

Let's keep 'happy hour' going, especially during initiation season

A few months ago, we reported improvements in 'happy hour' services across 25 clinics in Buffalo City and OR Tambo Districts. 'Happy hour' is a dedicated timeslot once per week reserved for youth and adolescent services, including reproductive health support. Since then, we've added 20 more clinics to the campaign, including 10 in Nelson Mandela Bay.

A reassessment of youth services this month shows that clinics need to do more to cater to the specific healthcare needs of the youth. **There are 7 clinics (4 of which are in Buffalo City) where the majority of residents say the clinic does not provide 'happy hour' services.** This is very concerning as young people are far more likely to seek medical advice, treatment and counselling when clinics offer a dedicated timeslot. As indicated below, this becomes even more important during 'initiation season'.



While 95% of residents say their clinic offers family planning services, some residents asked that clinics appoint "a nurse dedicated to family planning" so that they do not have to wait in long queues for that service. Many residents also asked that clinics provide more information about services available to young people as there is not enough awareness.

Asivikelane Health will work with clinics to develop and disseminate health information. We will also continue advocating for dedicated youth and adolescent care, and more efficient clinic services.

Asivikelane Health fieldworkers at a Youth Month event at Potsdam clinic in Buffalo City.

Young men's health comes into focus during initiation season

June – July is initiation season in the Eastern Cape. This is when the traditional rites of passage for young men takes place, including circumcision. During this period, they may be particularly prone to health risks especially if they have an existing illness. Clinics play a key role in mitigating against these risks by providing medical certificates prior to initiation. This service is centralised and only available at certain clinics. However, many residents are not aware of this because it isn't clearly communicated to them. **Clinics need to do more to inform young men of their health rights, the importance of the medical exam and where they can access it.**

20% OF RESIDENTS SAY THEIR CLINIC DOES NOT PROVIDE MEDICAL CERTIFICATES TO YOUNG MEN PRIOR TO INITIATION



AT YOUR MOST RECENT CLINIC VISIT...

% WHO SAID YES	WERE YOU ASSISTED WITHIN 2 HOURS?	IF YOU NEEDED MEDICATION, WAS IT AVAILABLE ON THE DAY?	ARE YOUTH-FRIENDLY "HAPPY HEALTH HOUR" SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THIS CLINIC?	DOES THIS CLINIC OFFER FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES?
OR TAMBO (10 CLINICS)	●	●	●	●
NELSON MANDELA BAY (10 CLINICS)	●	●	●	●
BUFFALO CITY (10 CLINICS)	●	●	●	●

Residents that said YES: 60% or less | 61 – 75% | 75 – 89% | 90% or more