



Assessing the Feasibility of Fitted Male Condoms as a Sexual Health Intervention in Cape Town, South Africa

Perspectives from Condom Education and Distribution Staff

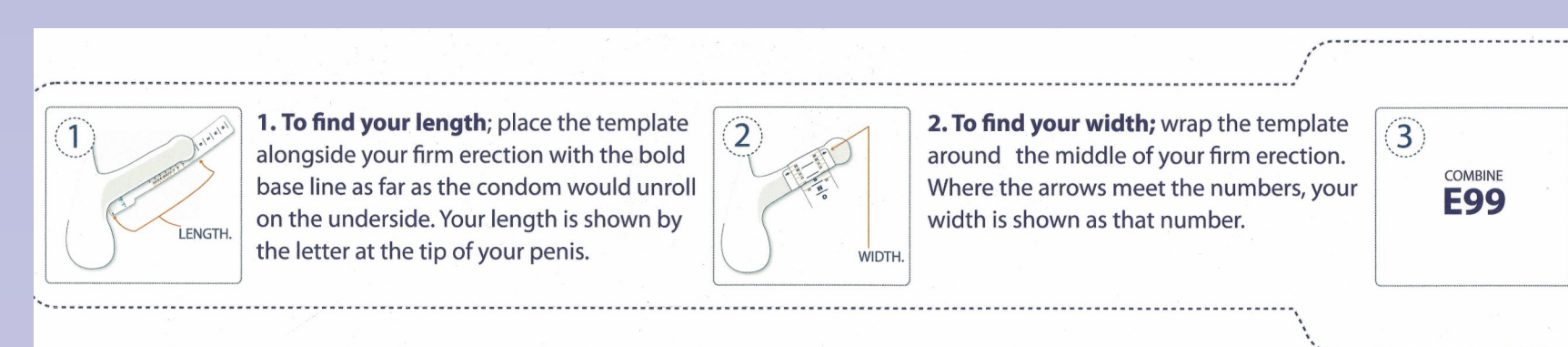
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Background

- ◆ 17.3% of South Africans aged 15-49 are infected with HIV¹
- ◆ Correct and consistent use of male condoms is highly effective in preventing HIV transmission and unintended pregnancy²
- ◆ The fit and feel of male condoms is one of the leading barriers to consistent use³
- ◆ Condom breakage and slippage is lower for men using fitted condoms⁴
- ◆ Standard condoms and larger condoms vary in size by less than 10% which is substantially less than the known variability in penis size^{5,6}
- ◆ Fitted condoms are currently sold throughout the United Kingdom; sales figures show that men only buy condoms in the standard condom sizes 12% of the time⁷
- ◆ There is a call for increased availability of condoms in a broader range of sizes⁸

Measurement tool used to assess size for fitted condoms



Methods

- ◆ Qualitative semi-structured interviews with 6 staff members in charge of condom distribution and 4 staff members in charge of condom education in 2 sexual health organizations and 4 clinics in Cape Town, South Africa
- ◆ Participants assessed their organization's condom stock and availability through questionnaires and mapping
- ◆ Data were transcribed, entered into MAXQDA and analyzed using a constant comparative approach to identify categories and themes

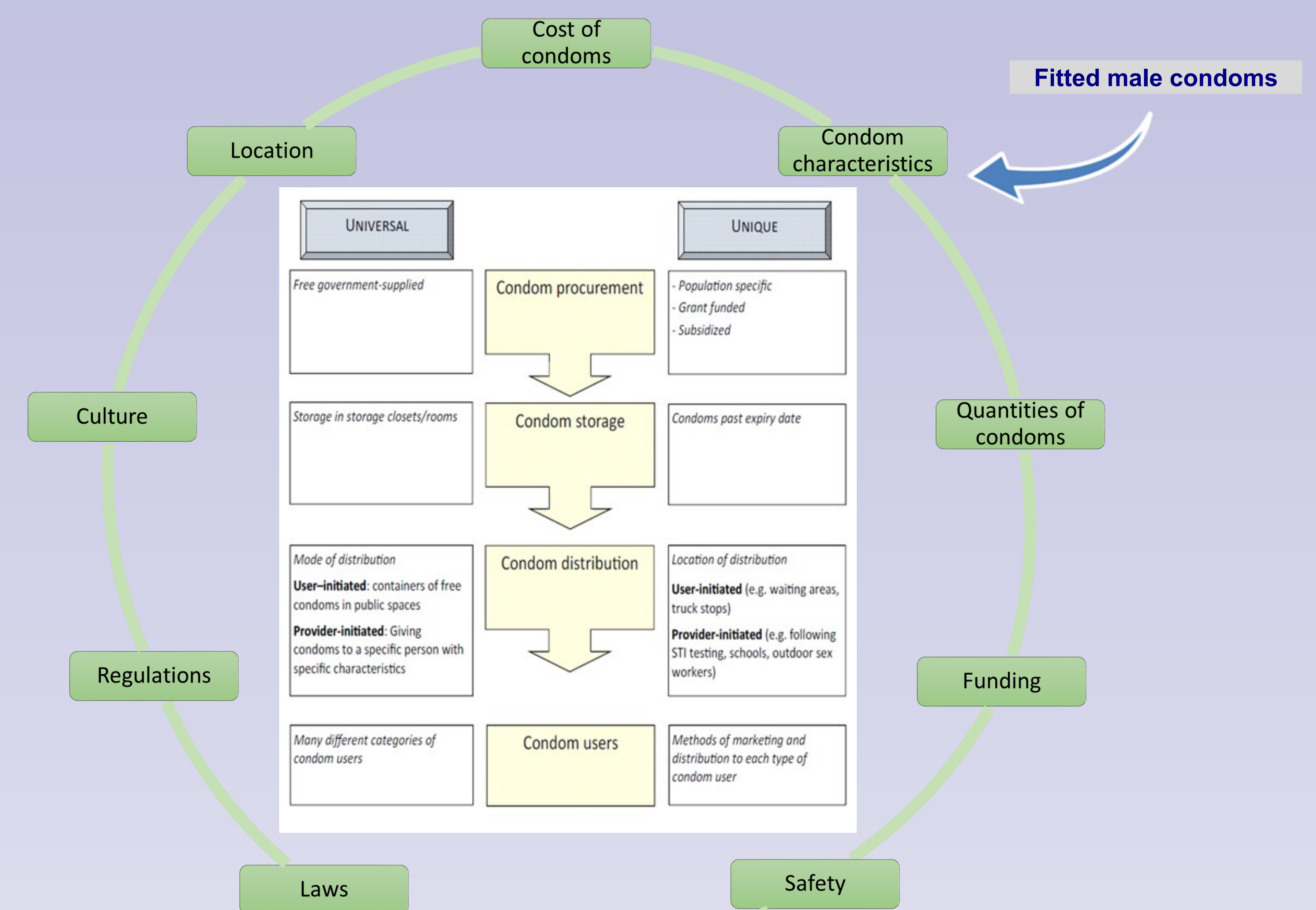
"If we can come up with a product that works for our males [for] better uptake in terms of condom usage, than that's for me."

- Sexual health organization staff member

Results

- ◆ Clinics and sexual health organizations kept between 6,000 and 60,000 condoms in stock on a monthly basis
- ◆ The government-issued standard-sized condoms were available at all sites and the distribution system was easy to use and quick to restock
- ◆ Grant funded, population specific, and subsidized condoms were often more desirable for the condom users but the availability of these condoms was sporadic
- ◆ All clinics and sexual health organizations had condoms available in public areas for condom users to freely take
- ◆ All clinics and sexual health organizations had educational outreach on correct condom use
- ◆ Limited availability of space for men to perform penile measurements in the clinics or sexual health organizations
- ◆ Interest in fitted condoms focused on the possibility of having a small number of different sizes, a well-organized supply chain, affordable pricing, and long-term supply availability

Framework of the universal and unique aspects of condom procurement, storage, distribution, and users for clinics and sexual health organizations in Cape Town, South Africa



Discussion

There is a clear interest in and potential mechanism for distribution of fitted condoms in Cape Town. Fitted condoms in this area might improve consistent use of condoms and reduce HIV transmission and unintended pregnancy. Further research should explore the commercialization and logistical aspects of fitted condom distribution



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Research collaborators:



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