



# COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

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**"Ikhondomu  
liyabangela imvukuzane  
yesibeletho."**

**Community listening, Mangwe**

**Translation:  
"Condoms cause cervical  
cancer."**



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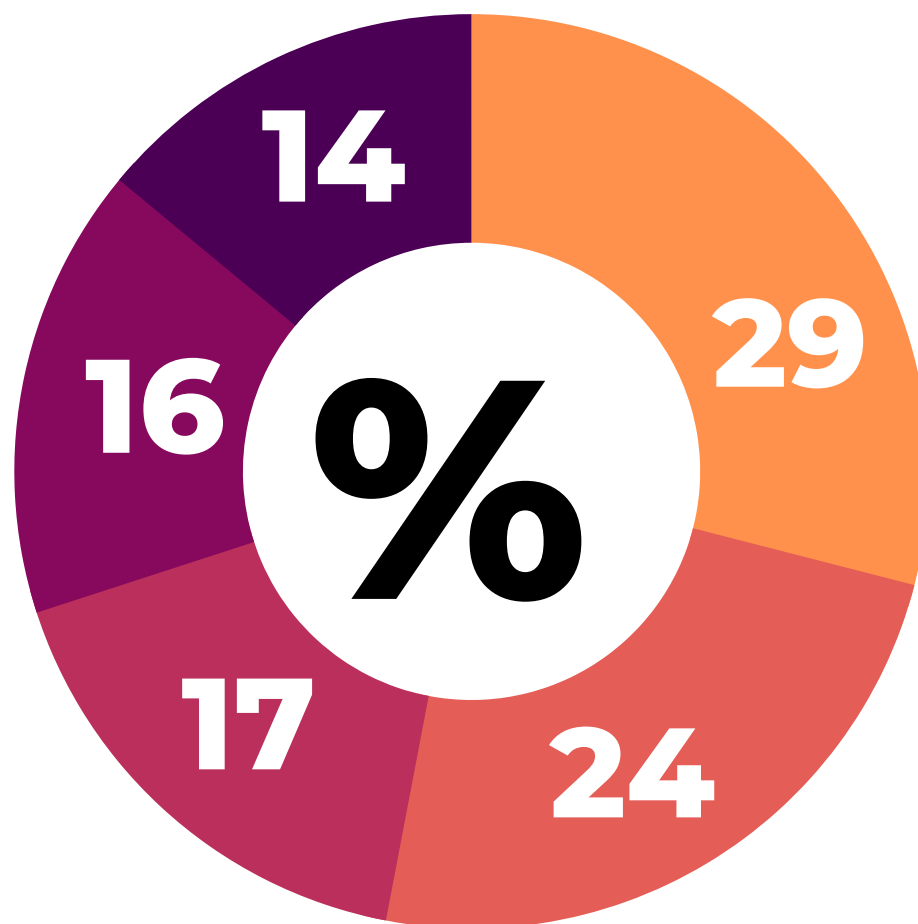
# FACT CHECKING

- According to Dr Innocent Chikuni, a medical practitioner, “condoms do not cause cancer, they actually reduce the transmission of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) which is implicated in most cervical cancers”. He added that “there are several risk factors for cervical cancer which include early age at first intercourse, smoking, having multiple sexual partners or a partner with multiple sexual partners”.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) notes that Cervical Cancer develops in a woman’s cervix and 99% of the cases are caused by an infection from the HPV which can be spread through sexual contact.
- In 2018 the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) launched an HPV vaccination programme aimed at curbing the spread of cervical cancer.
- Safe sexual practices like the use of condoms and dental dams during vaginal, anal and oral sex have been attributed to transmission risk reduction. While condoms cannot prevent HPV entirely, consistently practicing safe sex lowers your risk of developing an HPV related cancer. Moreso, one can prevent HPV and cervical cancer by receiving an HPV vaccine and attending routine cervical cancer screening to increase chances of early treatment in case of diagnosis.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNITIES

- **Community outreach workers** can facilitate community dialogues where health experts share information with women, youths and migrants on the risk factors of getting Cervical Cancer and how HPV is transmitted while emphasising methods of preventing and protecting themselves from both HPV and Cervical Cancer.
- **Community Health Workers** can share Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials in Ndebele, Shona, Tonga, Nambya, Venda, Sotho and Kalanga with women, men, youths and migrants advising the benefits of correct condom use as a prevention method for HPV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) like Gonorrhea, Chlamydia and HIV.

# RUMOUR TRENDS



## ***Trending Rumor Themes***

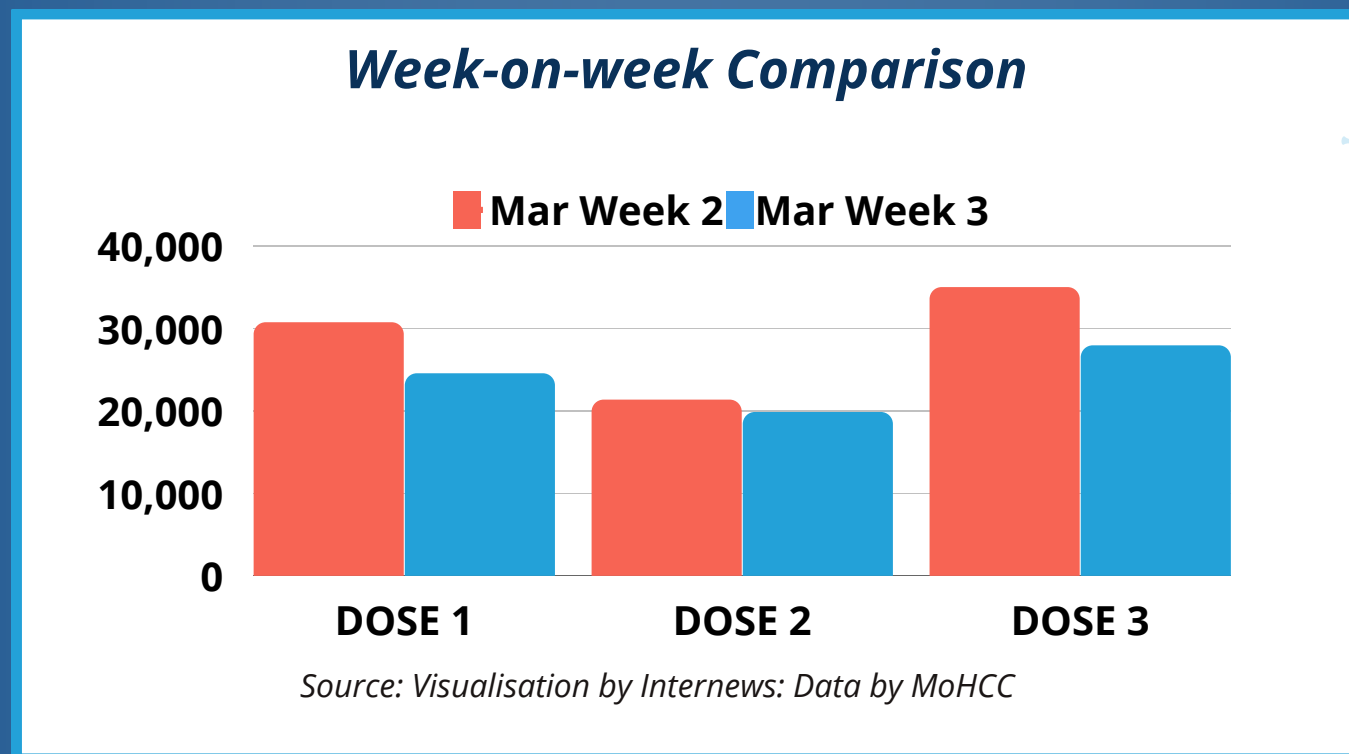
- COVID-19 vaccines cause death.
- STIs are on the rise due to limited condom supply
- Home remedies are more effective than COVID-19 vaccines.
- The cholera outbreak is due to poor sanitation.
- Drug abuse is causing mental health problems.

*Visualisation by Internews: Data from RiT 2.0 Global Rumor Dashboard*

Between March 15 and 21, 2023, Internews in Zimbabwe collected 457 COVID-19 and other health related rumours.

Of the total, 64 rumours were collected online (Facebook: 18 and Twitter: 46) and 393 through in-person interactions. Trending rumour themes were, "COVID-19 vaccines cause death" (29%), "STIs are on the rise due to limited condom supply" (24%), "Home remedies are more effective than COVID-19 vaccines" (17%), "The cholera outbreak is due to poor sanitation" (16%) and "Drug abuse is causing mental health problems" (14%).

# COVID-19 TRENDS



- First vaccine dose uptake in Zimbabwe decreased by 20% from 30,738 doses administered in week two of March 2023 to 24,554 doses administered in week three.
- There was a seven percent and 20% decrease in the uptake of second and third vaccine doses respectively. Second vaccine uptake decreased from 21,352 to 19,854 doses, while the third vaccine uptake decreased from 35,002 to 27,942 doses.
- As of March 21, 2023, there were 2,173 active COVID-19 cases with 138 being hospitalised. Of the total, 101 of the hospitalised cases were vaccinated and 37 were unvaccinated. Four COVID-19 related deaths were recorded during week three.
- Cumulatively, Zimbabwe has vaccinated 6,897,978, people with the first vaccine dose and 5,117,173 with the second vaccine dose, translating to 51,1% of the 10 million herd immunity target initially set for end December 2022. A total of 1,674,194 people have received the third vaccine dose.