



Asian Development Bank - International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

Video Lecture Series

Impact evaluations of health sector projects and programmes

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What is an impact evaluation?



Impact evaluation measures the net change in outcomes for a particular group of people that can be attributed to a specific programme using the best methodology available.



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Impact evaluations in health



- Health outcomes include anthropometric indices, biometric testing and mortality
- Outcomes such as mortality not always possible to measure
- Strong theory of change is needed to identify intermediary outcomes



Scaling up male circumcision services

Context



- 40 million currently infected with HIV
- Majority in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Evidence from randomised controlled trials that male circumcision reduces spread of HIV
- What strategy is most effective in improving the take-up of male circumcision?



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Study Source:

Thornton R, Chinkhumba J, Godlonton S and Pierotti R 2013. Scaling up male circumcision service provision: results from a randomized evaluation in Malawi. 3ie Grantee Final Report, New Delhi: 3ie

Study objectives



Fill the gap in knowledge about the demand for voluntary medical male circumcision in Malawi



Study answers the following questions:

- Does demand for male circumcision respond to price changes?
- Does more information lead to increased demand for male circumcision?

Evaluation design



Study used randomised controlled trial with the unit of randomisation being the individual

Assignment	Individual men
Treatment	Individual men
Analysis	Individual men

Project area and sample



- Malawi, Lilongwe
- Within catchment area of partner clinic
- Census enumeration areas were randomly selected
- Blocks randomly selected from census enumeration areas
- Males between 18-35 years, randomly selected from households
- Randomisation within blocks (both control and treatment from same blocks)

Overview



Baseline
(Early 2010)

1634 uncircumcised men
selected



Vouchers randomly
distributed to all men with
different price discounts



Allocation
(Early 2010)

Randomly assigned across
1 trial arm + control



817 men –
information



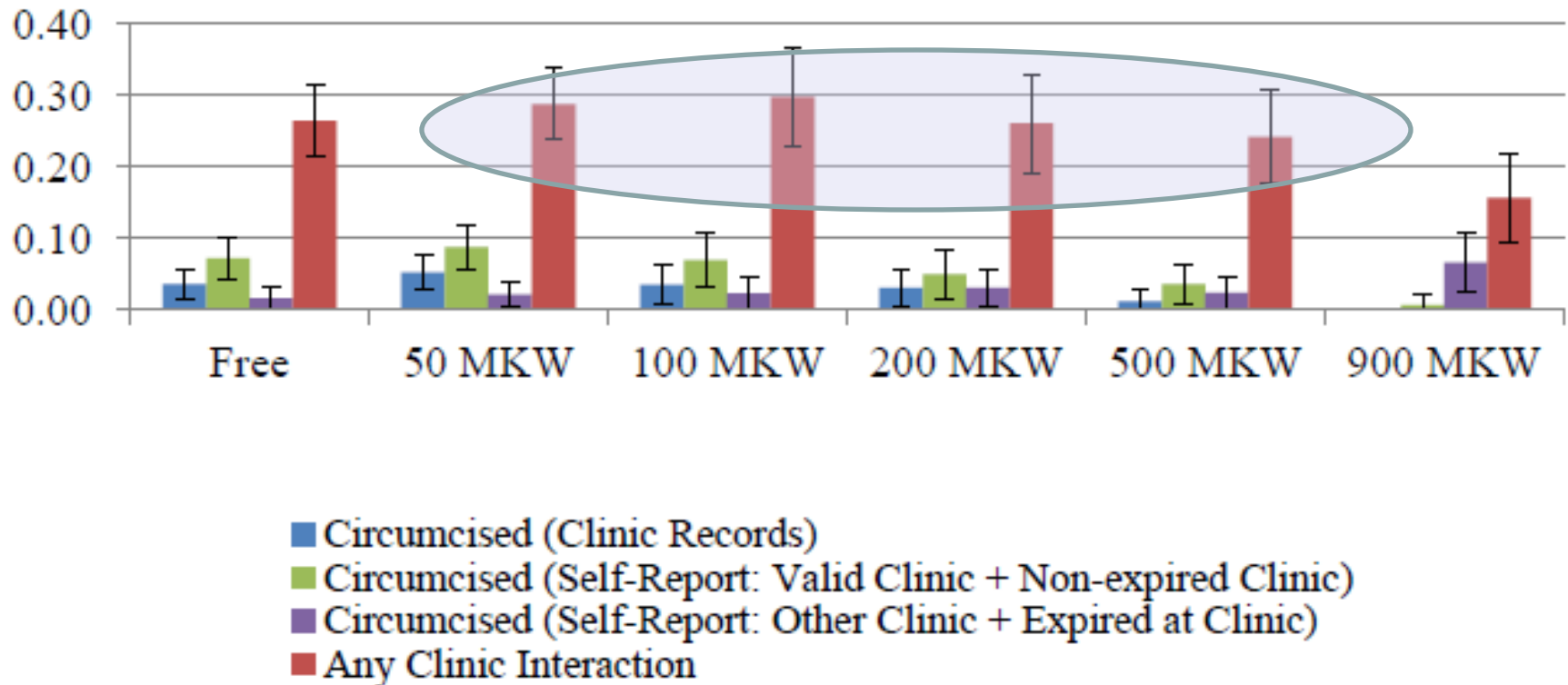
817 men – no
information

Results



Response to Prices

Take-up: Follow-up Sample



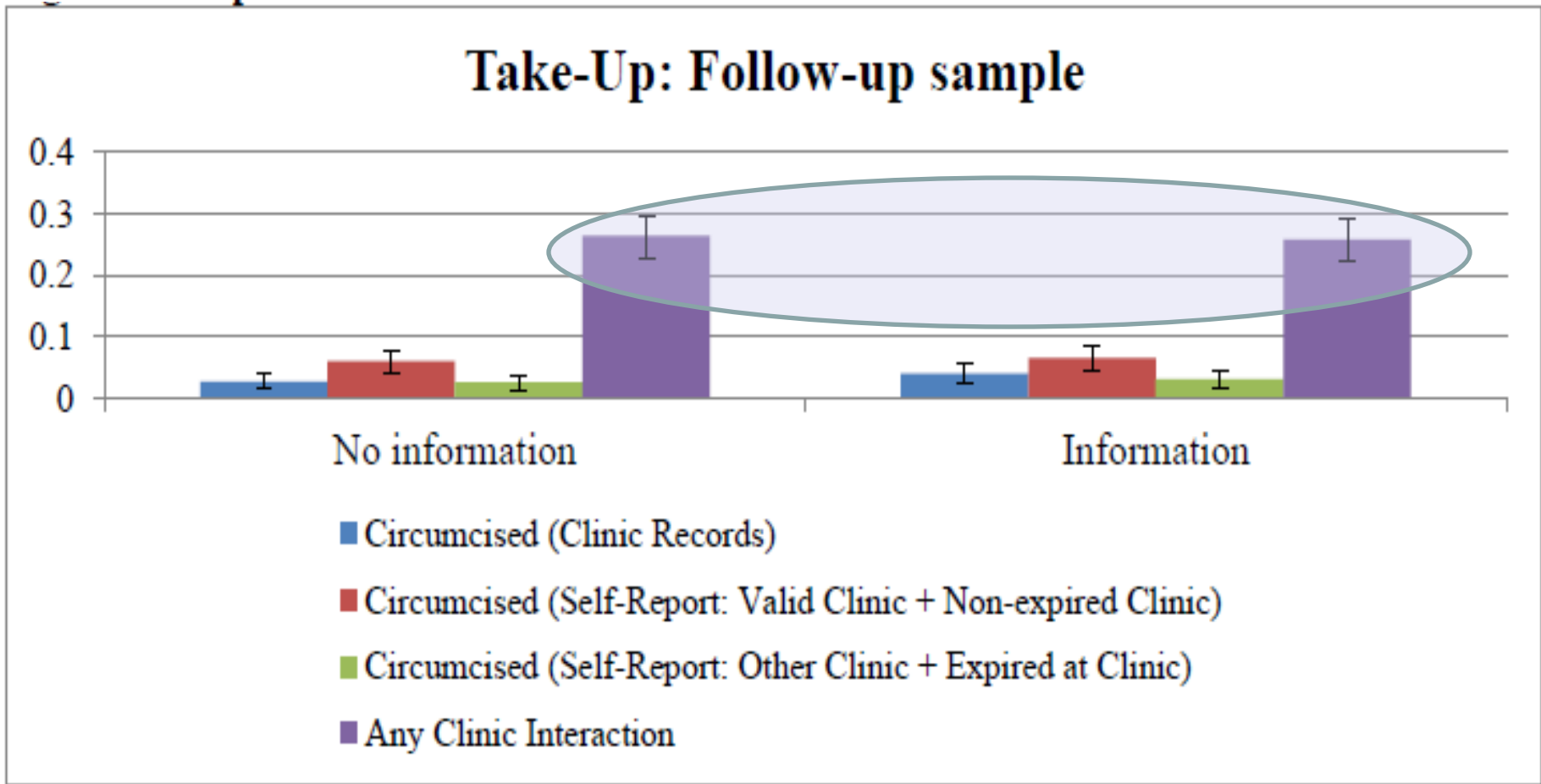
Malawian kwacha is the currency of Malawi; 1 MKW = 0.002 USD (as on 26 June 2014)

Results



Response to Information

Take-Up: Follow-up sample



Qualitative analysis



- In-depth interviews conducted with 64 men at follow-up
- Interviews revealed several barriers:
 - Opportunity costs
 - Fear of pain
 - Availability of accurate information
 - Unreliable service provision



Conclusions



- The adoption of male circumcision is not affected by prices or information
- Significant demand generation efforts are needed to make this HIV prevention strategy effective



- Impact evaluations of health programmes – a necessity
- Impact evaluations can guide policy decisions including allocation of resources (cost effectiveness)
- Non-significant findings as important as significant ones