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## **Supplemental Information**

### **Capturing the Onset of PRC2-Mediated**

### **Repressive Domain Formation**

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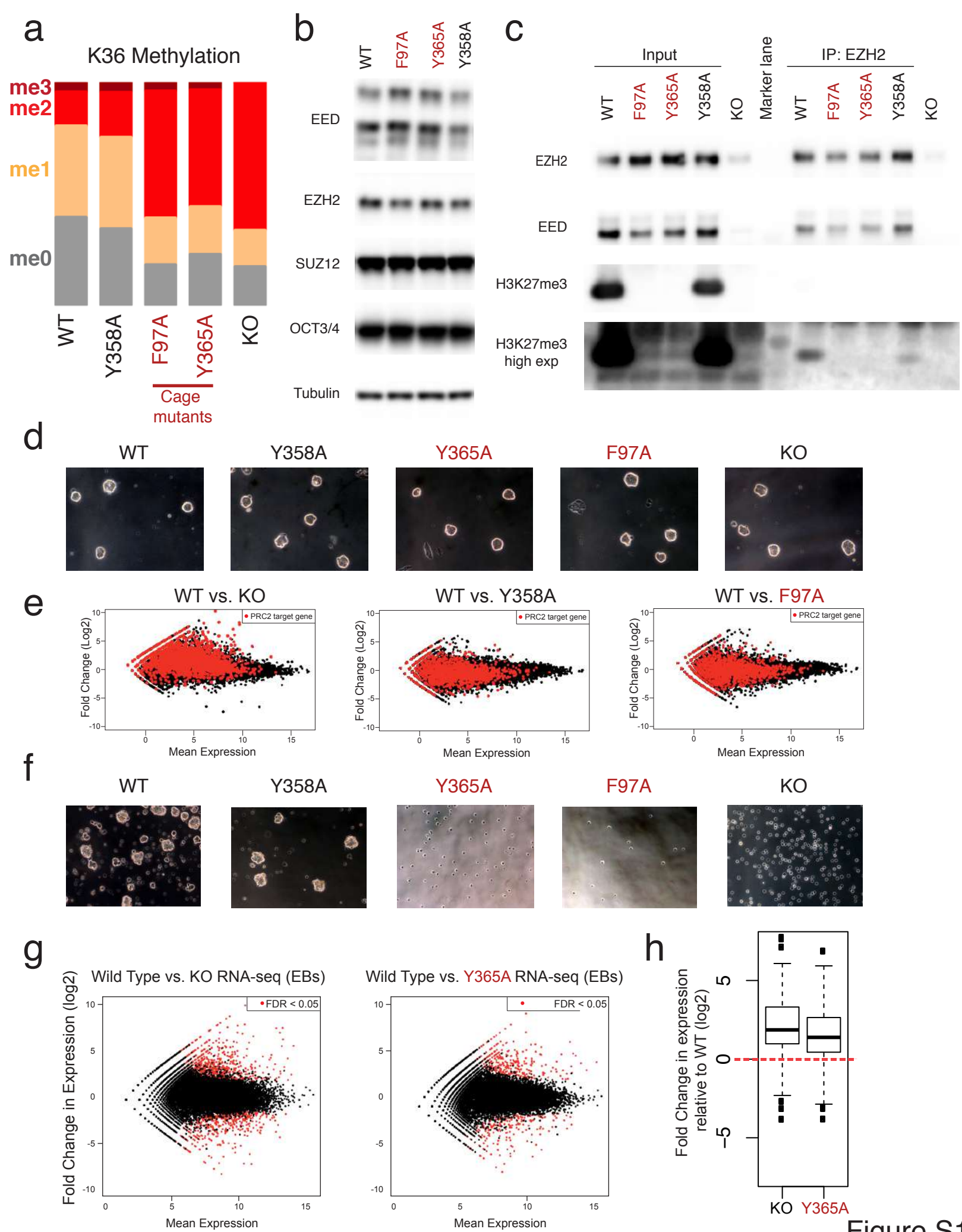


Figure S1

**Figure S1: EED cage-mutant mESCs, which have elevated levels of H3K36me2 and intact PRC2 complex, maintained appropriate patterns of gene expression, but failed to differentiate. Related to Figure 1.**

**a**, Methylation status of H3K36 in mESCs of the indicated genotypes as identified by quantitative histone mass-spectrometry. **b**, WB using the indicated antibodies on whole cell extracts from mESCs. **c**, Immunoprecipitation (IP) of EZH2 using nuclear extracts from mESCs. WB was performed on input (left) and IP (right) samples with the antibodies indicated. Cage-mutants are highlighted in red. **d**, Bright-field microscopy images of undifferentiated mESCs comparing the indicated EED genotypes. **e**, MA plots of RNA-seq data comparing mESCs of the indicated EED genotypes. Each dot represents a gene. The x-axis represents its mean abundance across samples, and the y-axis represents the log<sub>2</sub> fold enrichment between samples. PRC2 targets are in red. **f**, Bright-field microscopy images of mESCs differentiated into the cardiac lineage. Images were taken 3 days after differentiation. **g**, MA plots of RNA-seq data within 2 days of differentiation into embryoid bodies (EBs) of mESC with the EED genotypes indicated. Differentially expressed genes (FDR<0.05) are in red. **h**, Box plot of genes that were repressed in a WT setting within 2 days of differentiation of mESCs into embryoid bodies (EBs) (*de novo* targets of PRC2). Y-value represents the relative expression of these genes in EED KO and Y365A EBs, relative to the WT background. Error bars represent the SD of the mean.

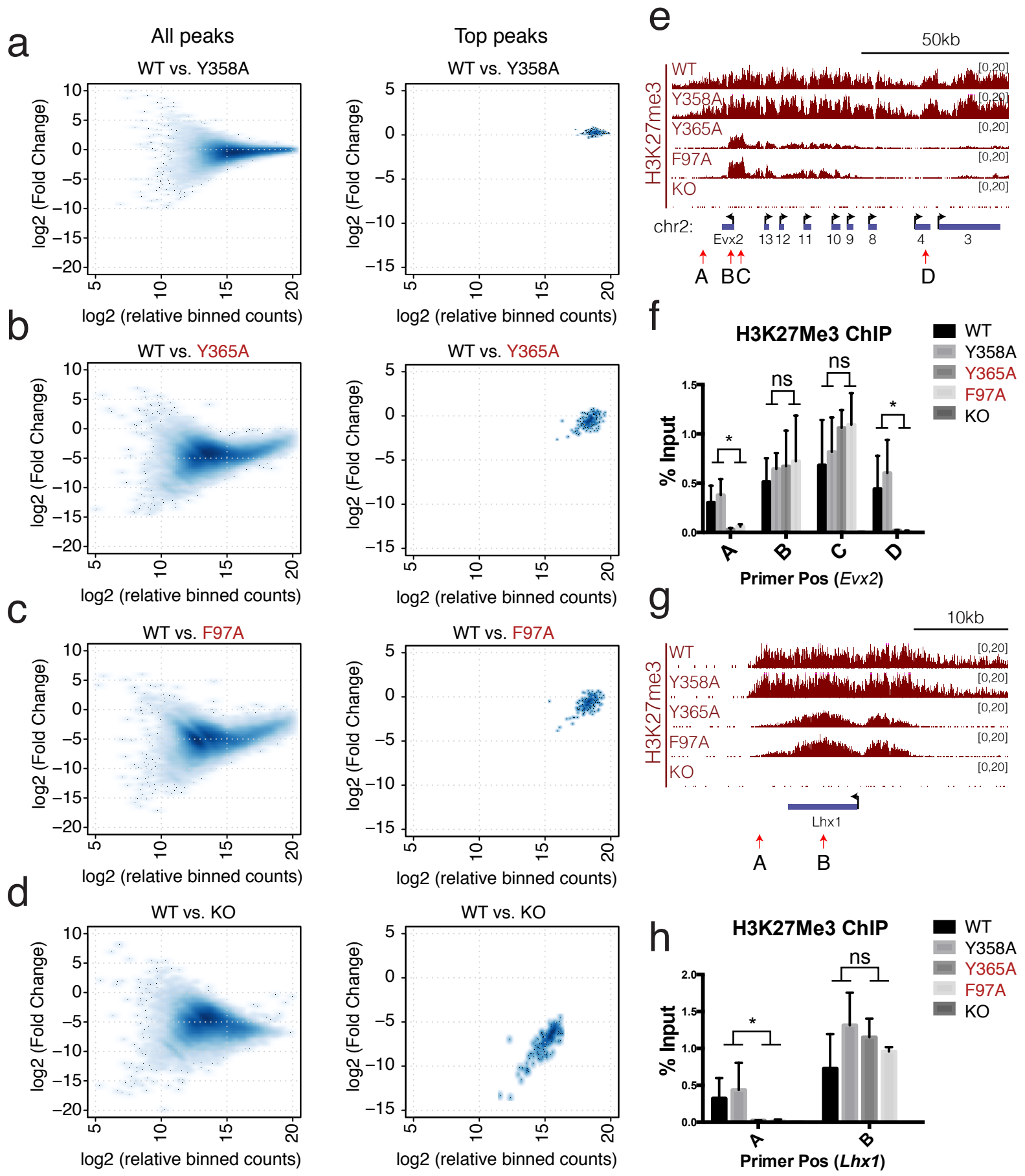


Figure S2

**Figure S2: H3K27me3 levels of the retained peaks in the EED cage-mutants are similar to the WT case, despite widespread loss of this mark in the rest of the genome. Related to Figure 1.**

**a, b, c, d**, MA plots comparing H3K27me3 ChIP-seq intensity over all H3K27me3 peaks found in WT (left) or top peaks in EED cage-mutants (right) from EED WT and Y358A (**a**) Y365A (**b**) F97A (**c**) KO (**d**). X-axis represents relative binned mean counts transformed onto log<sub>2</sub> scale. Y-axis represents log<sub>2</sub> fold change of the mean counts of the peaks from the indicated genotypes. **e, g**, ChIP-seq tracks for H3K27me3 along the *Evx2* (**e**) and *Lhx1* (**g**) gene in mESCs with the indicated EED genotypes. Positions of primers used in ChIP-qPCR are indicated by red arrows. **f, h**, H3K27me3 ChIP-qPCR using the primers from **e** and **g**, respectively. Enrichments were calculated as % of input. All ChIP-qPCR experiments were performed in two biological replicates. One sided paired t-test: \*p-value<0.05, ns: not significant. Error bars represent the SD of the mean.



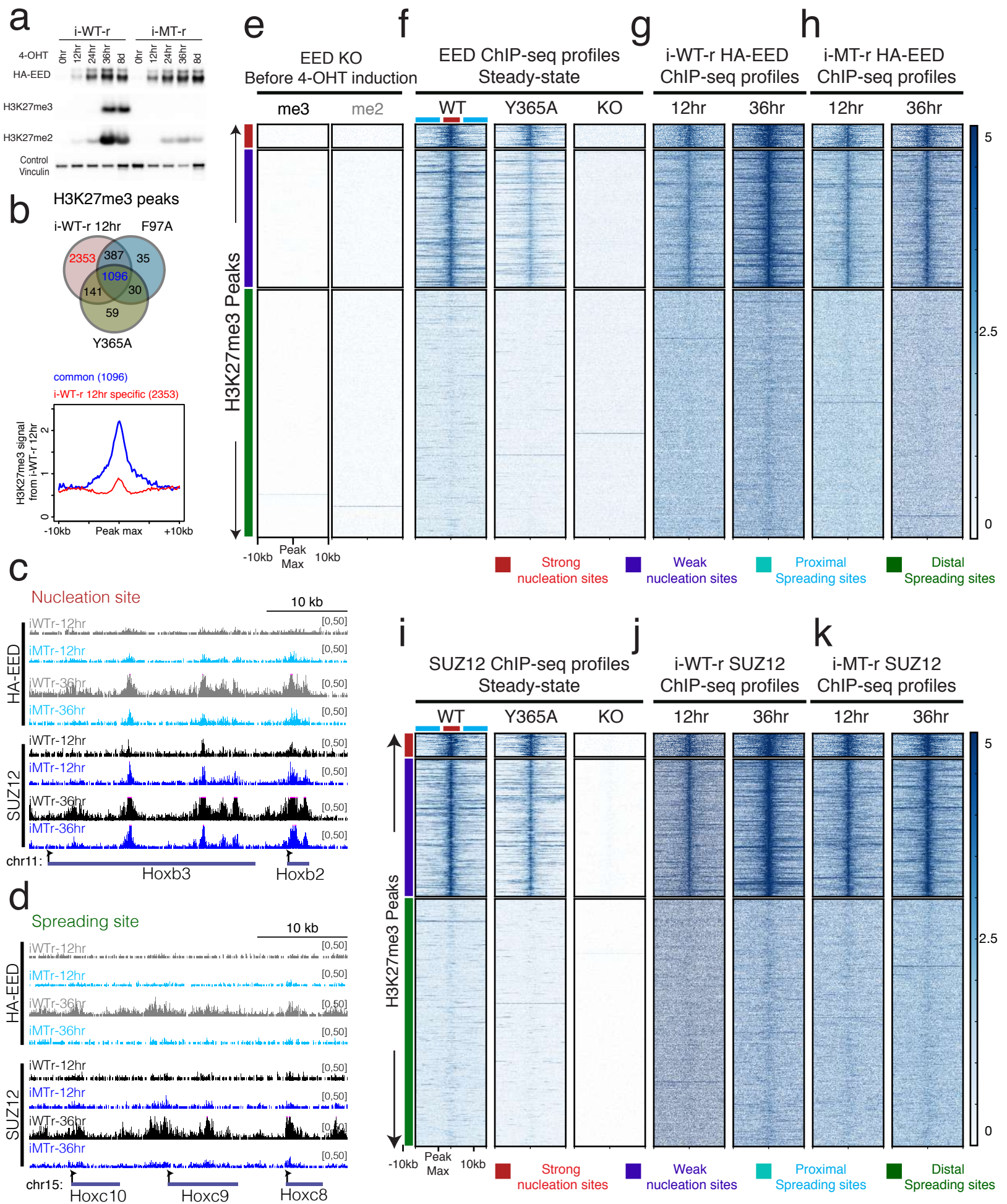


Figure S3

**Figure S3: Initial deposition of H3K27me3 and PRC2 in i-WT-r and i-MT-r mESCs strongly overlapped with those sites that retained H3K27me3 and PRC2 in the steady-state EED cage-mutants. Related to Figure 1 and 2.**

**a**, Validation of the i-WT-r and i-MT-r systems. WB using indicated antibodies on whole cell extracts after 4-OHT treatment to induce expression of EED, in i-WT-r or i-MT-r, at the time points indicated. **b, top**, Venn diagram showing the overlap of H3K27me3 peaks between the 12 hr i-WT-r, Y365A and F97A mESCs. **b, bottom**, average H3K27me3 density profiles of 1096 common peaks, and 2353 i-WT-r 12 hr-specific peaks indicated in Venn diagram above, in i-WT-r 12 hr cells. The peaks that are present in i-WT-r at 12 hr, but not in Y365A or F97A are due to minor spreading of H3K27me3 at this time point, as their intensity is much lower than that of the common peaks in i-WT-r at 12 hr. **c, d**, ChIP-seq tracks for HA-EED and SUZ12 along the *HoxB* cluster (nucleation sites) (**c**), or the *HoxC* cluster (spreading sites) (**d**) in i-WT-r and i-MT-r cells after 4-OHT treatment at the time points indicated. **e**, Heatmaps of H3K27me3 (me3) and H3K27me2 (me2) ChIP-seq performed on the EED KO cells before induction of EED expression by 4-OHT treatment. **f**, Heatmaps of EED ChIP-seq performed on the indicated EED genotypes at steady-state. **g, h**, Heatmaps of HA-EED ChIP-seq upon EED rescue, either WT (**g**) or cage-mutant (**h**) by 4-OHT treatment for the specified time points. **i, j, k**, Heatmaps of SUZ12 ChIP-seq performed on the indicated EED genotypes at steady-state (**i**) or upon rescue with EED, either WT (**j**) or cage-mutant (**k**) with 4-OHT at the specified time points. (Parameters in Fig. 2c are used to generate the Heatmaps). (Scales: 0-5 for EED, HA-EED and SUZ12).

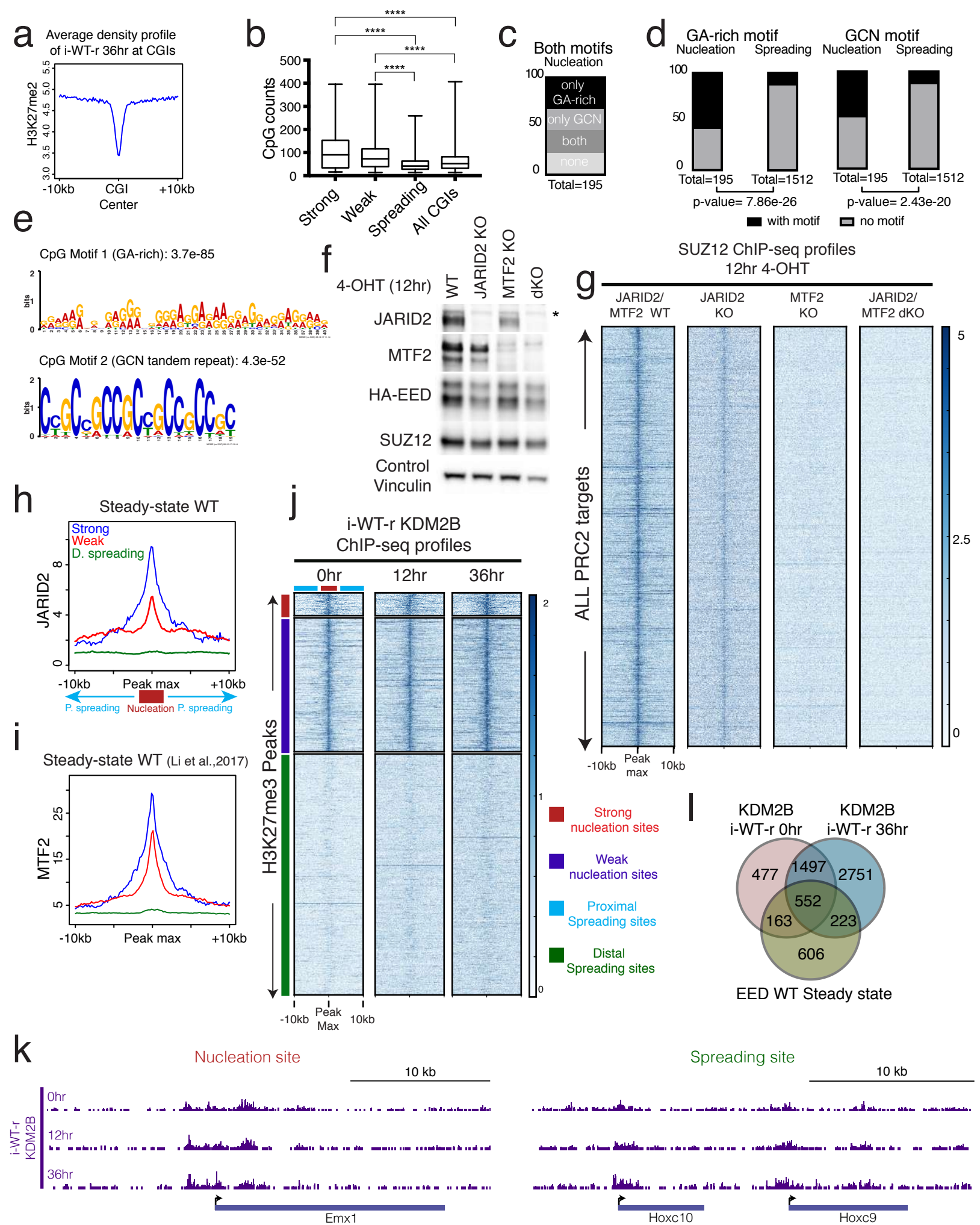


Figure S4



**Figure S4: Features associated with nucleation versus spreading site CGIs.**

**Related to Figure 1, 2 and 4.**

**a**, Average H3K27me2 density profile of the i-WT-r at 36 hr within CGIs. **b**, Box-plots showing distribution of CpG counts of CGIs at the nucleation sites (strong versus weak) as well as spreading sites. All CGIs serve as a control. X-axis represents CGIs within strong and weak nucleation sites as well as spreading sites and all CGIs. Y-axis represents the CpG counts identified for each sample. The CpG count is the number of CG dinucleotides in the island. Dunn's Multiple Comparison Test: \*\*\*\*p-value < 0.0001; strong vs. spreading: 2.4E-37; strong vs. all: 8.0E-18; weak vs. spreading: 2.3E-74; weak vs. all: 8.2E-39. Error bars represent range of the minimum and maximum values. **c**, % of nucleation sites possessing either or both of the GA-rich and GCN motifs. **d**, % of nucleation and spreading sites containing either the GA-rich (left) or GCN tandem repeat motif (right). P-values represent the enrichment of these motifs within CGIs of nucleation versus spreading sites. **e**, Motif analysis of randomly selected 200 weak nucleation site CGIs (total=1085) using MEME. Iteration of the random selection resulted in identification of similar motifs. **f**, WB using the indicated antibodies on whole cell extracts derived from i-WT-r cells with the indicated genotypes after 12 hr of 4-OHT treatment. Bands exhibiting different sizes in the case of MTF2 and of HA-EED represent different isoforms of the proteins. Non-specific bands are labeled with an asterisk. **g**, Heatmaps of SUZ12 after 12 hr of 4-OHT treatment, within a 20 kb window centered on the maximum value of peak signal in WT mESCs comparing the indicated genotypes. (Scale: 0-5 for SUZ12).

**h, i**, Average density profiles of JARID2 (**h**) or MTF2 (from Li *et al.*, 2017) (**i**) on nucleation sites (strong and weak) and spreading sites (D=distal, P=proximal), within a 20 kb window centered on maximum value of peak signal in WT mESCs.

**j**, Heatmaps of KDM2B ChIP-seq read density in i-WT-r mESCs after 4-OHT treatment at the time points indicated. (Parameters in Fig. 2c are used to generate the Heatmaps).

**k**, ChIP-seq tracks for KDM2B along the *Emx1* (nucleation site, left) and *Hoxc10/9* (spreading site, right) genes in i-WT-r mESCs after 4-OHT treatment at the time points indicated.

**l**, Venn diagram showing the overlap of peaks from EED ChIP-seq for the WT steady-state cells, KDM2B ChIP-seq at 12 hr and 36 hr i-WT-r cells.

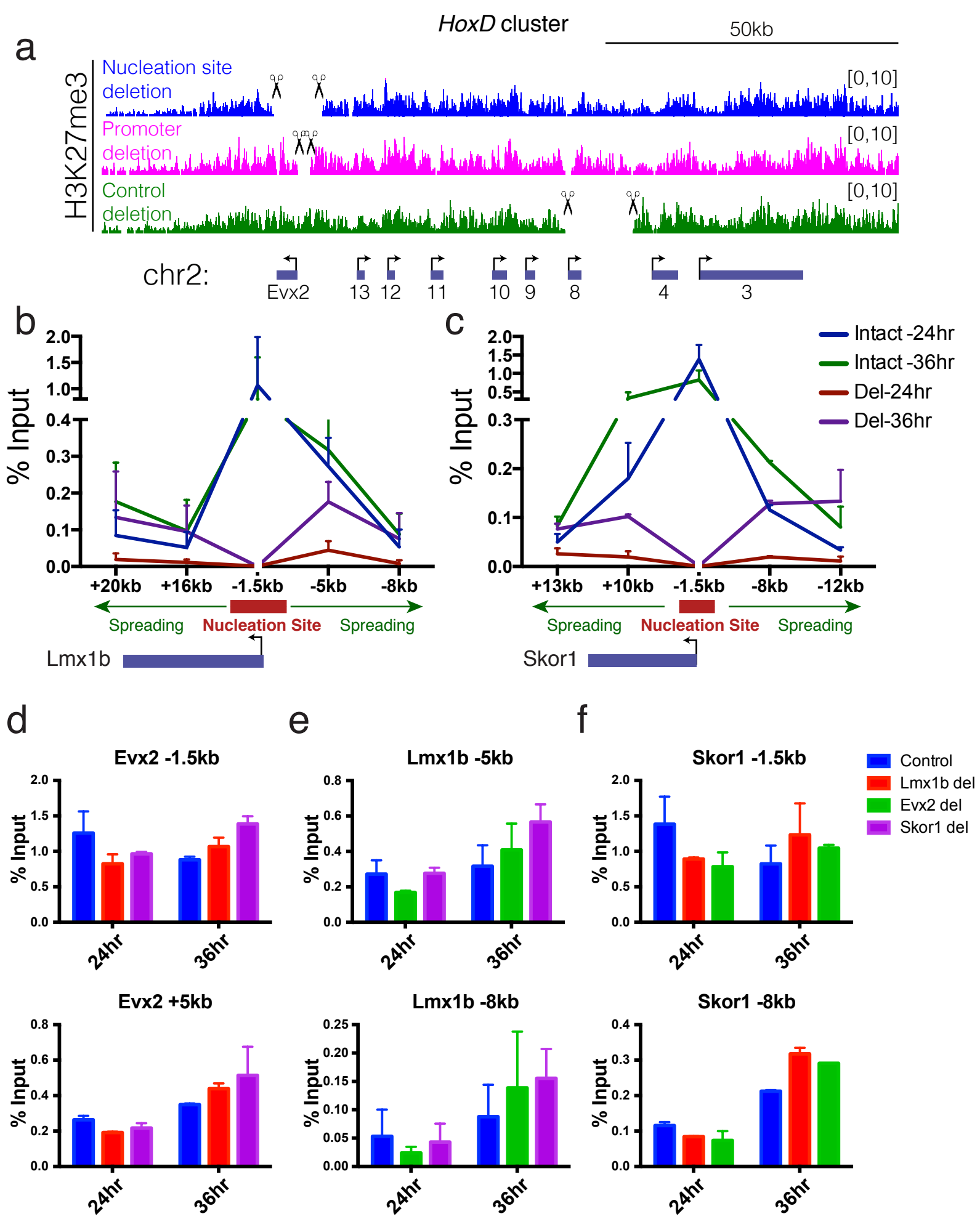


Figure S5

**Figure S5: Deletion of a nucleation site delays H3K27me3 deposition to spreading sites. Related to Figure 5.**

**a**, ChIP-seq tracks for H3K27me3 along the *HoxD* cluster in mESCs harboring the depicted genomic deletions in steady-state mESCs. **b, c**, H3K27me3 ChIP-qPCR comparing intact versus deleted nucleation sites at 24 hr and 36 hr after 4-OHT addition to i-WT-r cells, at the indicated regions relative to the TSS of *Lmx1b* (**b**), and *Skor1* (**c**). Enrichments were calculated as % of input. One-tailed paired t-test comparing the following sites, excluding the deleted regions: *Lmx1b* Del vs. Intact site: p values: 24 hr; 0.0002\*\*\* and 36 hr; 0.0613 (ns). *Skor1* Del vs. Intact site: p values: 24 hr; 0.0126\* and 36 hr; 0.2187 (ns). Error bars represent the SD of the mean. **d, e, f**, H3K27me3 ChIP-qPCR at 24 hr and 36 hr of WT rescue in mESCs with intact nucleation site (control) and the indicated nucleation site deletions using primers specific to *Evx2* (**d**) *Lmx1b* (**e**) and *Skor1* (**f**) regions. Enrichments were calculated as % of input. All ChIP-qPCR experiments were performed in two biological replicates. Deletion of the indicated nucleation sites did not result in significant reductions in H3K27me3 occupancy at other locations in the genome (One-tailed paired t-test was performed comparing control to each of the deletion sites, p value cut off is 0.05). Error bars represent the SD of the mean.

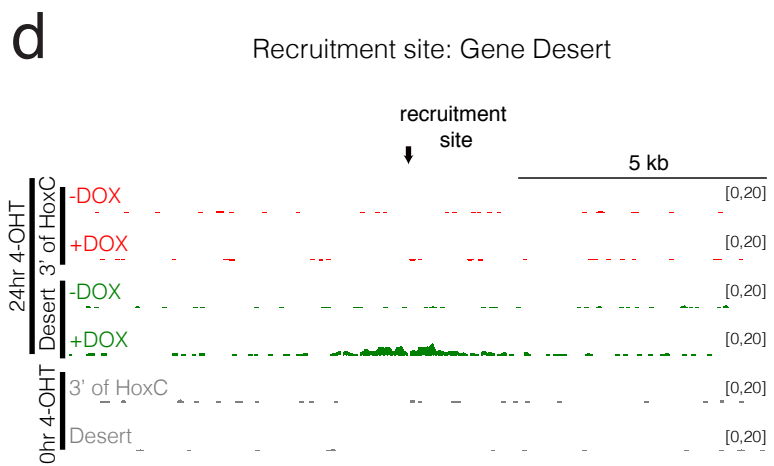
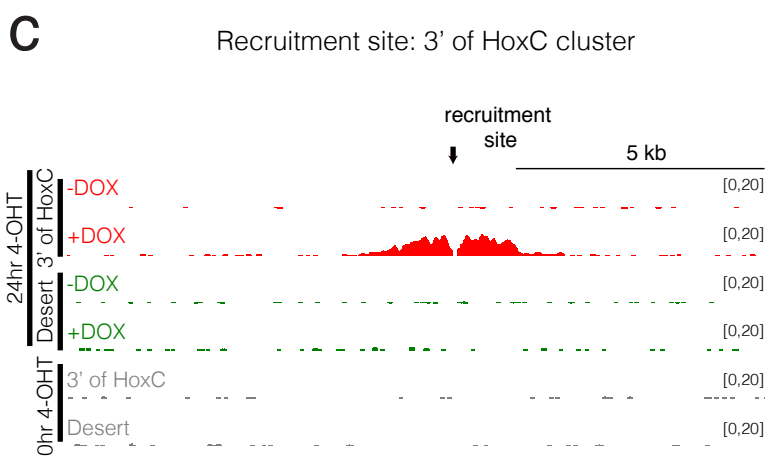
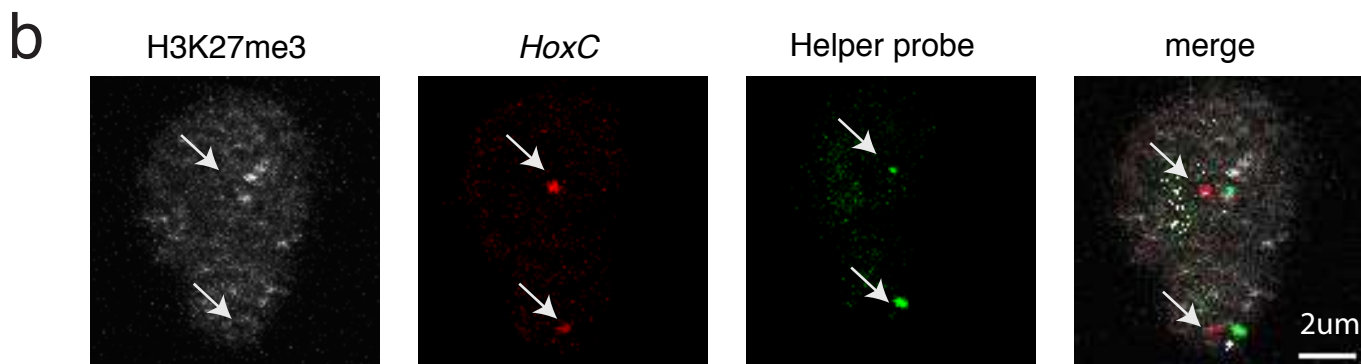
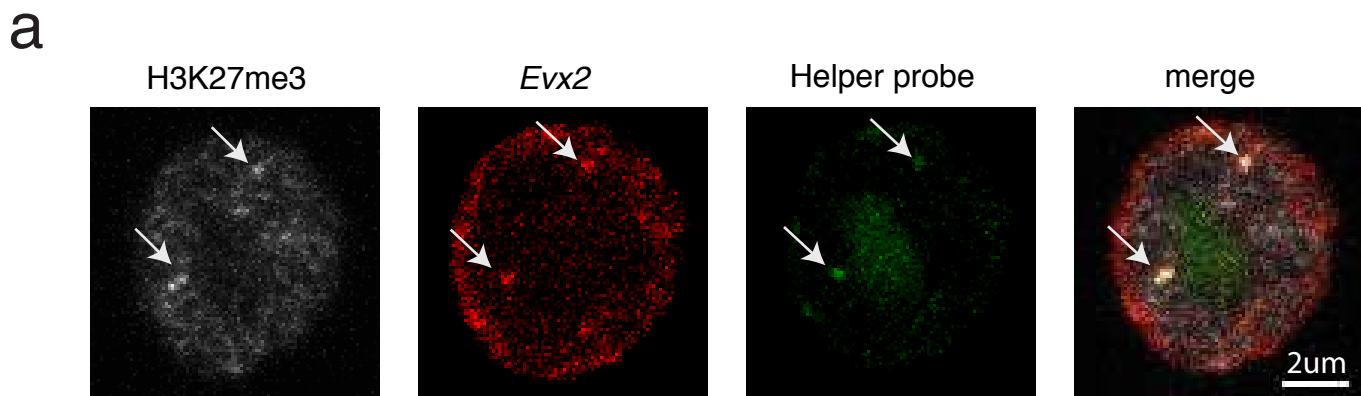


Figure S6



**Figure S6: Nucleation site overlaps with H3K27me3 foci and artificial recruitment of TetR-EZH2 to the 3' end of the *HoxC* cluster or a gene desert results in formation of ~5 kb of H3K27me3 domains. Related to Figure 6.**

**a, b**, ImmunoFISH using H3K27me3 antibody, a nucleation site probe (*Evx2*) (**a**) or a spreading site probe (*HoxC*) (**b**) at 12 hr after WT EED expression in i-WT-r cells. A helper probe, which is specific to a region in the vicinity of *Evx2* or *HoxC*, was used to determine the real FISH signal. Arrows indicate the localization of the nucleation site and spreading site alleles. Images are examples of 2 biological replicates that are quantified in Figure 5b. **c, d**, ChIP-seq tracks for H3K27me3 showing deposition of H3K27me3 after induction of TetR-EZH2 recruitment to 3' of *HoxC* (**c**) and a gene desert (**d**) upon DOX treatment in i-WT-r cells after WT EED expression (24 hr, 4-OHT induction). As controls, H3K27me3 levels in the absence of WT EED expression (0 hr, without 4-OHT) at each recruitment site are indicated.

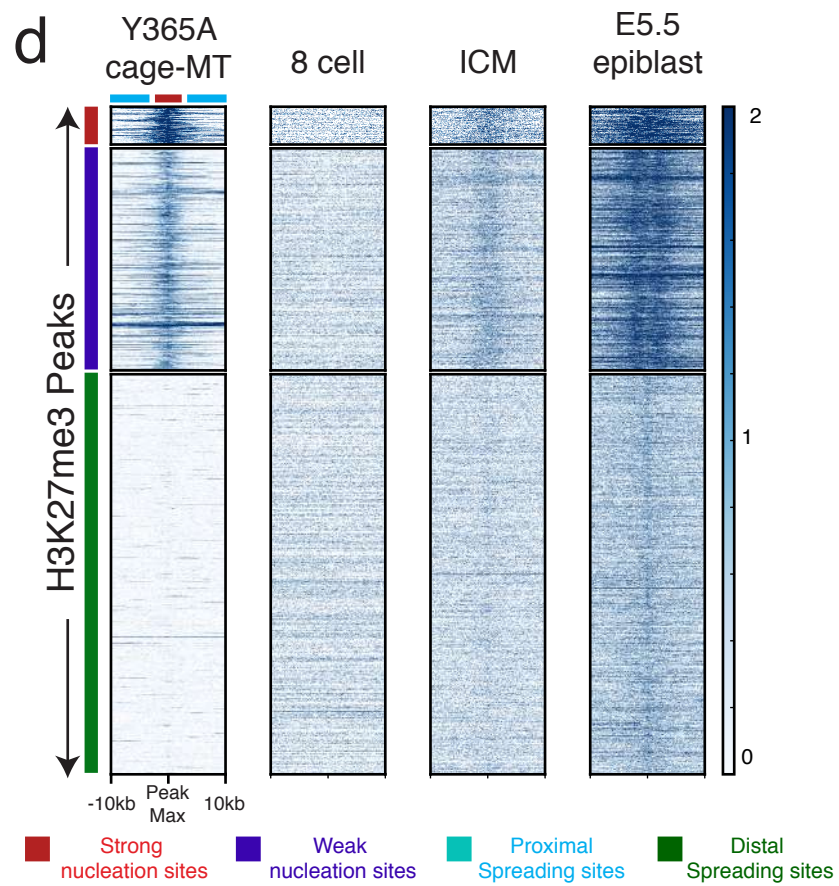
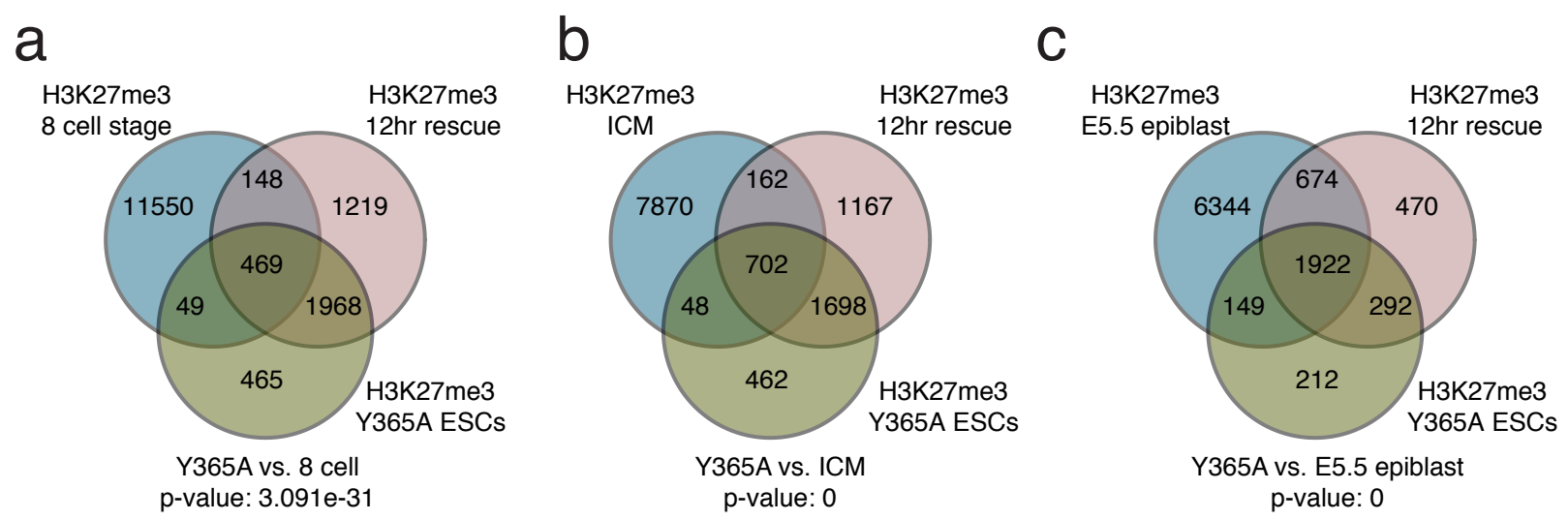


Figure S7

**Figure S7: *De novo* deposition of H3K27me3 to nucleation sites occurred as early as the ICM stage during mouse development. Related to Figure 1 and 2.**

**a, b, c**, Venn diagram showing the overlap in H3K27me3 peaks between the 12 hr i-WT-r, Y365A from this study and the 8-cell stage **(a)** ICM **(b)** and E5.5 epiblast **(c)** from Zheng *et al.*, 2016. Significance of overlaps were determined by Fisher's exact test (two-tail) and p-values are indicated on each figure panel. **d**, Heatmaps of H3K27me3 ChIP-seq in the EED Y365A cage-mutant and the indicated developmental stages. (Parameters in Fig. 2c are used to generate the Heatmaps). (Scale: 0-2 for H3K27me3).