knowledge
- Higher intentions to use condoms
- Lower stigma and discrimination towards PLWHA
- Reported being HIV tested
- Consistent condom use with most recent partner
- Using condom at last occasion with most recent partner

YPE exposure *not* associated with:

- Ever having sex
- Age at first sex
- Number of lifetime sex partners and number of partners in last 4 and 12 months



Clinic-based Results (1)

Clinic referrals:

- Patient questionnaires and diagnoses among youth 15-24 years at seven clinics (n = 10,300)

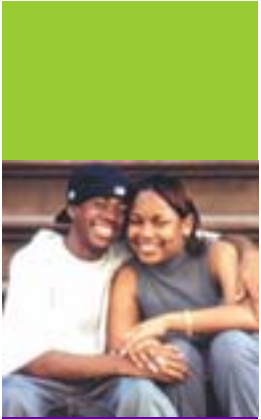
Avg. YPE exposure: 73% (49 – 90%)

Avg. YPE referred: 52% (22 – 71%)



Clinic-based Results (2)

- Referred youth were more likely to:
 - Be highly vulnerable youth
 - Utilize clinic's reproductive health services
 - Have an STI test or exam
- No association to taking an HIV test found



Conclusions about YPE

- Has high exposure among youth
- Exposure associated with some specific risk reduction behaviors (e.g., condom use)
- Exposure associated with highly vulnerable youth seeking RH and STI health services
- Exposure and the effectiveness of programs varied greatly – issue of quality?
- Case studies and cost analysis to be presented in Final Report