



# Southern African HIV Clinicians Society

## 3rd Biennial Conference

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Sandton Convention Centre  
Johannesburg

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# **Maternal Characteristics of Women with HIV Positive Infants: a Case Series in Routine Settings in South Africa**

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**Kheth'Impilo, Cape Town, South Africa**

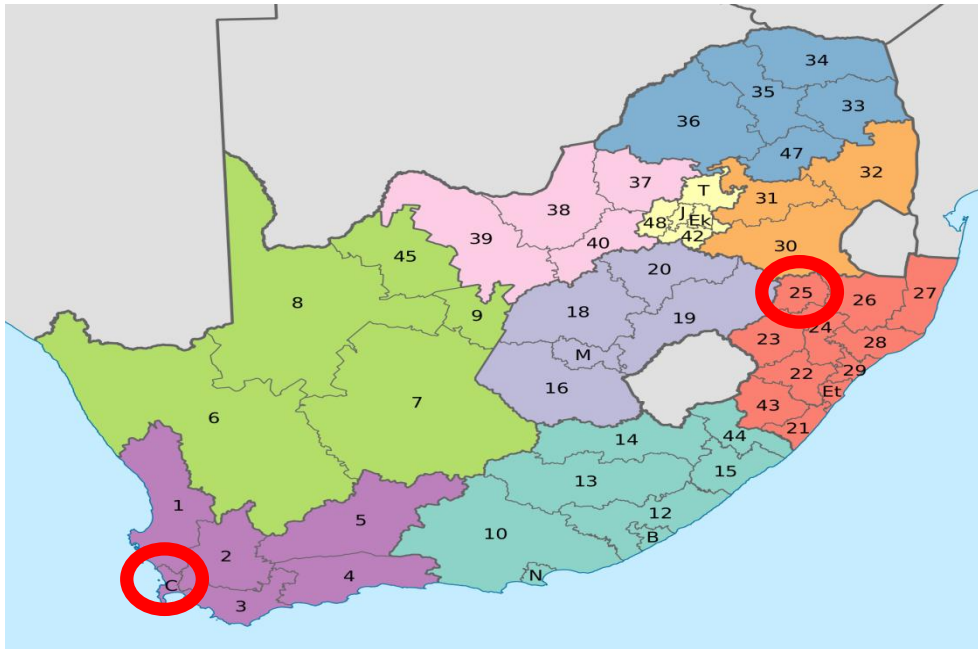
Southern African HIV Clinicians Society Conference,  
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# Background

- Eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV is a global health priority.
- Nationally, South Africa has reduced early vertical transmission to < 3%.
- Despite overall progress, there is considerable variation in the uptake of the PMTCT cascade services across SA.
- Relative paucity of data describing the characteristics of pregnant women whose infants acquire HIV in routine settings.
- **Aim:** To describe maternal characteristics of HIV-infected infants in a routine maternal & child health program in two districts.

# Methods

- Case series of mother-infant pairs where infants tested HIV-positive ( $\leq 18$  months) at 41 public primary healthcare clinics in Amajuba and Cape Town between February 2013-December 2014.
- Facilities were supported by Kheth'Impilo, a nonprofit organization supporting DoH with public health innovations.
- Nurses abstracted clinical data from mother's folders on a routine basis.



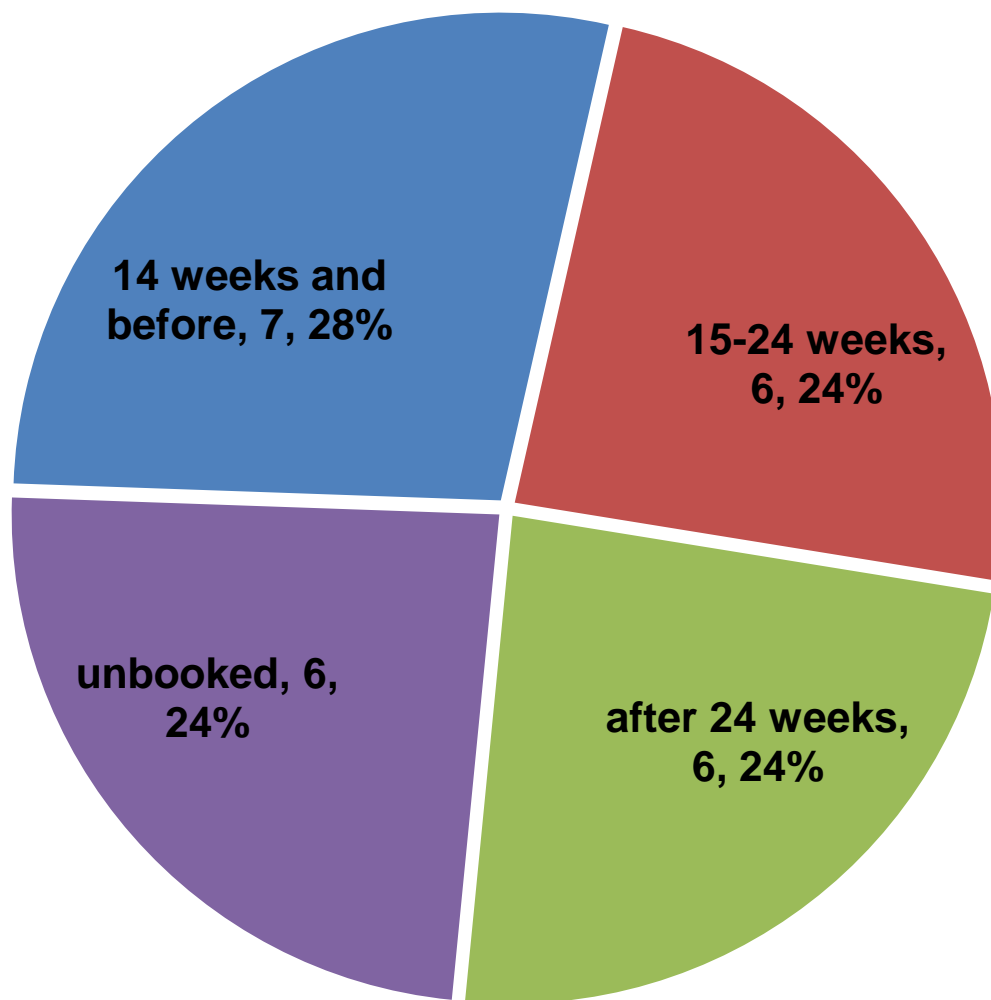
Antenatal HIV prevalences (2013):  
Amajuba: 39%  
Cape Town Metro: 22%

Infant 6 week PCR positivity  
(2013/14):  
Amajuba: 1.3%  
Cape Town: 1.5%

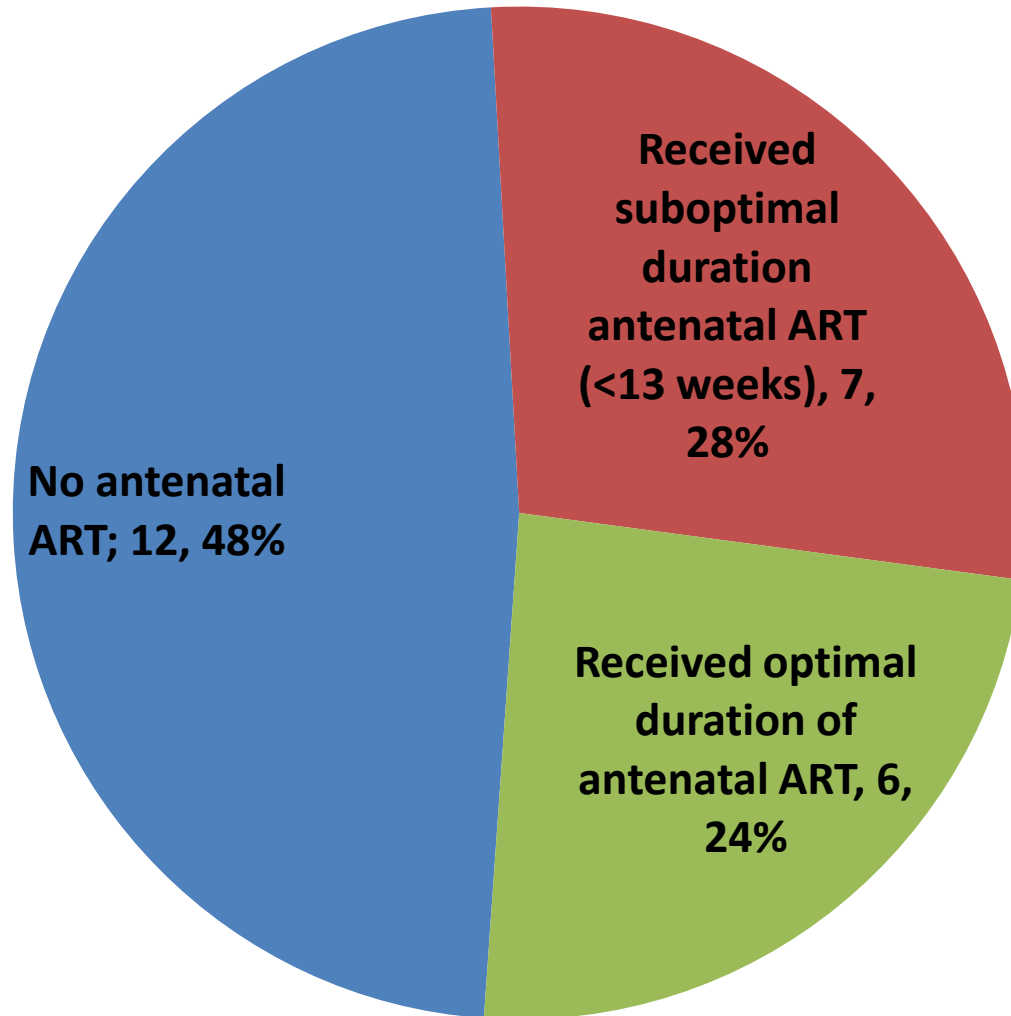
# Results

- 25 mother-infant pairs included; 14 from Amajuba and 11 from Cape Town.
- Median age of mothers at delivery 23 years; 68% of women were young women ( $\leq 24$  years).
- Median women's CD4 cell count: 345 cells/ $\mu$ L (IQR: 242-450).
- All women booked at PHC, but 14 (56%) delivered at hospitals.

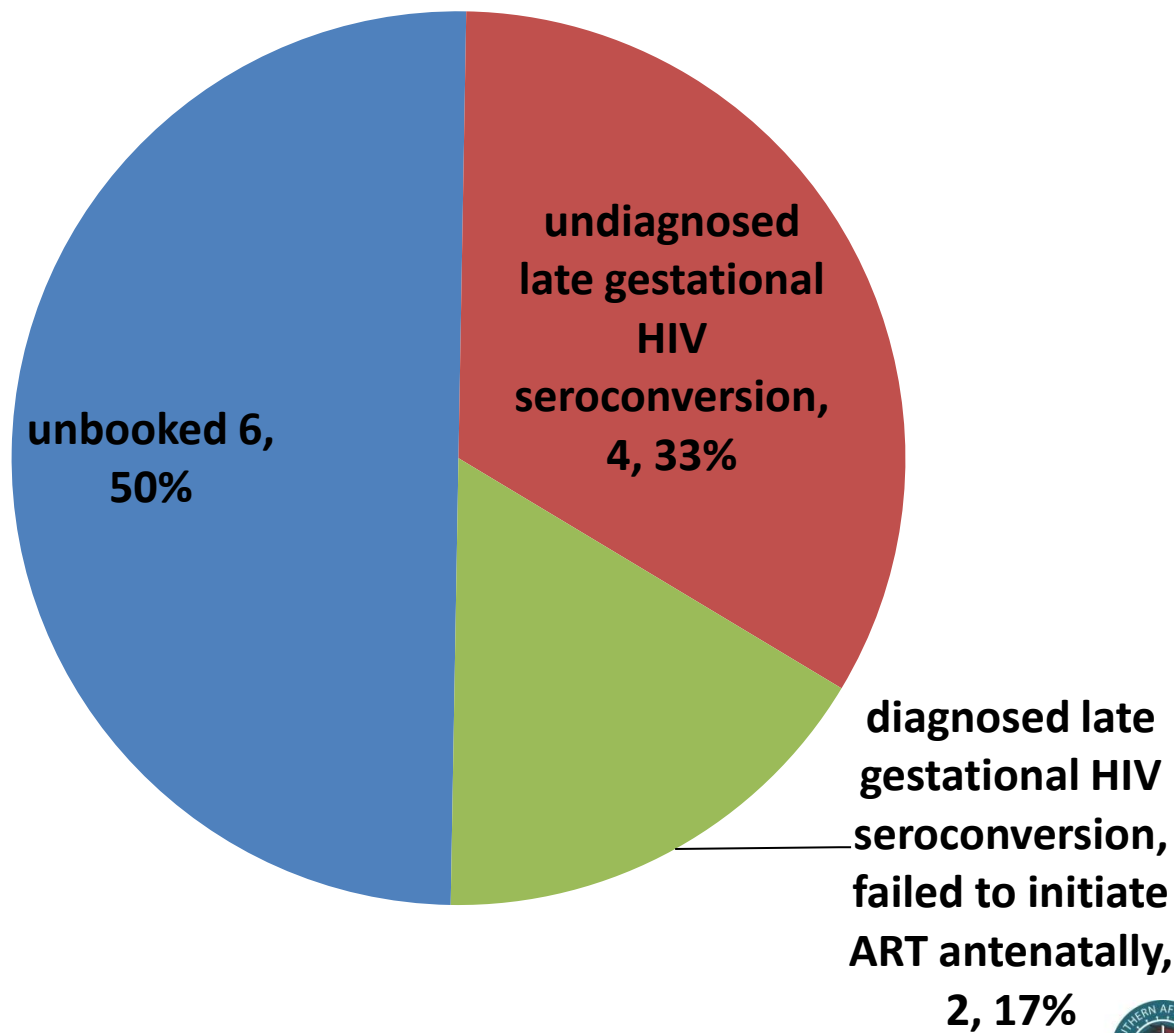
# Gestational age at first antenatal clinic visit



# Receipt of antenatal ART

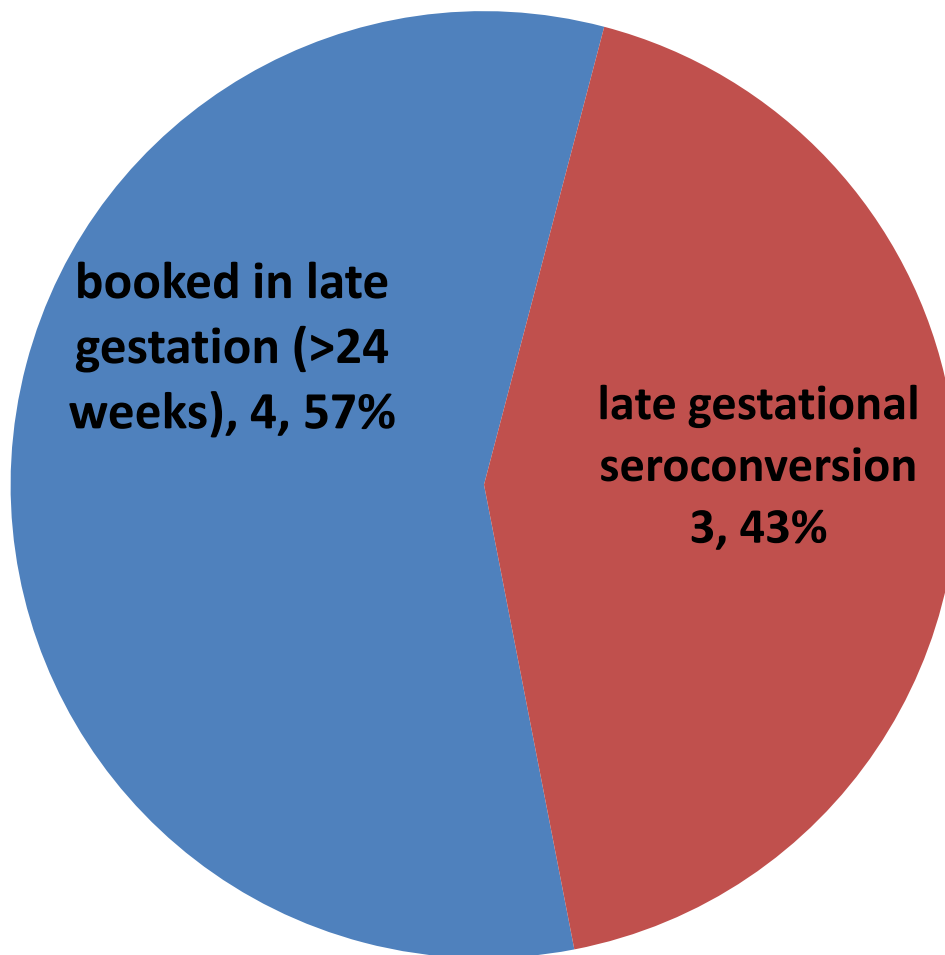


# Reasons for not commencing antenatal ART (n=12)

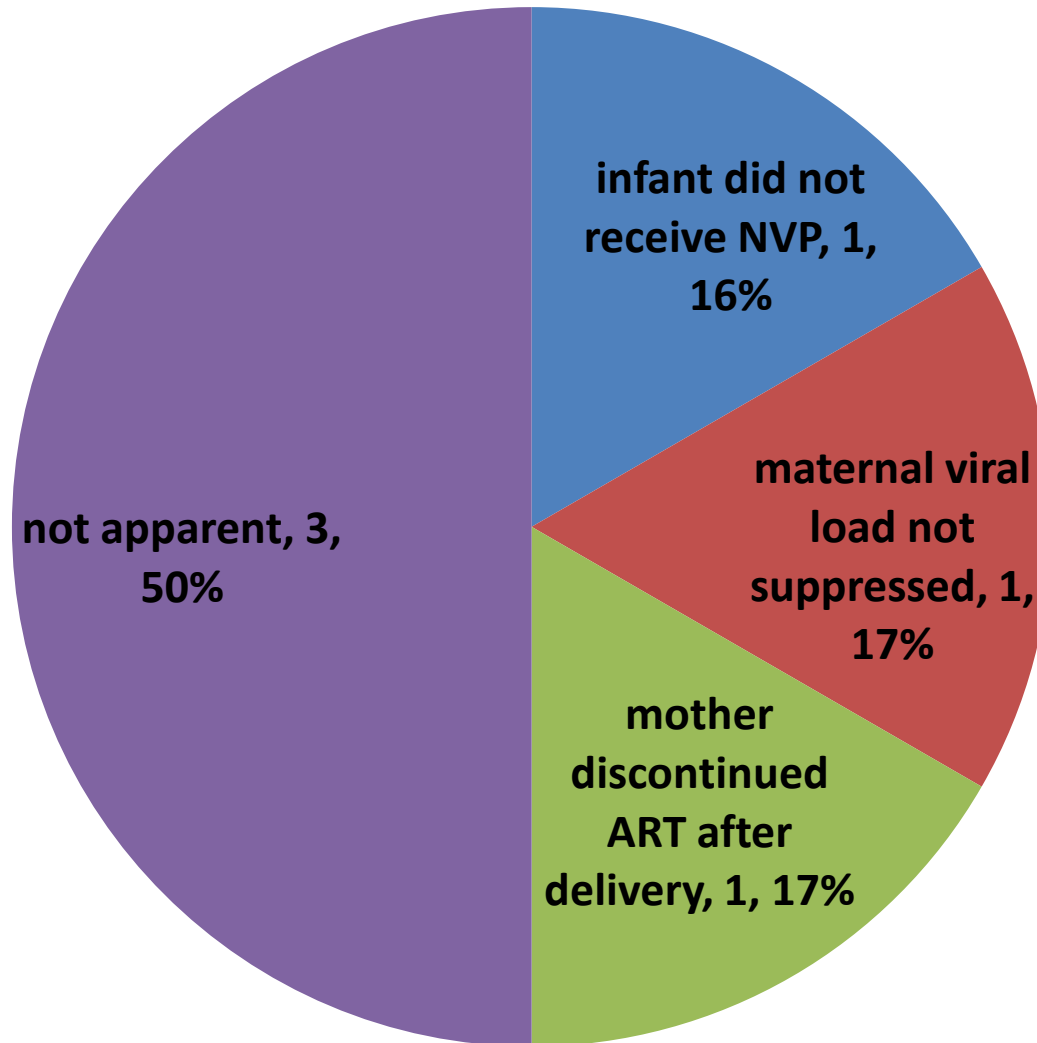




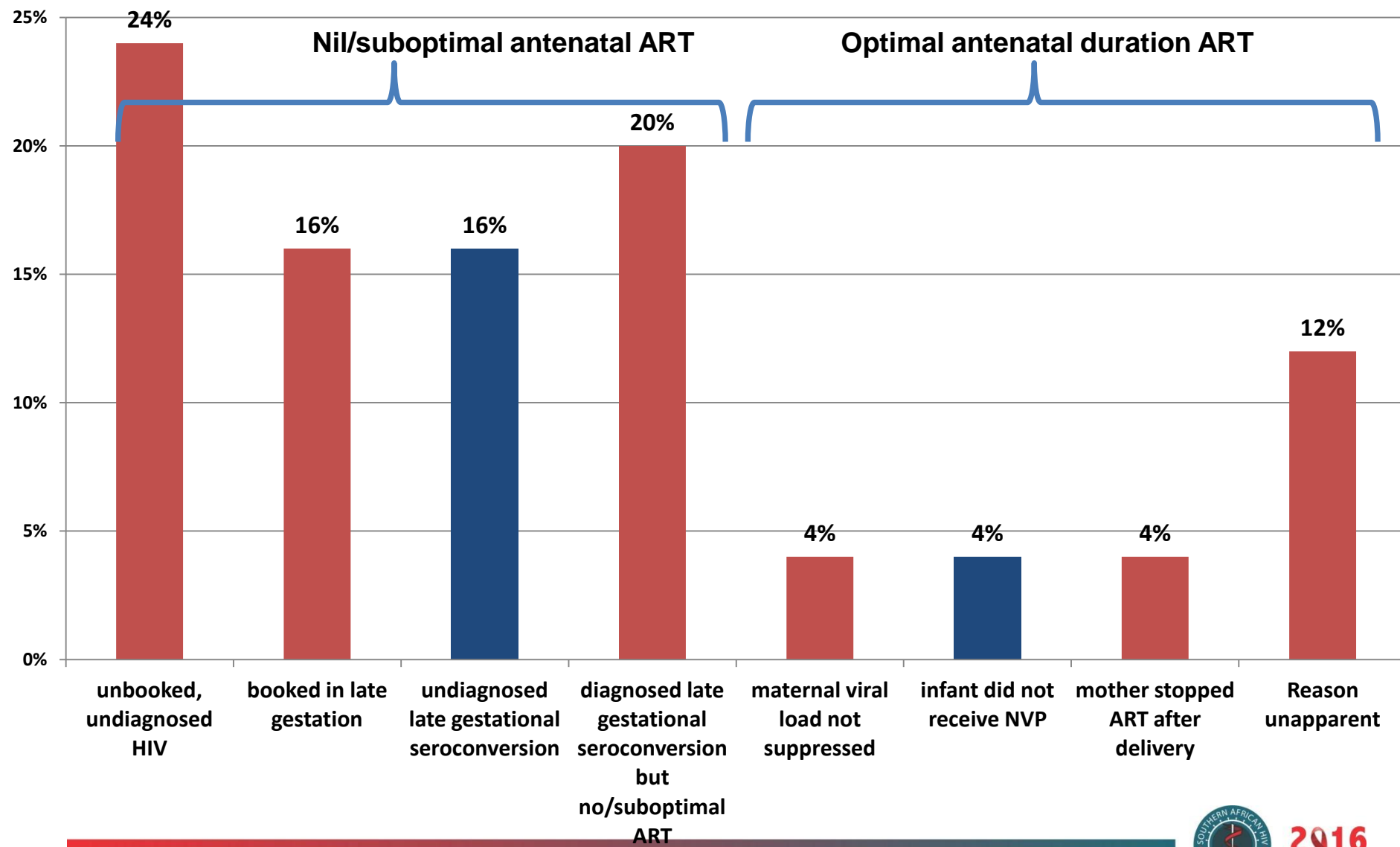
# Reasons for suboptimal duration of antenatal ART (n=7)



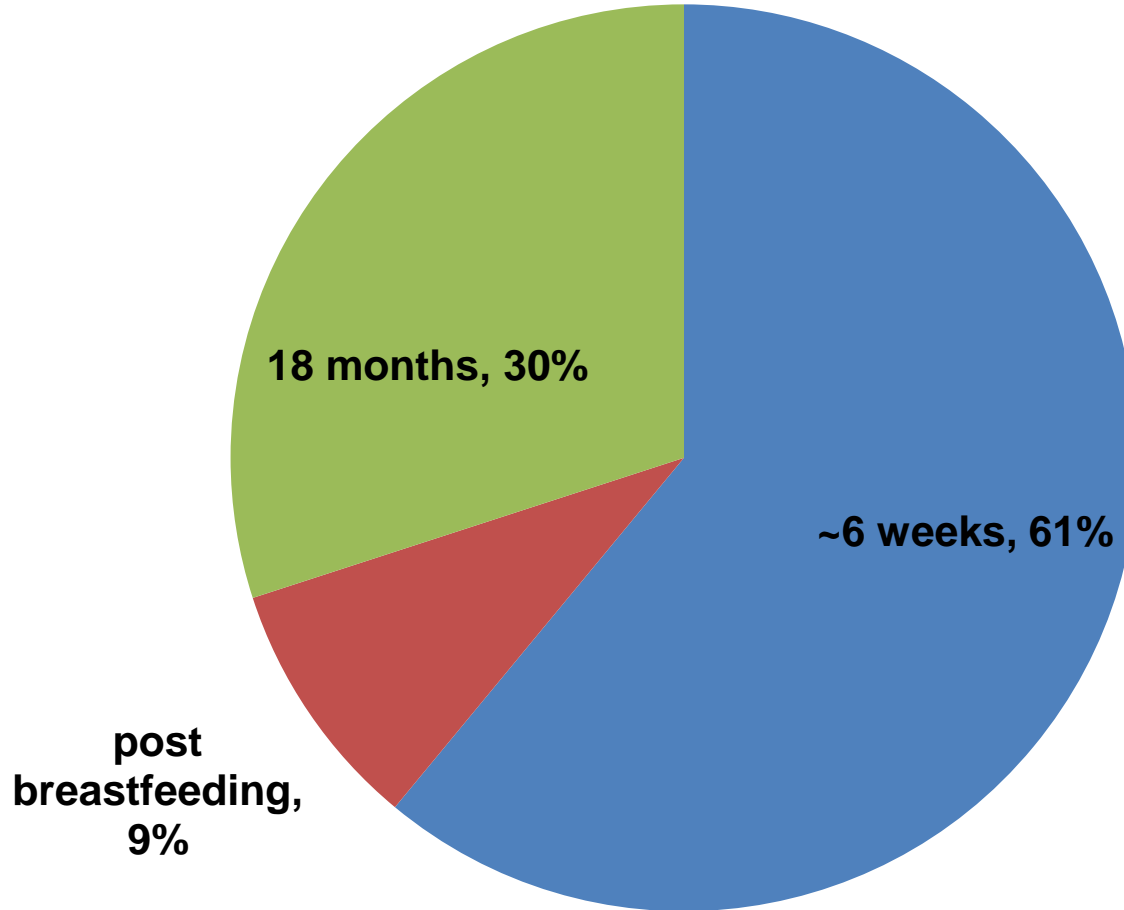
# Possible reasons for transmission amongst women with optimal durations of ART (n=6)



# Likely reasons for transmission: All mother-infant pairs



# Infant age at diagnosis



Amongst children diagnosed after 6 weeks, 55% had a negative test at 6 weeks-late postnatal transmission; remainder were not tested at 6 weeks.

# Conclusions

- >2/3 rd of women whose infants acquired HIV were young women
- An array of probable reasons for vertical transmission were apparent.
- Half of women received no antiretrovirals, with a high proportion of whom were unbooked antenatally.
- Late gestational HIV acquisition in women was associated with over a third of all vertical transmissions.
- Late postnatal transmission remains concerning, accounting for 20% or more of transmissions in this case series.
- More frequent antenatal HIV testing (4-6 weekly) should be considered for HIV-negative women, particularly younger women.
- Ongoing quality assurance and improvement is critical for PMTCT services.

# Thank you

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