

# Age Does Matter: Older Males Stay longer on PrEP Across Different Sub-populations of Men in Zambia

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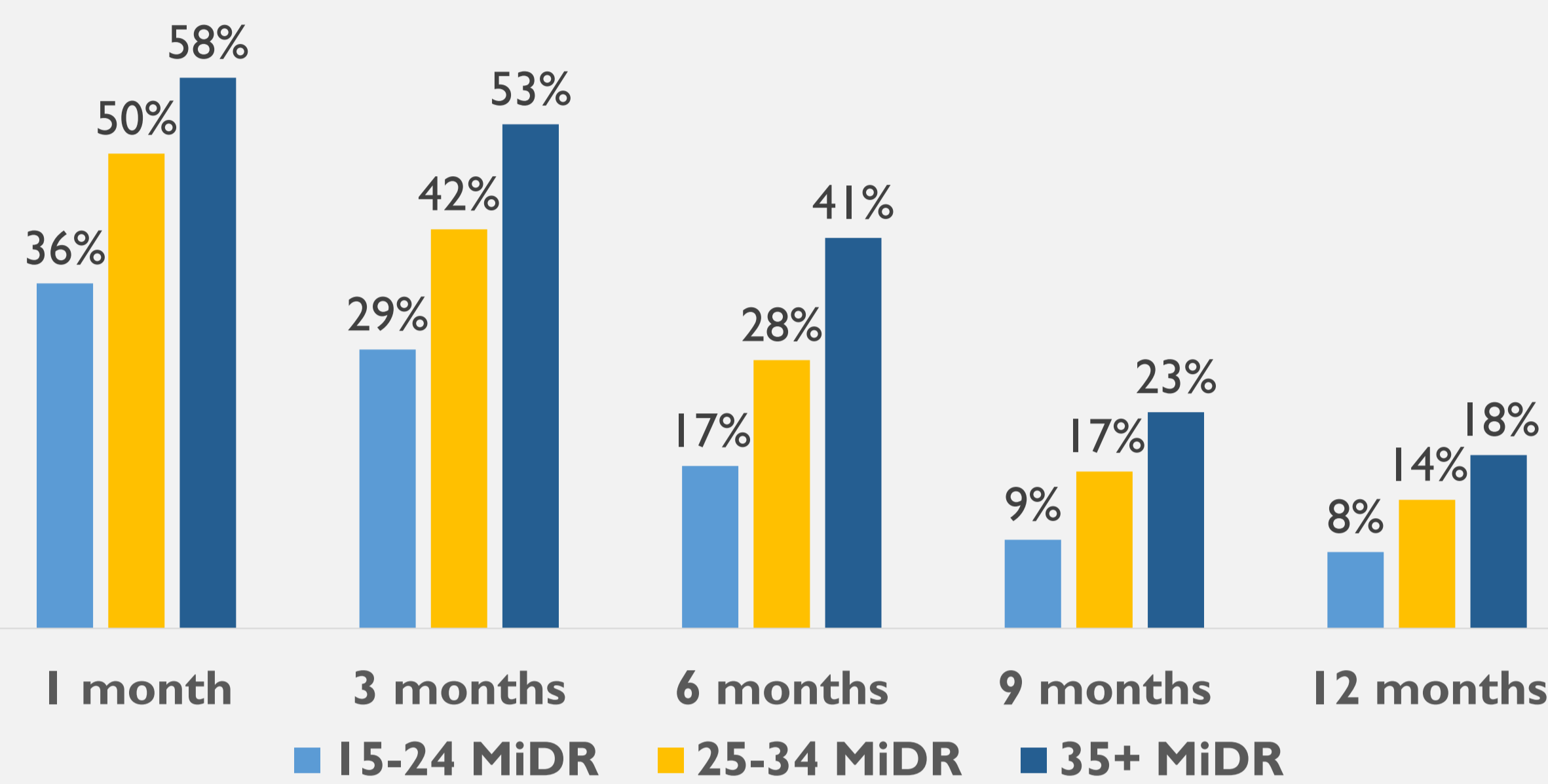
1. JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI), Lusaka, Zambia.

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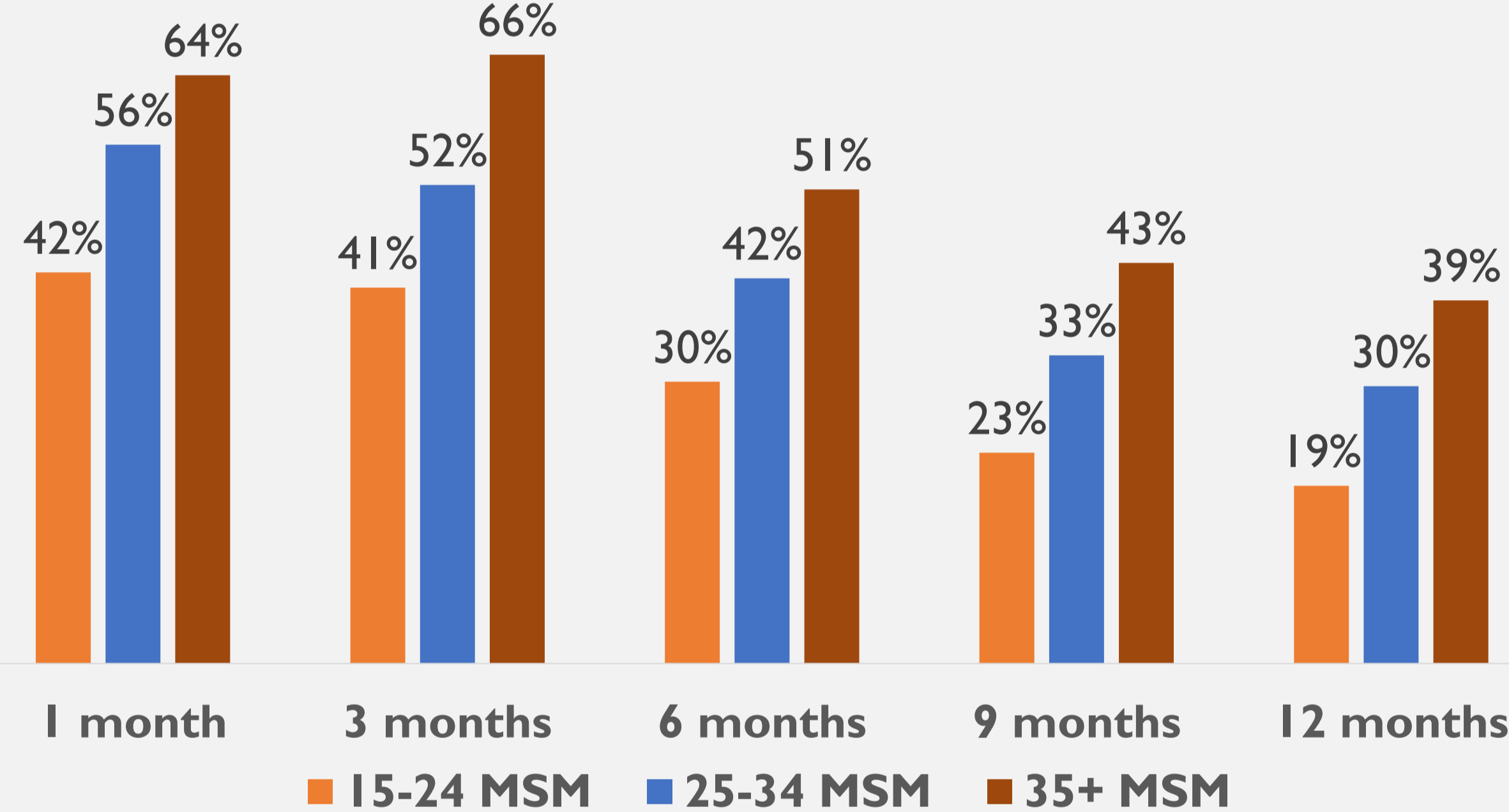


## Continuation rates, by sub-population

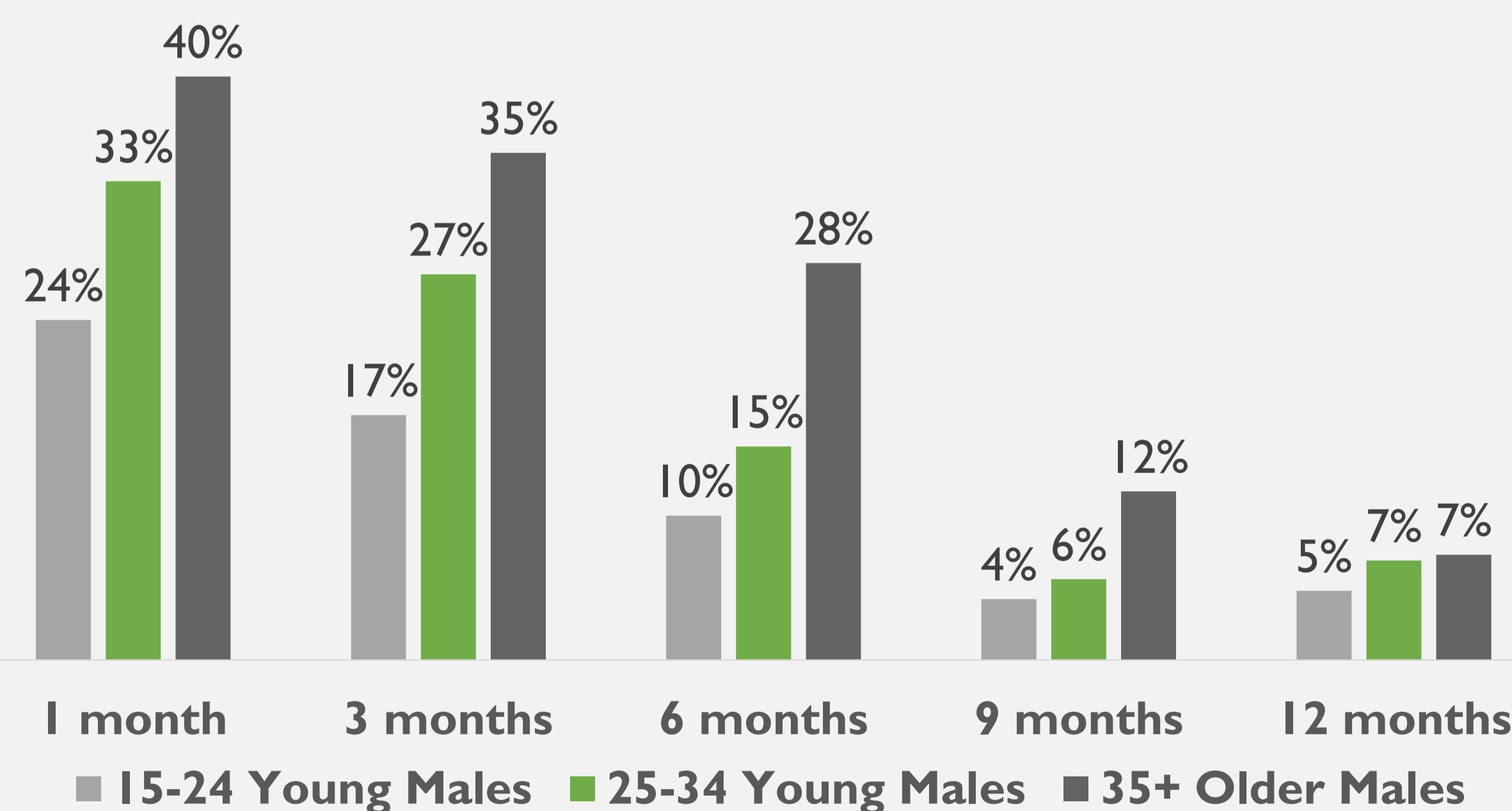
Men in Discordant Relationships



Men who have sex with men (MSM)



Other men



## Problem & Response

In Zambia, there were 6,667 male clients enrolled in PrEP by April 30, 2020. This growing number required strengthening the ability to provide PrEP, track clients, and collect and analyse data. In Zambia, PrEP is provided only to individuals found to be at substantial risk of HIV, using a national eligibility screening tool.

The USAID DISCOVER-Health Project, implemented by JSI Research & Training Institute Inc (JSI), was one of the first MOH partners to roll out PrEP, both in the pilot phase and nationwide (after May 2018 scale-up approval). As a relatively young PrEP program, USAID DISCOVER-Health developed a PrEP management information system to analyze data to inform program implementation.

## Results

Continuation rates on PrEP, all men

Age	1 mo	3 mo	6 mo	9 mo	12 mo
15-24 yrs.	30%	22%	13%	7%	7%
25-34 yrs.	42%	34%	22%	12%	12%
35+ yrs.	53%	47%	37%	20%	16%

- Older men have higher PrEP continuation rates than younger men, overall and across all sub-populations. Although most PrEP messaging in Zambia targets men aged 20-34, older men access PrEP at almost the same rates as younger men, and stay on.
- MSM and men in discordant relationships have higher PrEP continuation rates than other men, primarily heterosexual men.

## Conclusion

Age matters across all sub-populations for PrEP continuation among males. MSM, men in discordant relationships and older males are more HIV risk-aware and thus continue on PrEP longer. Younger males, across sub-populations, may cycle out of risk more frequently, with shorter 'on-PrEP' periods.

USAID DISCOVER-Health is engaging younger men and heterosexual men to understand factors that inform their persistence or non-persistence with PrEP in order to inform more effective PrEP programming.