

1 **Abstract**

2 **Introduction:** Female sex workers (FSW) in sub-Saharan Africa have a higher prevalence of HIV
3 than other women of reproductive age. Social, legal, and structural barriers influence their
4 access to care. Little is known about the HIV diagnosis and care cascade in most countries in
5 southern Africa. We aimed to describe the HIV diagnosis and care cascade among FSW in
6 Zimbabwe.

7 **Methods:** We conducted cross-sectional respondent driven sampling (RDS) surveys of FSW in
8 14 sites across Zimbabwe as the baseline for a cluster-randomised controlled trial investigating
9 a combination HIV prevention and care package. We administered a questionnaire, tested
10 women for HIV and measured viral load. We report the mean, minimum and maximum RDS-2
11 weighted site values.

12 **Results:** The survey included 2,722 women, approximately 200 per site. The mean HIV
13 prevalence was 57.5% (42.8-79.2 site minimum and maximum). Of HIV positive women, 64.0%
14 (51.6-73.7) were aware of their status, 67.7% (53.4-84.1) of these reported taking ART and
15 77.8% (64.4-90.8) of these had HIV viral load <1000 copies/ml. Among all HIV positive women,
16 49.5% had a viral load < 1000 copies/ml.

17 **Conclusions:** While the majority of HIV positive women aware of their status are accessing
18 ART, 36.0% of HIV positive women are unaware of their status and 29.3% of all FSW have an
19 unsuppressed HIV viral load. Investigation and investment into models of testing, treatment
20 and care are necessary to reach UNAIDS 90:90:90 targets.