# PREPAREDNESS FOR DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND COUNSELING (DTC): A NATIONAL SURVEY OF KENYAN HEALTH WORKERS

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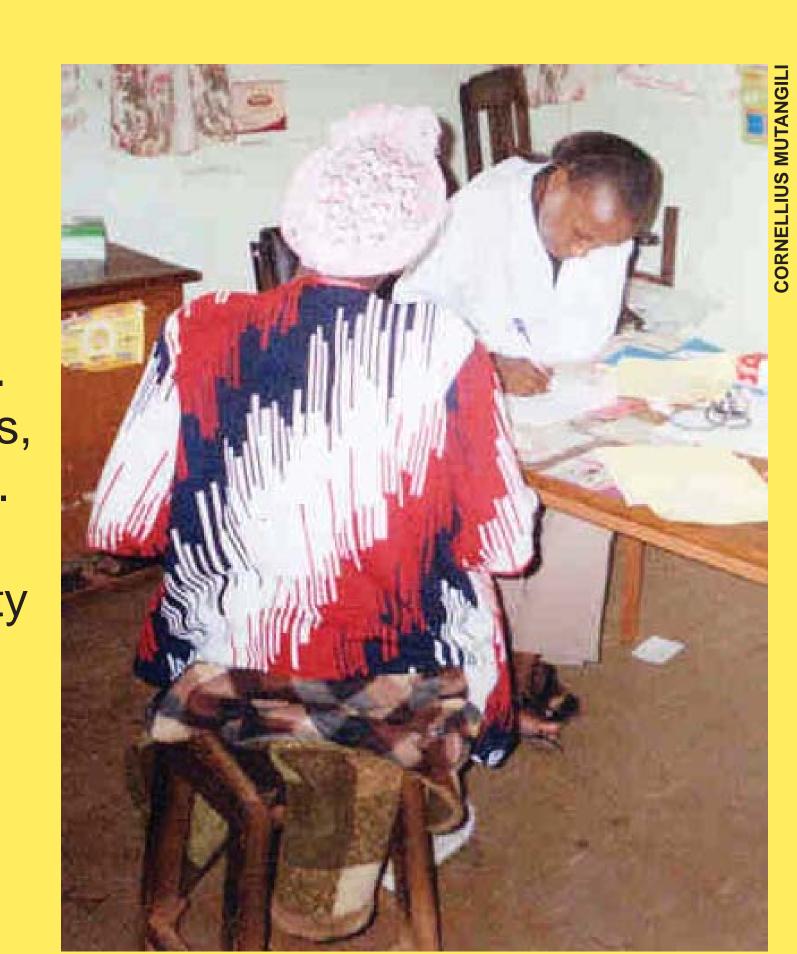
### BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The World Health Organization suggests that symptomatic individuals presenting at clinical settings in areas with generalized epidemics receive opt-out HIV counseling and testing (CT) for diagnostic accuracy. But the extent to which health care systems are prepared for diagnostic testing and counseling (DTC) is unknown. We present results of a national study assessing the degree to which Kenyan health care workers (HCWs) are ready to offer DTC.



### METHODS

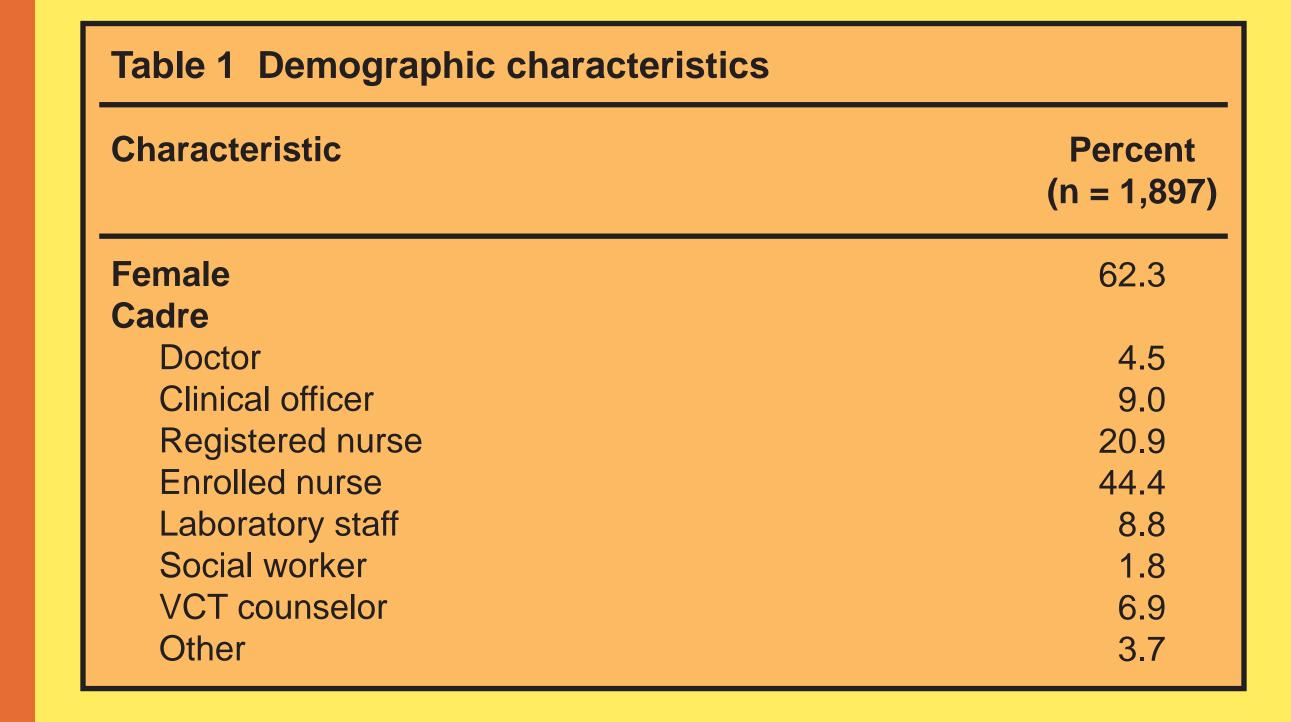
- Nationwide survey in all provinces; covered 27 districts, including Nairobi.
- Based on 2004 KSPA sampling frame.
- Used 2-stage stratified random sampling.
- Data collected in 247 health care facilities.
- 1,897 randomly selected health workers interviewed.
- Sample comprised of doctors, clinical officers, nurses, laboratory staff, VCT counselors, and social workers.
   Public, private and faith-based institutions included.
- Hospitals, health centers, dispensaries, and maternity homes included.
- Data gathered using guided self-administered questionnaires.
- Fieldwork conducted May-June 2005.
- Ethical approval obtained per standard procedures; participating HCWs provided informed consent.
- Data weighted to reflect the national distribution of HCWs.



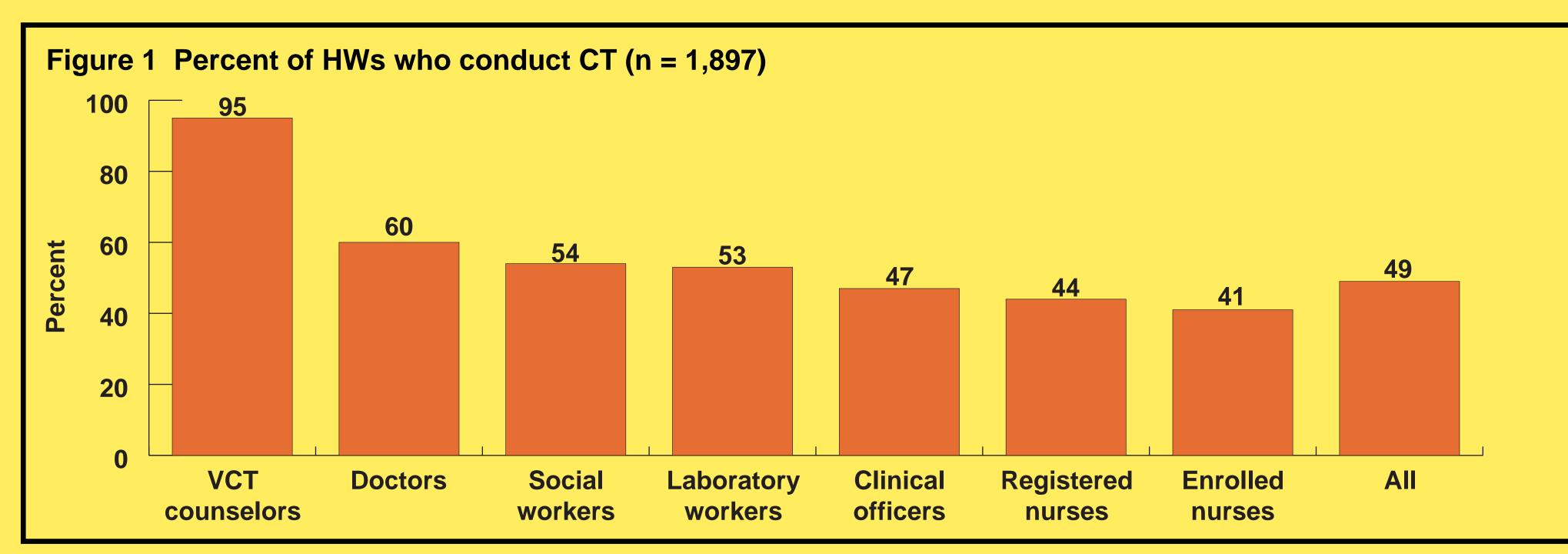
### INTERVIEWER TRAINING

- Conducted over a 4-day period.
- 45 interviewers trained but 35 retained for fieldwork based on selection exam and field practicum performance.
- Training included technical content (e.g., HIV testing, post-exposure prophylaxis), as well as interviewing skills and quality control.

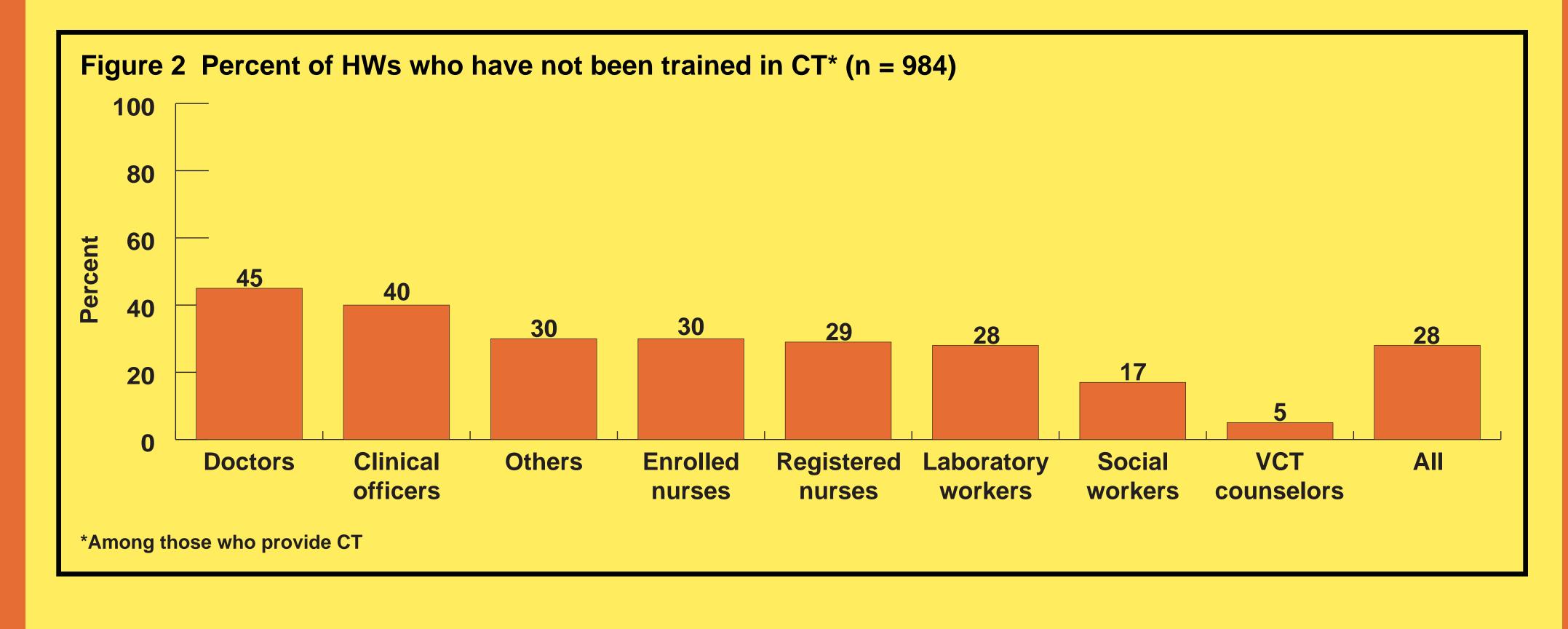
## RESULTS



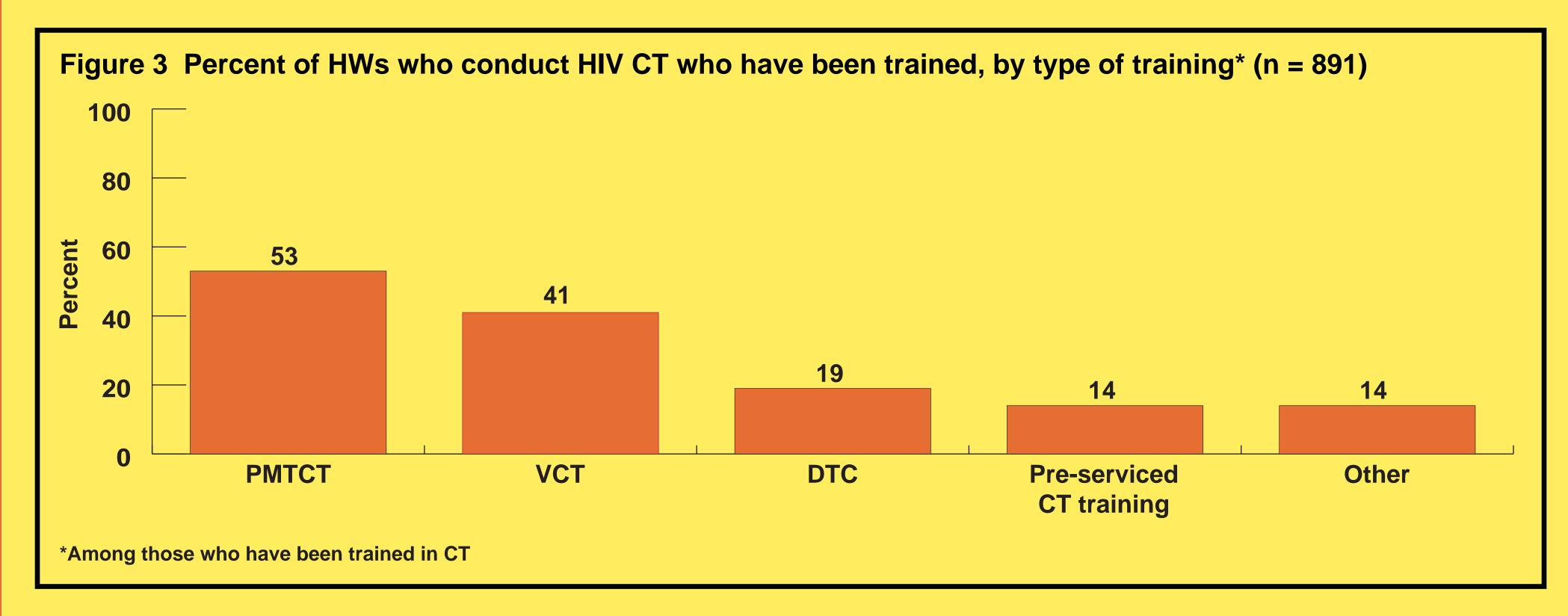
Half of the HCWs surveyed said they conducted some aspect of CT for HIV; of these, 72% had been trained to do so (Figure 1).



Among those who offered CT, doctors (45%) and clinical officers (40%) were the least likely to have been trained in the procedure (Figure 2).



Half of the HCWs trained in CT had been trained in prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), 41% in voluntary counseling and testing (VCT), and 19% in DTC. Less than 15% had received CT training as part of pre-service education (Figure 3).



## CONCLUSIONS

With the rolling out of DTC, there is need to build the capacity of the 51% of HCWs who could provide this service but presently do not. There is also a need to train the 28% of HCWs who presently offer DTC without appropriate preparation, especially doctors and clinical officers.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Health workers who participated in the
- Provincial and District Medical Officers
- District Health Management TeamsPASCOS and DASCOs
- Kenya Health Worker Survey research
- CDC-PEPFAR for funding

# FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the results of this study, visit the Population Council booth (1046) and pick up a copy of *Kenya Health Workers Survey 2005*, visit the Population Council website at www.popcouncil.org/horizons, or contact Karusa Kiragu (kkiragu@pcnairobi.org).









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