# Positive Pathways: Implementation Trial for HIV Retention in Care

Poster # 908

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## Background

- Optimal retention in care (RIC) improves HIV clinical outcomes and reduces transmission<sup>1,2</sup>
- Clinical decision support systems may help retain people with HIV (PWH)<sup>3</sup>
- CHORUS™ is a web portal and mobile app translating health record data into actionable alerts for clinicians

## Objective

To evaluate the effectiveness of the CHORUS™ Retention in Care Module at the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) in the US

## Methods

### Intervention

- Automated alerts (Fig. 1) generated daily in CHORUS for PWH at-risk of falling out of care
- Flags: Consecutive period in which a PWH met criteria for ≥ 1 alert
- Prompts to re-engage PWH at-risk of falling out of care and schedule an appointment

### **Trial Design**

- Parallel, cluster randomized controlled trial of 20 randomly selected AHF healthcare centers (HCCs)
- 10 control HCCs: existing retention efforts
   (monthly list of PWH out of care for ≥ 104 days)
- 10 intervention HCCs: existing retention efforts + daily alerts in CHORUS
- Alerts recorded from October 2020 to May 2021, follow-up through July 2021

#### **Statistical Analyses**

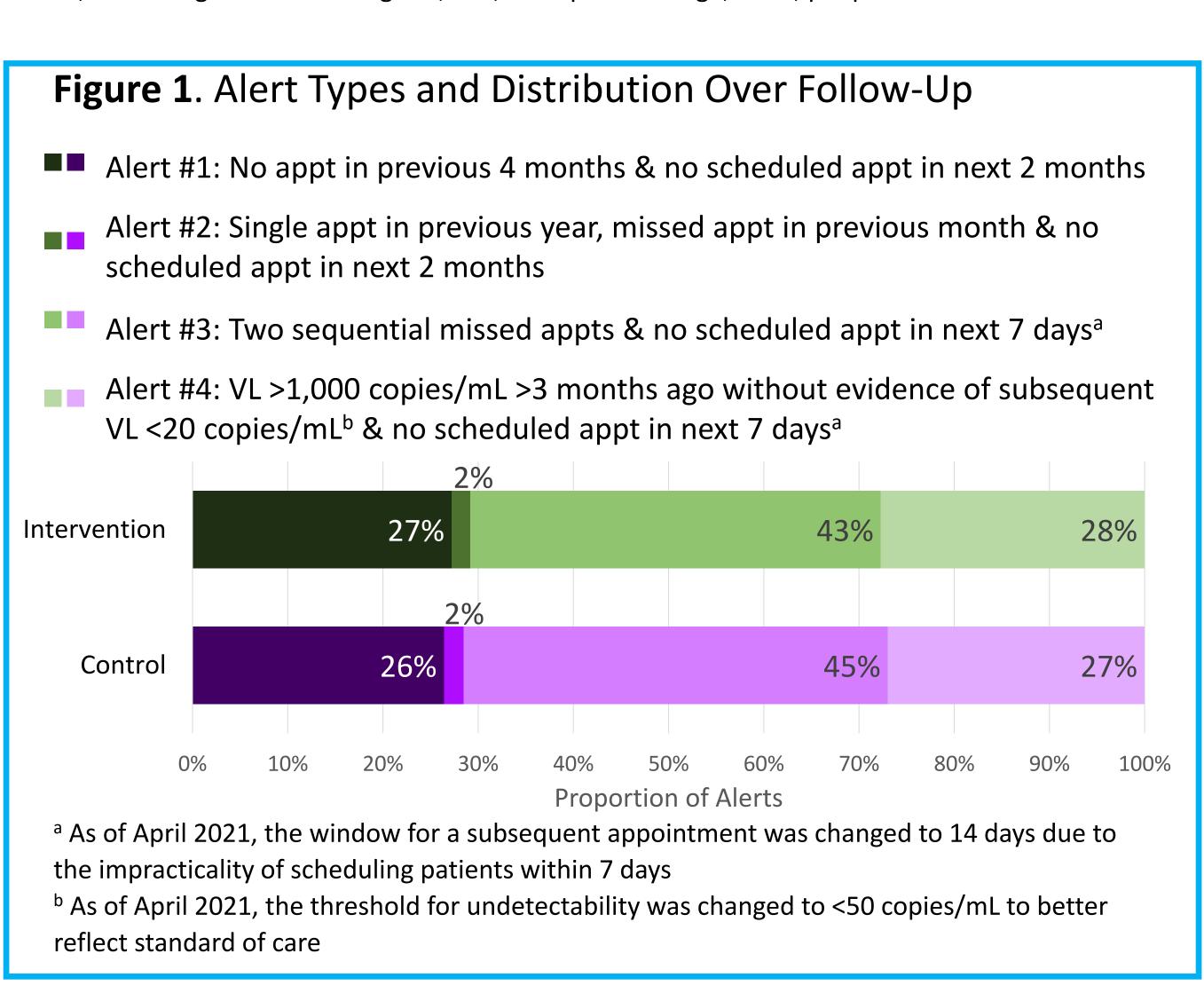
- Outcomes
- Re-engagement: Completed visit any time or ≤2 months after flag
- Virologic suppression: Viral load < 50 copies/mL</li>
- Association between intervention and visits after a flag: logistic regression with generalized estimating equations (GEE, independent correlation structure)
  - Adjusted for HCC characteristics: census region, #
     PWH, % Hispanic/Latino PWH and % of PWH with ADAP/Ryan White as payer

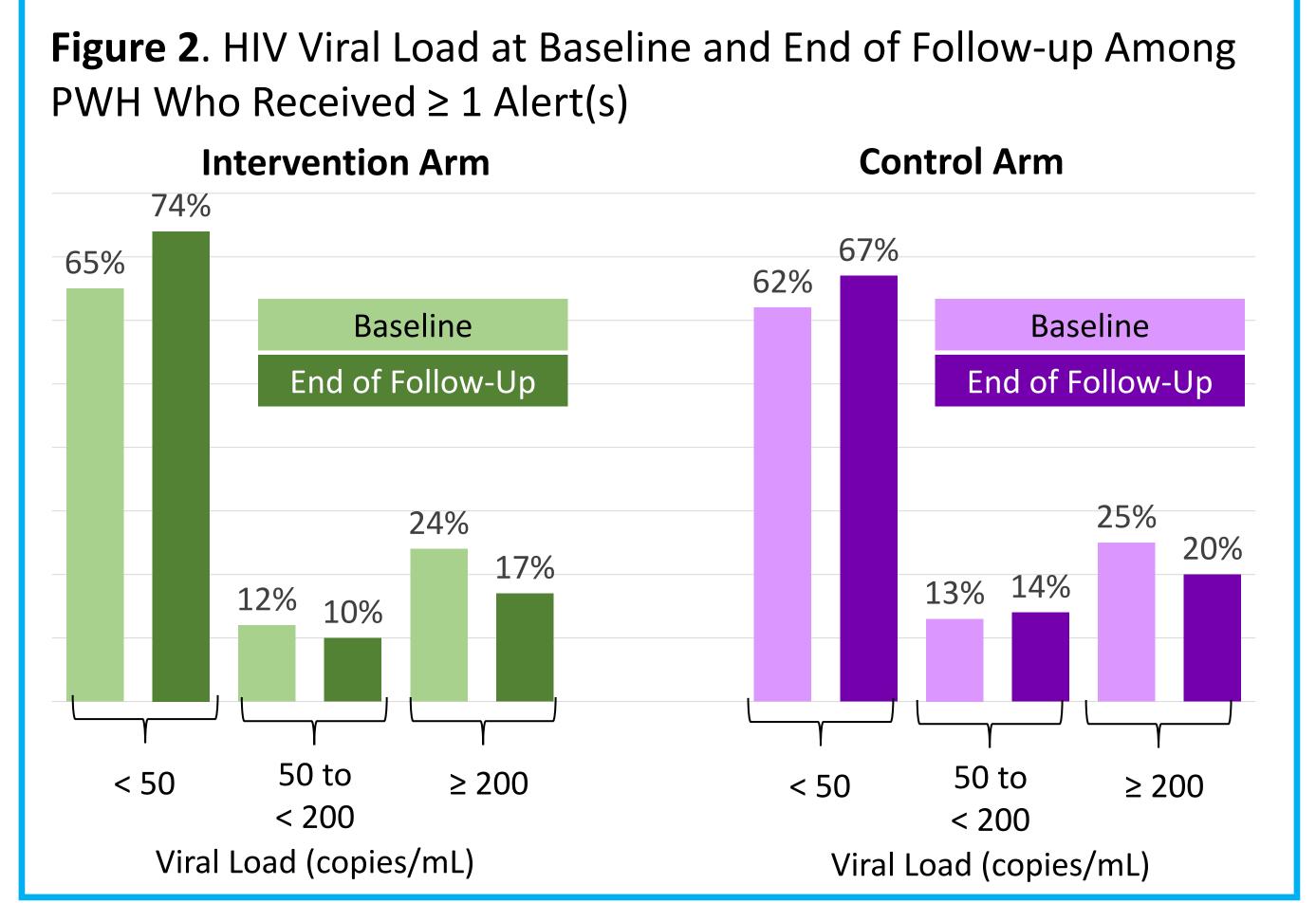
## Results

Table 1. Characteristics of Participating Healthcare Centers (HCC)

	Intervention	Control
Total HCC per arm, N	10	10
# HCCs in Southern US, n	7	5
Total PWH per arm, N	8836	7039
# PWH per HCC, median (IQR)	1081 (621, 1812)	1018 (559, 1649)
% PWH with Hispanic/Latino ethnicity per HCC, median (IQR)	18 (7, 34)	20 (9, 23)
% PWH with ADAP/Ryan White as a payer per HCC, median (IQR)	36 (23, 68)	28 (19, 42)
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ADAP, AIDS Drug Assistance Program; IQR, interquartile range; PWH, people with HIV



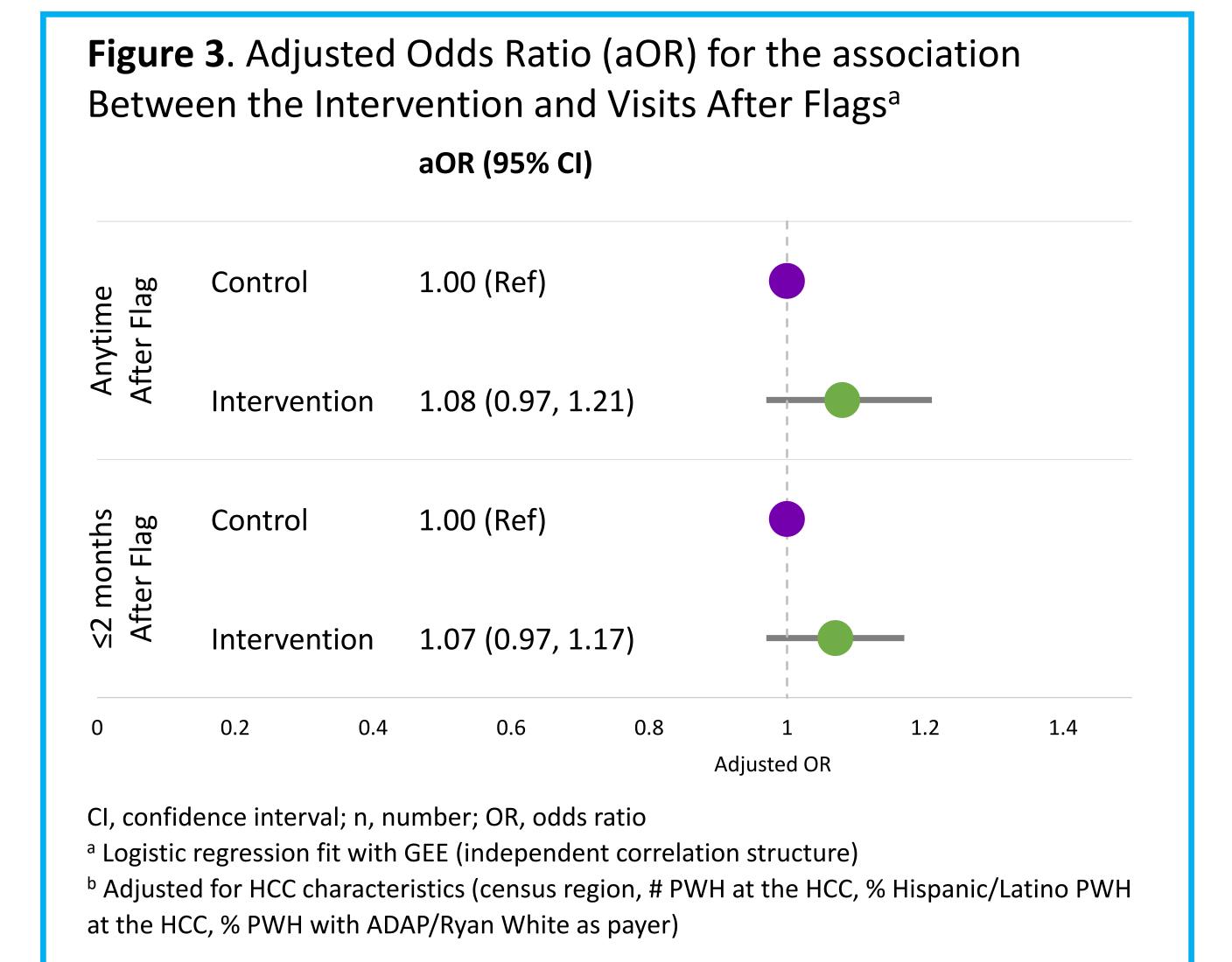


## **Key Findings**

- Despite many challenges (e.g., COVID-19), daily RIC alerts in CHORUS™ improved clinical and retention outcomes at intervention vs. control HCCs
- o PWH at-risk of falling out of care appeared more likely to return for care (Fig. 3)
- o Greater increase in the proportion of PWH with viral load < 50 c/mL from baseline to study end (Fig. 2)
- Sustained use of the CHORUS™ RIC Module has potential to streamline retention efforts, retain more PWH in care, and ultimately decrease transmission of HIV

## Table 2. Completed Visits After a Flag

	Intervention	Control
Total number of flags	7,355	5,649
Number of flags with a visit at anytime after a flag (%)	5,580 (76)	4,249 (75)
Days between flag and visit, median (IQR)	32 (15, 60)	30 (12, 59)
Number of flags with a visit ≤ 2 months after a flag (%)	4,200 (75)	3,246 (76)



### Discussion

- RIC alerts in CHORUS appeared to have a positive impact at intervention HCCs
- PWH were most often identified at-risk of falling out of care due to 2 missed appointments, without any scheduled appointment in the next week (Alert #3, Fig. 1)
- Over follow-up, the proportion of virally suppressed PWH increased by 9% in intervention HCCs vs. 5% in control HCCs (Fig. 2)
- Most (75%) of return visits occurred within 2 months (median: 30-32 days) after the first alert being issued (Table 2)
- PWH at-risk of falling out of care had an 8% (95% CI: 0.97, 1.21) higher likelihood of a clinical visit in the intervention vs. control HCCs (Fig. 3)
- HCC providers and staff have reported that the intervention helped all feel invested in RIC, which became a cross-discipline team effort instead of being relegated to an administrative task
- Challenges
  - Clinic operations impacted by COVID-19 pandemic and extreme weather events
  - COVID testing, treatment & vaccination efforts competed with RIC efforts
  - Study intervention layered on top of established RIC efforts overwhelmed staff & impacted clinic morale

#### References

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<sup>3</sup> Robbins GK, Lester W, Johnson KL, Chang Y, Estey G, Surrao D, et al. Efficacy of a clinical decision-support system in an HIV practice: a randomized trial. Ann Intern Med. 2012;157(11):757-66

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