

PEER NAVIGATOR PROJECT

Linking street-connected youth in western Kenya to HIV testing and treatment

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The **Peer Navigator Project (PNP)** is a collaborative research project that brings together **researchers and community partners in Canada and Kenya** to **evaluate the feasibility, effectiveness, and sustainability of peer supports** to improve street connected youth's (SCY) access to **HIV prevention, testing, and treatment.**

The study works alongside **key partners from AMPATH** to hire and support Peer Navigators (PN) who provide services to street-connected youth aged 16-29 in their communities. **The study is funded by the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR). It started in 2018 and will run until 2024.**

What is a peer navigator?

A Peer Navigator is a young adult with **lived experience of homelessness**. Working at the **MTRH Rafiki Centre**, the **Huruma sub-county district hospital**, and the **Kitale county referral hospital**, the peer navigators:

- **educate** SCY about HIV prevention, testing and treatment
- conduct **outreach** to SCY living with HIV who are out-of-care
- make health and social services **referrals**
- **accompany** SIY to appointments with health and social services

Peer Navigator Program Impact

- **4 peer navigators** hired and trained
- **622 SCY** enrolled in the program (42% women)
- Over **3,000 encounters** completed with SCY and **94% participant retention**
- **470 SCY tested for HIV** (including 78% of SCY who had never been tested for HIV)
- **7 SCY newly-diagnosed with HIV** and linked to HIV care
- 72% of SCY living with HIV self-reporting **viral suppression**

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