NO SUGAR: PROGRAM AND RESULTS

The Issue
With only 8% of the world's population, Eastern and Southern Africa contain 63% of the world's population living with HIV. Botswana has the second highest infection rate with nearly 25% of the population and 45% of forty year-old men infected with HIV. Of the 2.7 million 15-24 year-olds living with HIV in the region, 70% are female. The majority of those young women have been infected by older men.

No Sugar was an 1-hour class delivered in government schools that revealed the relative risk of older partners, often known as “sugar daddies.” The program was shown to reduce teen pregnancy—also a potential proxy for unprotected sex and HIV—by 28% in one year through a randomized control trial (RCT) conducted in Kenya. Young 1ove aimed to revitalize this promising evidence-based program.

Prior to scaling up the program Young 1ove aimed to test if the program still worked ten years later in the Botswana context and if so, which delivery model was most cost effective at scale. To this end, Young 1ove partnered with the University of Botswana, Ministry of Basic Education, Botswana-Baylor Children’s Clinical Center of Excellence, J-PAL and Evidence Action conducted a RCT to assess whether No Sugar still worked.

LOCAL LESSONS
• sugar daddies included men in their 20s not only 40 year olds
• one indicator showed a decrease in pregnancy, however, another indicator showed the effects may be short-term.
• following the program, students had 5x the knowledge; a year later it dropped to 2x-- the knowledge is remembered but would benefit from a ‘booster’
• effects were largest at junior school
• peer messengers were most effective
• girls care about the risks of falling pregnant as much or more so than HIV

PROGRAM REACH

343 Schools
106 Teachers
13,366 Students Directly
14,208 Students cumulatively
42,195 Students Surveyed

FUTURE:
Over the next 2-3 years, Young 1ove is adapting the program based on lessons learnt. We plan to test our impact on pregnancy as well as HIV or STIs before scaling up nationally and regionally.