Viral load suppression among pregnant woman presenting on ART in antenatal care; Chiredzi District Zimbabwe

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Conflict of interest

- None to declare

Background

- Women **conceiving on ART are presumed** to be **virally suppressed**, thus at minimal risk of vertical HIV transmission
- There is limited data on viral load (VL) suppression in pregnancy, among women conceiving on ART in our setting
- Few studies have assessed the proportion of HIV-positive pregnant women (PW) virally suppressed at ANC booking

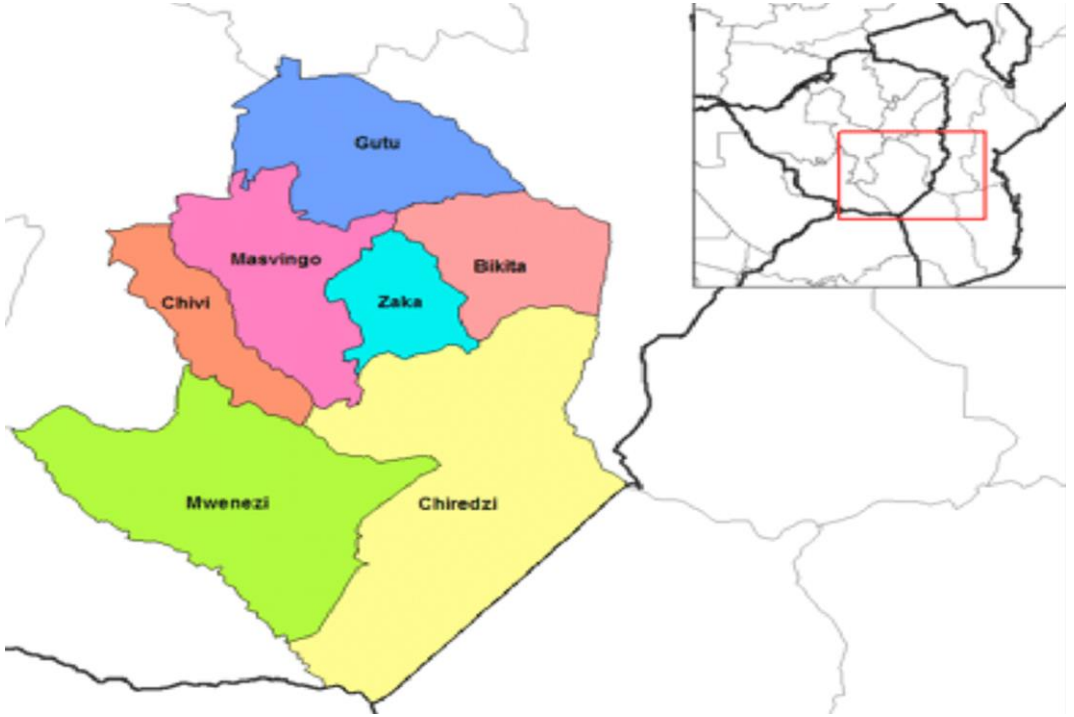
Objectives

We conducted an assessment:

1. To determine the **proportion** of HIV infected pregnant women on ART **virally suppressed during 1st ANC visit**

Methodology

- Implementation research
- Convenient sampling of 3 study sites in Chiredzi district
- Retrospective data *(Apr-Dec 2017)* collection done in Apr 2018
- Routine data sources – ANC register, patient cards, ART register, & electronic records



Viral load monitoring algorithm for PBW

VL anytime when suspicion of clinical or immunological failure

Viral Load:

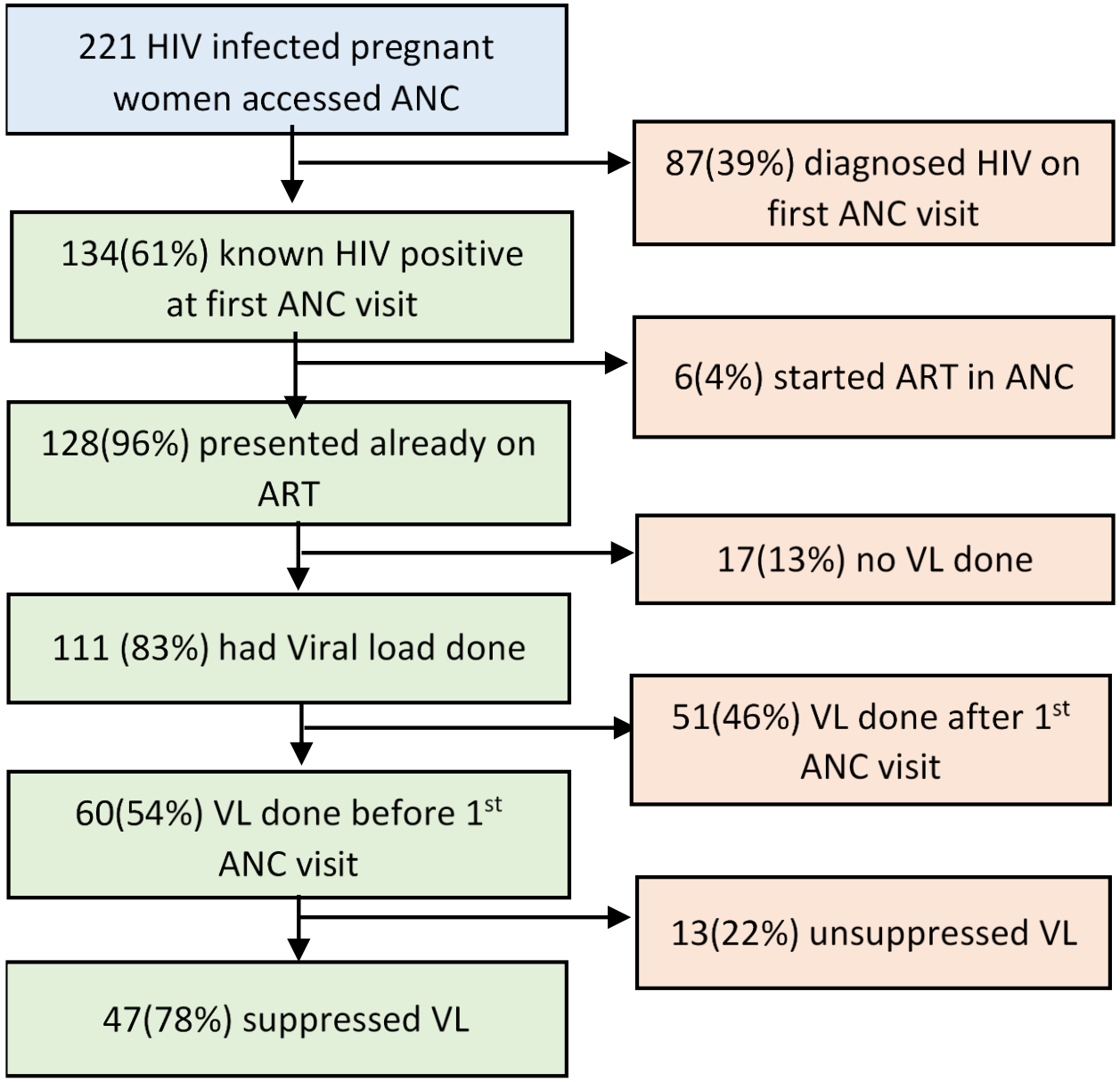
ANC booking; regardless of ART status

Viral Load:

32 – 36 weeks GA, there-after

Viral Load:

24 weeks post delivery



Results

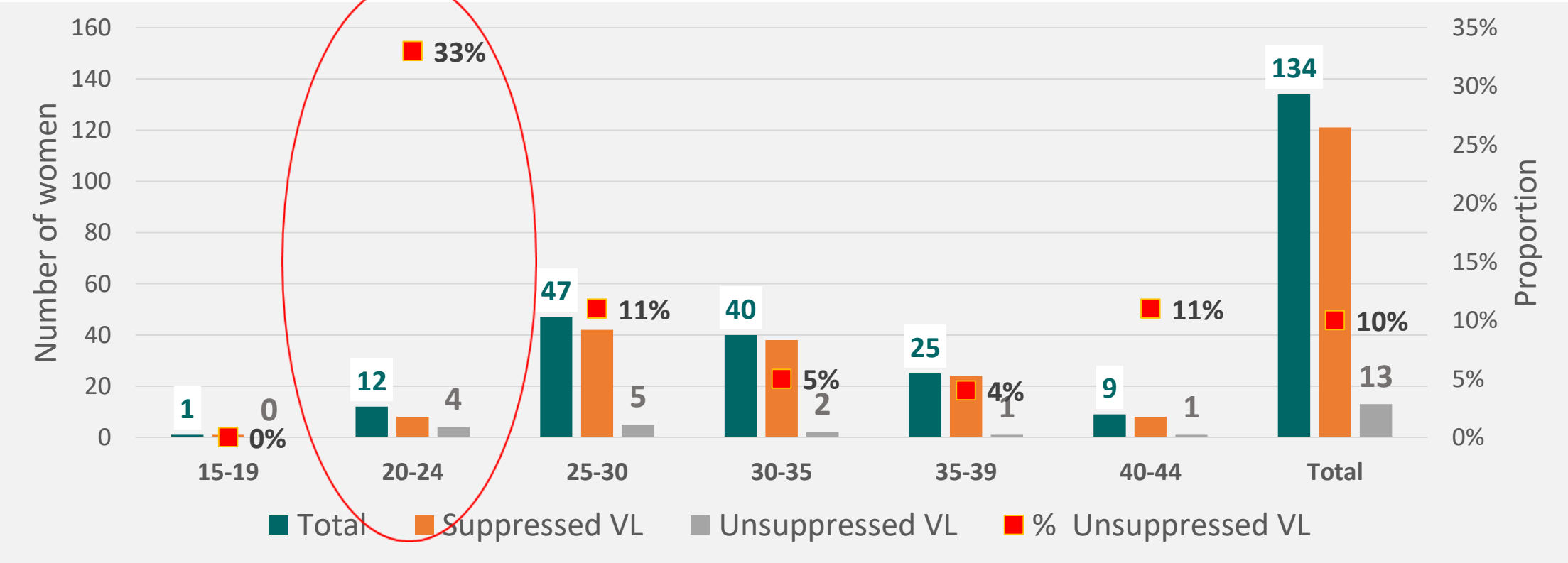
- 61% of HIV infected PW presented already knowing their status; of these
  - ✓ 4% were not on ART
- First line ART (TDF+3TC+EFV)
- 78% of women already on ART at ANC booking had a suppressed VL (<1000 copies/ml)

VL suppression amongst those on ART disaggregated by: timing of VL test

VL test timing in relation to ART initiation	Total	Suppressed VL (<1000copies/ml)	Unsuppressed VL (≥1000copies/ml)
6 months	6	6	0
7-12 months	6	4	2 (33%)
13-24 months	6	4	2 (33%)
> 24 months	30	23	7 (23%)
No dates	12	10	2 (17%)
	60	47	13 (22%)

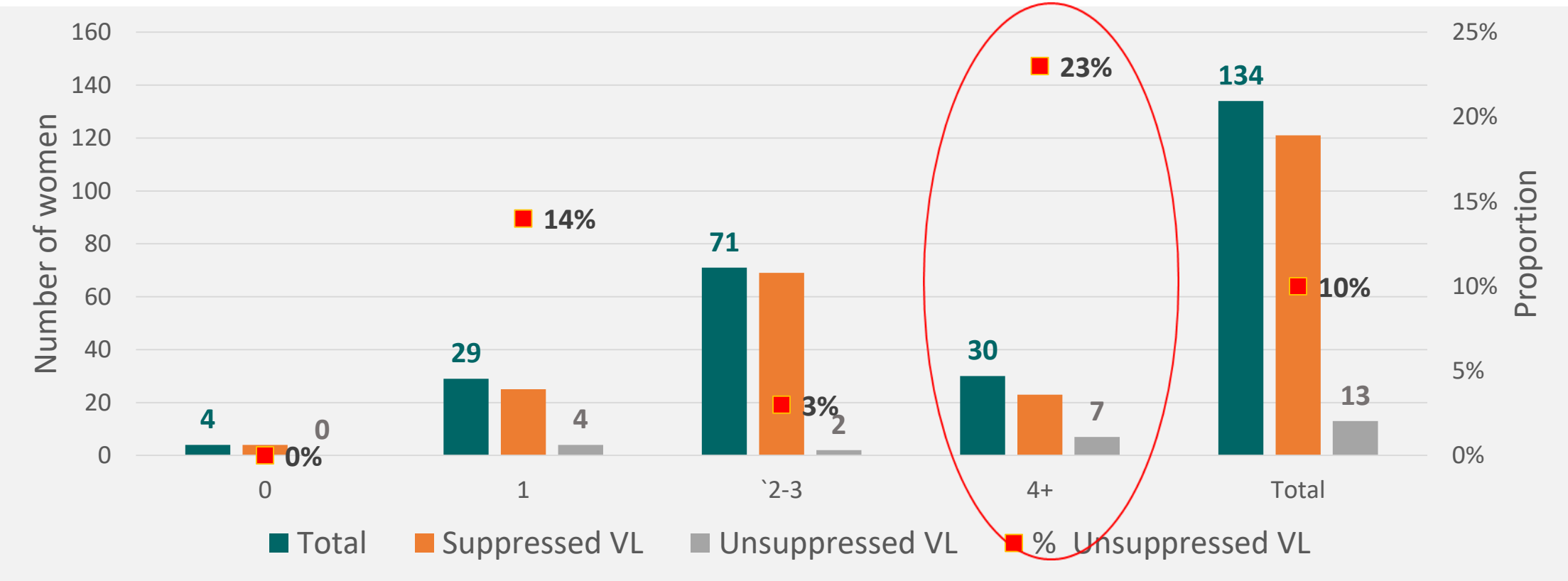
Characteristics of PW with unsuppressed VL: disaggregated by age

The chi-square statistic is 9.5893. The p-value is .047945. The result is significant at p < .05.



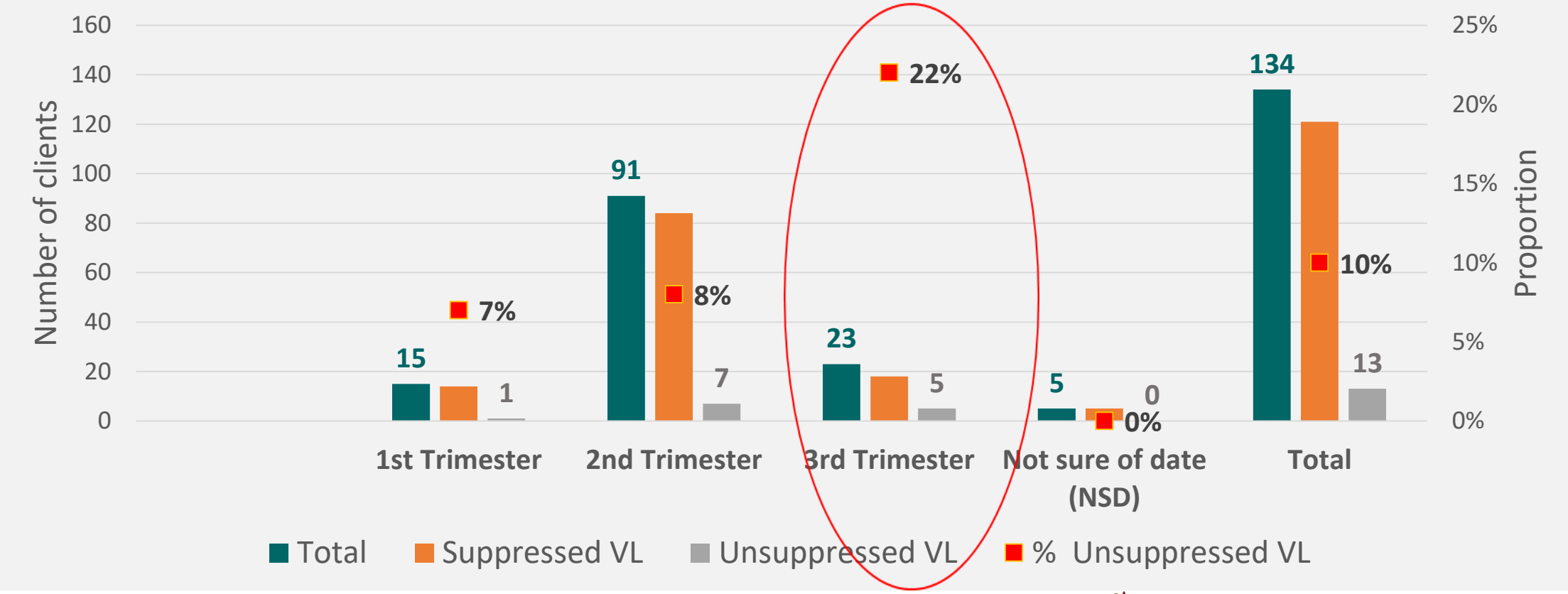
Characteristics of PW with unsuppressed VL: disaggregated by parity

The chi-square statistic is 10.4599. The p-value is .005354. The result is significant at p < .05.



Characteristics of PW with unsuppressed VL: disaggregated by timing of ANC booking

The chi-square statistic is 4.2155. The p-value is .121511. The result is not significant at p < .05.



Study Limitations

- Assessment done using routine data hence
  - ✓Incomplete data
  - ✓missing patient records

- Purposive sampling of high volume sites in one district, hence findings can not be generalized

Conclusion

- Our study found 78% VL suppression among PW already on ART at first ANC visit (84% VL in general population – ZIMPHIA 2016)
- More *(beyond current guidelines)* needs to be done to suppress VL by the time of delivery and reduce vertical HIV transmission risk
- Achieving eMTCT will require effective identification and clinical management of women at high risk of vertical transmission

Acknowledgements