HPM Colloquium in Health Services Research
Wednesday, February 17th
12:00-1:00 PM
Virtual Seminar via Zoom

"Behavioral responses to HIV self-testing technologies in Kenya"

Harsha Thirumurthy, PhD
Associate Professor
Medical Ethics & Health Policy
UPenn Perelman School of Medicine

Abstract:
Despite the scale-up of HIV services in sub-Saharan Africa, efforts to end the HIV epidemic have fallen short with exceptionally high incidence among adolescent girls and young women and limited coverage of HIV services among priority populations. This study uses a cluster randomized trial design to assess the potential for HIV self-testing -- a testing technology recently endorsed by WHO -- to facilitate HIV testing within sexual networks and prevent new infections among women in western Kenya who are at high risk of acquiring HIV. Participants in intervention clusters received access to multiple HIV self-tests over a period of 18 months while those in control clusters had access to standard HIV testing services. We assessed the effect of the intervention on a wide range of outcomes including knowledge of partner status, sexual behavior, and HIV incidence. We also examine the intervention’s effects on decision-making in transactional sex encounters.

Co-sponsored by

To request Zoom link, please contact carolyn.cummings@yale.edu