

Web Appendix Tables and Figure

High Burden of STIs among HIV-Infected Adults Prior to Initiation of ART in South Africa: A Retrospective Cohort Study

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Table 1: Adjusted rate ratios and 95% confidence limits of STI incidence while excluding infections that were recorded on the day the participant entered^a the study. The results are similar to the main findings.

Characteristic	<i>n</i>	Rate ratio ^b (95% CL)	<i>P</i> value
ART			
On ART	1,465	1 (Ref)	
Before ART	1,465	4.66 (3.07, 7.06)	<0.001
Gender			
Female	949	1 (Ref)	
Male	516	1.42 (0.93, 2.17)	0.103
Age at study entry (years)			
≥35	498	1 (Ref)	
25 – 34	715	2.18 (1.52, 3.97)	0.003
<25	252	2.50 (1.38, 4.54)	0.003
CD4 count at ART start			
<200	991	1 (Ref)	
≥200	474	1.40 (0.96, 2.04)	0.079
WHO stage at ART start			
Stages 1 and 2	401	1 (Ref)	
Stage 3	812	0.99 (0.66, 1.50)	0.981
Stage 4	252	0.34 (0.15, 0.79)	0.012
TB at ART start			
No	1,083	1 (Ref)	
Yes	382	0.77 (0.44, 1.32)	0.341

^aThis sensitivity analysis is to further exclude the possibility of bias that may result if infections recorded at the beginning of follow-up are prevalent rather than incident. Note however that PREHMIS data distinguishes between prevalent and new infections, and our main analysis focussed only on incident infections.

^bAdjustment made for ART status, age, gender, and CD4+ cell count, WHO stage of disease, and therapy for TB at the start of ART.

STI, Sexually Transmitted Infections; CL, Confidence Limits; ART, Anti-retroviral Therapy; TB, Tuberculosis.

Table 2: Adjusted rate ratios and 95% confidence limits of STI incidence among a subset of 545 HIV-infected participants who contributed similar^a amounts of follow-up time before and after ART initiation.

Characteristic	<i>n</i>	Rate ratio ^b (95% CL)	<i>P</i> value
ART			
On ART	545	1 (Ref)	
Before ART	545	6.40 (3.45, 11.68)	<0.001
Gender			
Female	320	1 (Ref)	
Male	225	2.05 (1.09, 3.86)	0.026
Age at study entry (years)			
≥35	224	1 (Ref)	
25 – 34	242	3.23 (1.47, 7.08)	<0.001
<25	79	3.23 (1.21, 8.72)	0.001
CD4 count at ART start			
<200	372	1 (Ref)	
≥200	173	1.55 (0.85, 2.81)	0.150
WHO stage at ART start			
Stages 1 and 2	143	1 (Ref)	
Stage 3	307	0.83 (0.43, 1.62)	0.589
Stage 4	95	0.27 (0.07, 0.94)	0.040
TB at ART start			
No	374	1 (Ref)	
Yes	141	0.78 (0.35, 1.74)	0.546

^aParticipants' pre- and on-ART person-time differed by less than 1 year.

^bAdjustment made for ART status, age, gender, and CD4+ cell count, WHO stage of disease, and therapy for TB at the start of ART.

STI, Sexually Transmitted Infections; CL, Confidence Limits; ART, Anti-retroviral Therapy; TB, Tuberculosis.

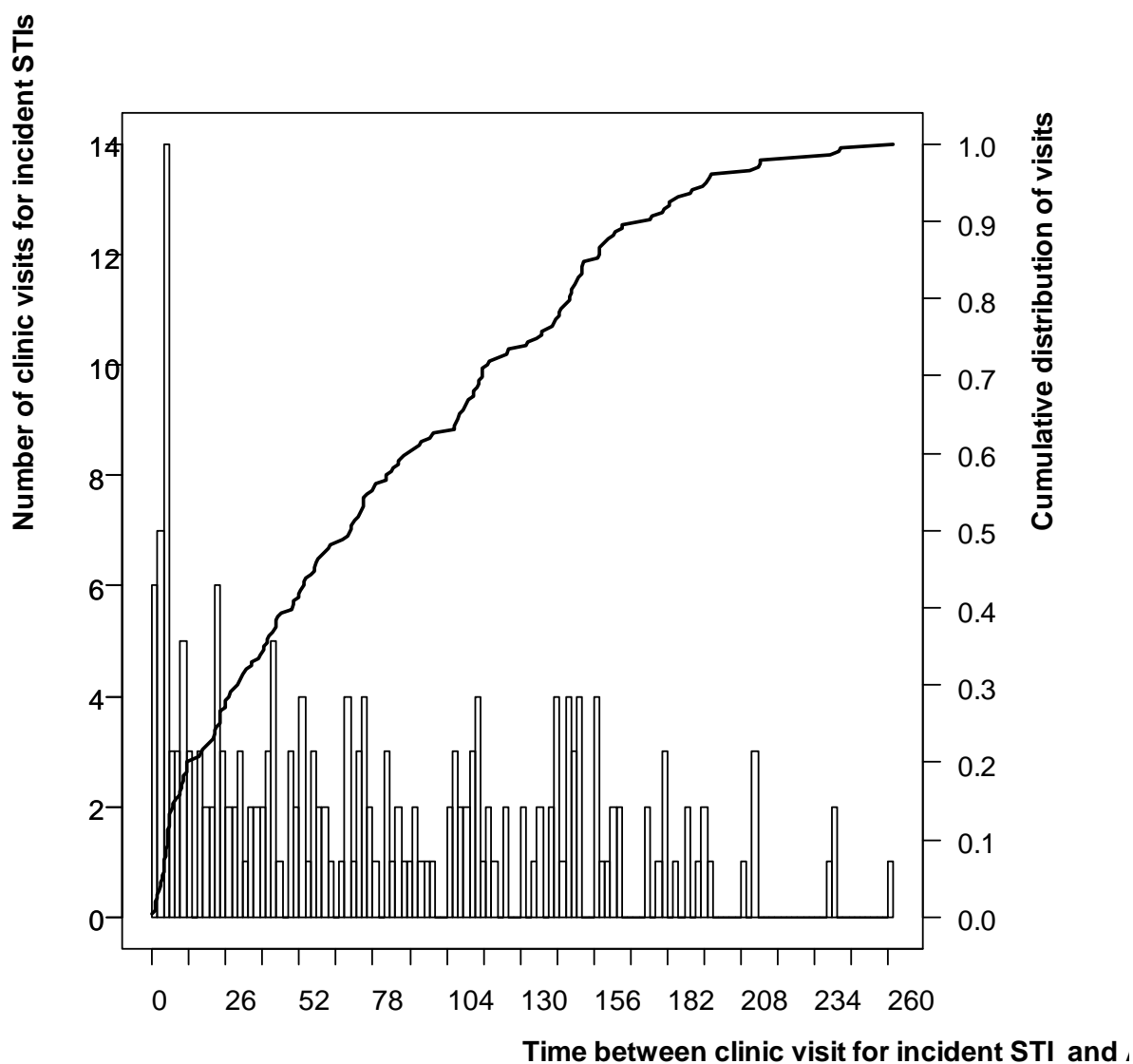


Figure 1. Distribution of time from treatment for new STI episode before ART to initiation of ART. Only 6.9% and 28.1% of pre-ART visits happened within 4 and 24 weeks (1-6 months) before ART initiation, respectively. The right Y-axis annotates the cumulative distribution curve.