



21 YEARS OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Perinatal HIV Research Unit of the University of the Witwatersrand

# Perceptions of HIV self-screening

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# BACKGROUND

- In 2016, South Africa had 270 000 new HIV infections
  - 7.1 million people living with HIV accounting for 19% globally<sup>1</sup>
- HIV self-screening kit has been pre-qualified by WHO as a:
  - Recommended strategy to increase access to HIV testing<sup>2</sup>
- 90-90-90 goal: 90% of HIV infected people know their status

1. UNAIDS. Country overview: South Africa. 2017.

2. World Health Organization. Landscape for rapid diagnostic tests for HIV self-testing. 2016.

# AIM

The study explored the perceptions of HIV self-screening for healthcare workers and participants that accepted or refused an HIV self-screening kit

# METHODS

**Timeline:** May to August 2016

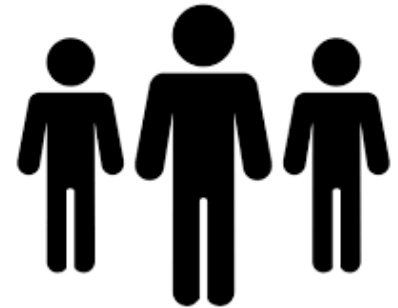
**Design:** Mixed methods

**Analysis:** Thematic content analysis

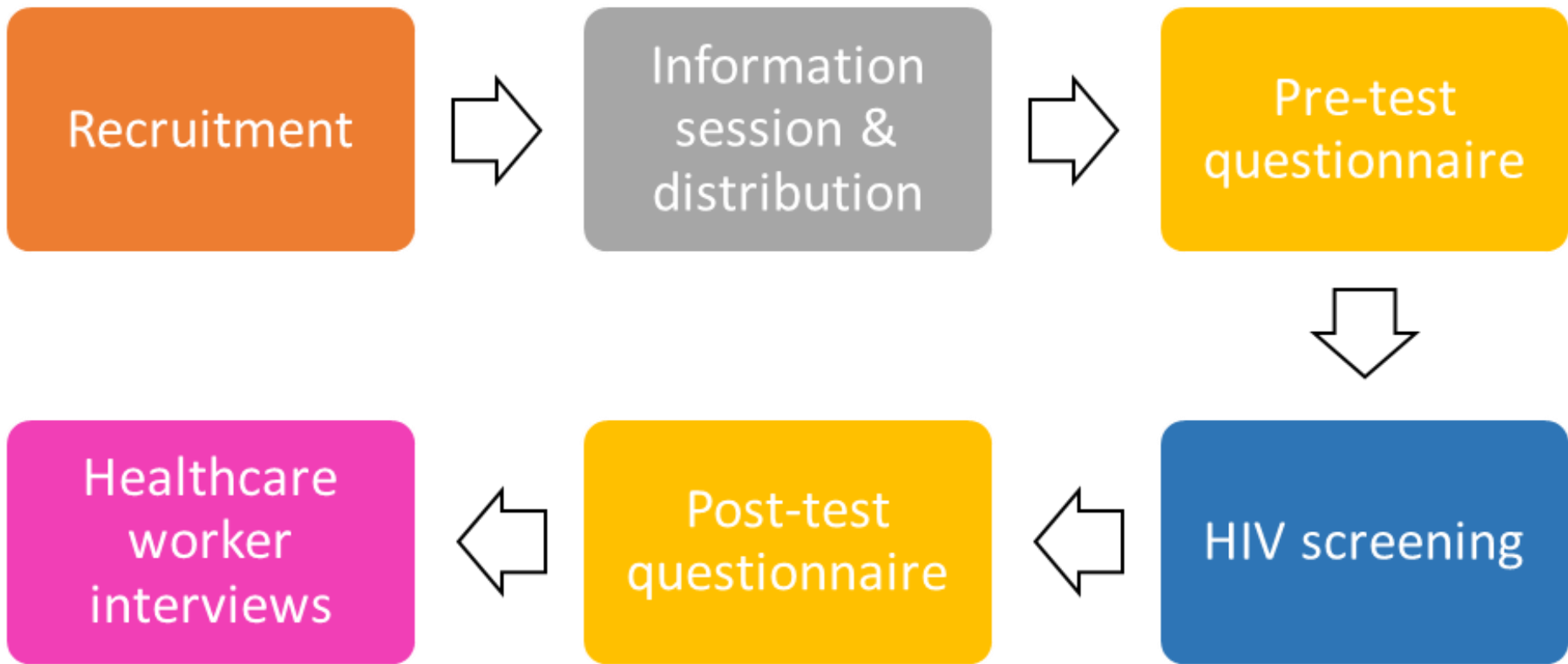
## Study sites



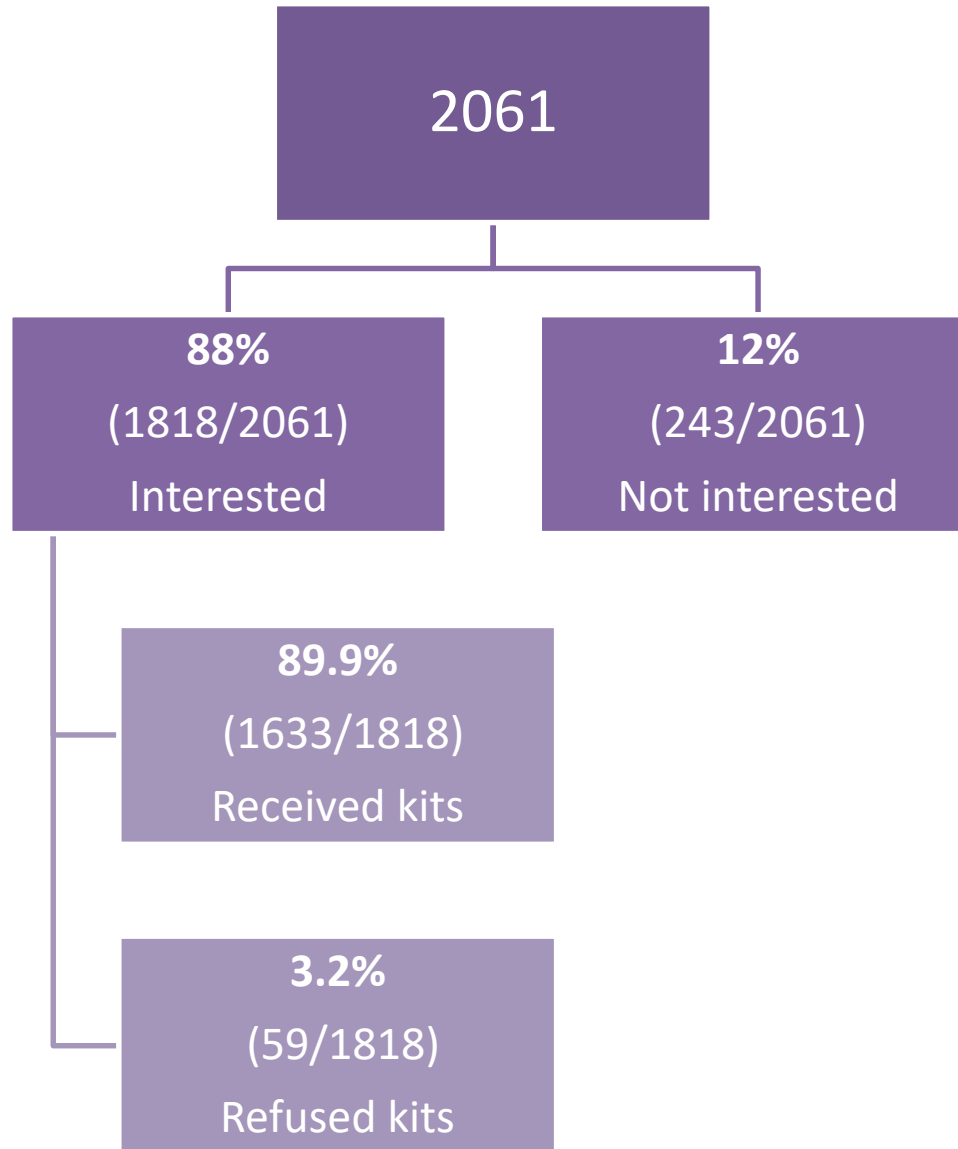
## Study Participants



# STUDY FLOW

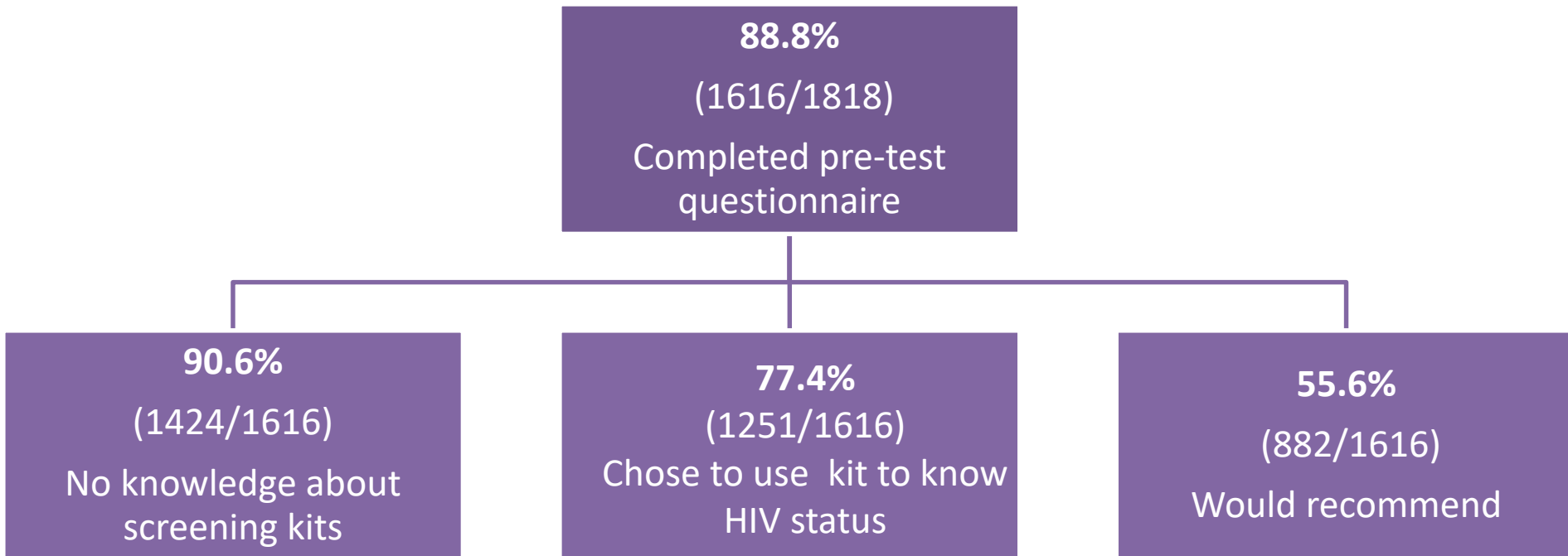


# RESULTS



# RESULTS:

## Pre-test perceptions



# RESULTS:

## Post-test perceptions

**61.3%**  
(1114/1818)  
Completed post test  
questionnaire

**90.6%**  
(1010/1114)  
Positive experience

**92.1%**  
(1026/1114)  
Would recommend



# RESULTS: Refusals

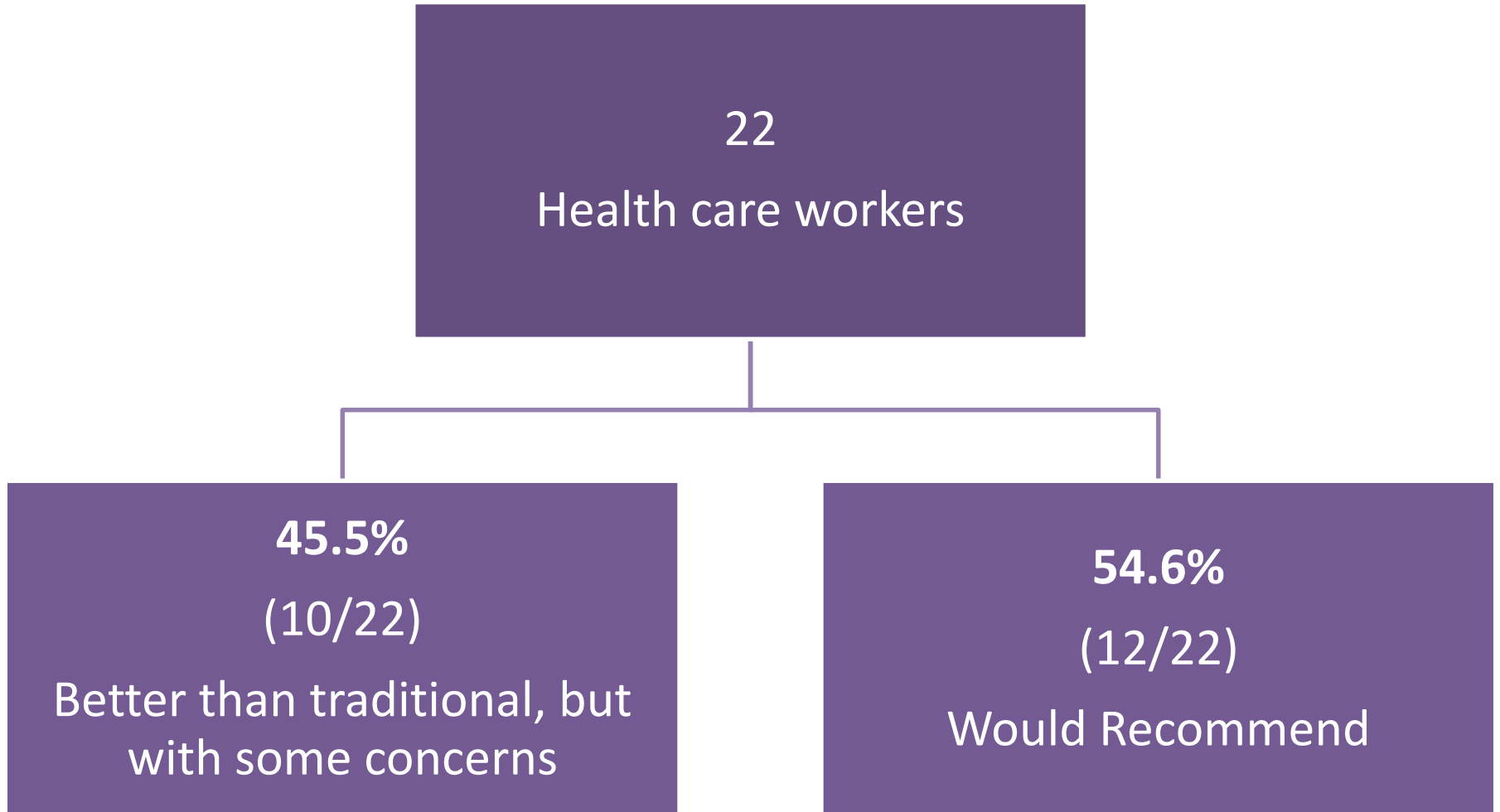
59  
Refusals

44.0%  
(26/59)  
Lack of trust

33.9%  
(20/59)  
Preference of traditional  
test

# RESULTS:

## Health Care Workers



# PARTICIPANT'S PERCEPTIONS

*"I don't trust new things." –  
Participant (refused the kit)*

*"I have mixed feeling about people who test at home they do not have counselling but then they can do it privately"-  
healthcare worker*

*"It's different, okay and nice compared to the normal one"-  
Participant (used the kit)*

*"I did not understand how to use it, I forgot the instructions"-  
Participant (did not use the kit)*

*"I do not believe tests that do not use bloods." –  
Participant (refused the kit)*

# CONCLUSION

- HIV self-screening: acceptable to participants and the healthcare workers
  - Due the convenience and privacy, with many indicating that they would recommend it
- Some concerns: misinterpretation of results and lack of counselling
- Solution: Increase awareness and education on HIV self-screening

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- MRC Soweto Matlosana Collaborating Centre for HIV/AIDS and TB (SoMCHAT)
- HIV Self Testing Programme (HIV STeP) team



# Thank You