

Results

Baseline characteristics

In total, 302 adolescents were recruited in the study at a median age of 15.2 years old (interquartile range : 12.0 – 17.5), including 159 (52.7%) girls; of whom both parents died for 57 (18.9%), only the father was alive for 64 (21.2%), only the mother was alive for 48 (15.9%), both parents were alive for 133 (44.0%). Mental health troubles were prevalent: suicidal ideation (36.4%), severe depression (26.5%), high anxiety (29.1%), and low self-esteem (20.5%). Noteworthy, the study participants baseline characteristics were similarly distributed irrelevant to the study arm.

Participants' flow in the intervention arm

Time to study start	Participants benefiting from sustained support for the first time	Non-beneficiaries
T0	0 (0.0%)	150
<1 month	41 (39.4%)	109
1-3 months	48 (46.2%)	61
3-18 months	15 (14.4%)	46

Adverse events

No participant died during the study period.

Outcomes measures

Probability of maintaining retention in care in the first 15-month period of study start was better in HIV-infected adolescents who (or whose parent or guardian) had attended at least once a support group (74.0% versus 54.0% among non-attendees). There was also higher odds of retention in care in ALHIV receiving second line antiretroviral regimens, or living with >6 people. However. Such retention in care was significantly poorer in HIV-infected adolescents living in households with tap water available or presenting poor mental health.

Table 2: Factors associated with maintaining retention in care within the first 15 months of study start (longitudinal endpoint), *N*=232 (IAS-CIPHER - 2021/1214-ATE SMAVI, Cameroon, 2022)

	Cox regression					
	Estimated probability of maintaining retention in care		Univariate analysis <i>N</i> =232		Multivariate analysis <i>N</i> =232	
	<i>N</i>	<i>Kaplan-Meier estimate</i>	<i>cHR (95% CI)</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>aHR (95% CI)</i>	<i>p</i>
Crude characteristic						
<u>or</u>						
Main component of characteristic with time-dependent effect						
Gender*						
Female	172	61.0				
Male	150	54.0				
Age (in years) at baseline*						
10-14	158	50.0				
15-19	164	63.0				
School level at baseline*						
Unschoolled or primary school	115	52.0				
Secondary school first cycle	136	60.0				
Secondary school second cycle or high school	71	61.0				
Vital status of parents at baseline						
None alive or father only alive or mother only alive	183	60.0	1	0.358		
Both parents alive	139	55.0	0.8 (0.5-1.3)			
Household size at baseline						
≤ 6 people	189	52.0	1	0.092	1	0.118
> 6 people	133	66.0	1.4 (0.7-2.0)		1.4 (0.9-2.0)	
Household equipped with televisior at baseline*						
No	29	55.0				
Yes	293	80.0				
Household equipped with refrigerator at baseline*						
No	89	59.0				
Yes	233	59.0				
Availability of tap water in the household at baseline*						
No	156	59.0				
Yes	166	58.0				
Availability of electricity at baseline*						

No	37	59.0				
Yes	285	59.0				
Disclosure of HIV status at baseline*						
Not or partially disclosed	263	60.0				
Completely disclosed	59	60.0				
ART duration (in years) at baseline*						
0 – 10	211	58.0				
> 10	111	60.0				
Anchor antiretroviral drug*						
EFV or DTG	245	53.0				
LPV/r or ATV/r	76	70.0				
Anxiety at baseline*						
Absent or moderate	234	59.0				
High or very high	88	59.0				
Depression at baseline						
Absent or moderate	239	60.0	1	0.209	1	0.080
Severe	83	51.0	0.7 (0.5-1.1)		0.7 (0.5-1.1)	
Self-esteem at baseline*						
Normal	262	60.0	1	0.325		
Low	60	50.0	0.7 (0.5-1.3)			
Frequency of leisure workshops attendance						
0 (<i>non-attendees</i>)	280	60.0	1	0.184		
≥1 (<i>attendees</i>)	25	41.0	0.6 (0.3-1.7)			
Frequency of support groups attendance						
0 (<i>non-attendees</i>)	251	54.0	1.0	0.028	1	0.023
≥1 (<i>attendees</i>)	54	74.0	2.0 (1.1-3.3)		1.7 (1.1-3.3)	
Frequency of home visits received*						
0	256	59.0				
≥1	49	59.0				

N: total number of subjects whose data were analyzed; **95% CI:** 95% confidence interval; **p:** Significance level (Wald test); **cHR:** Crude Hazard Ratio; **aHR:** Adjusted Hazard Ratio; *: Characteristic with time-dependent effect, not included in the analysis.