# Supplementary File 1: Description of variables

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| **Variable name** | **Description** | **Coding** |
| site | Site (alphabetical order) | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1 | Agincourt | | 3 | Karonga | | 4 | Kisesa | | 5 | Kisumu | | 6 | Manicaland | | 7 | Masaka | | 8 | Rakai | | 9 | uMkhanyakude | |
| study\_name | Site (ALPHA order) | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1 | Karonga | | 2 | Kisesa | | 3 | Manicaland | | 4 | Masaka | | 5 | Rakai | | 6 | uMkhanyakude | | 7 | Agincourt | | 8 | Kisumu | |
| idno | Pooled ALPHA individual identifier |  |
| sex | Sex | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1 | Men | | 2 | Women | |
| dob | Date of birth |  |
| region | Eastern or Southern African site | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1 | Eastern | | 2 | Southern | |
| last\_neg\_date | Date of last negative HIV test |  |
| frst\_pos\_date | Date of first positive HIV test |  |
| exit | Date of exit from study |  |
| entry | Date of entry into study |  |
| failure | Whether died at the end of this time segment (binary) |  |
| \_st | Stata system variable used for survival analysis |  |
| \_t0 | Stata system variable: analysis time when record begins |  |
| \_t | Stata system variable: analysis time when record ends |  |
| \_d | Stata system variable:1 if failure; 0 if censored |  |
| years\_one | Calendar year |  |
| fiveyear | 5-calendar year group | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1 | 1989-1994 | | 2 | 1995-1999 | | 3 | 2000-2004 | | 4 | 2005-2009 | | 5 | 2010-2014 | | 6 | 2015-2019 | |
| age | Single year |  |
| agegrp | Five year age group | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1 | 15-19 | | 2 | 20-24 | | 3 | 25-29 | | 4 | 30-34 | | 5 | 35-39 | | 6 | 40-44 | | 7 | 45-49 | | 8 | 50-54 | | 9 | 55-59 | | 10 | 60+ | |
| timepostneg | Negative test expiry date in years |  |
| hivstatus\_detail | HIV status in this time segment | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1 | Negative | | 2 | Positive | | 3 | Pre positive (1st test +ive) | | 4 | Post Negative < years | | 5 | Unknown, never tested | | 6 | Before first negative test | | 7 | Seroconv interval | | 8 | Post negative after years | |
| hivstatus\_broad | HIV status in this time segment, grouped | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1 | Negative | | 2 | Positive | | 3 | Unknown | |
| allinfo\_treat\_pyramid | HIV, diagnosis and treatment status in this time segment | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 0 | No HIV status | | 1 | HIV negative | | 2 | HIV+ no further information | | 3 | HIV+ not diagnosed | | 4 | HIV+ diagnosed | | 5 | HIV+ attended services | | 6 | HIV+ on ART <6m | | 7 | HIV+ on ART 6m+ | | 8 | HIV+ on ART w gaps | |
| hivtreat | Treatment status, distinguishes stable and interrupted ART | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 0 | No more info | | 1 | HIV negative | | 2 | Never treated | | 3 | Early ART | | 4 | Stable ART | | 5 | Interrupted ART | |
| hivevertreat | Treatment status, ART naive or exposed | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 0 | No more info | | 1 | HIV negative | | 2 | Never treated | | 3 | Had ART | |
| preg\_at\_art\_start | Whether gave birth within 6 months of ART initiation. (binary) |  |
| hiv\_update\_flag | Whether HIV status from research tests has been updated based on clinic data | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 0 | No change from study test | | 1 | Updated from clinic data | | 2 | Updated from SR | |
| art\_available | ART available in study area (binary) |  |
| art\_avail\_cat | Availability of ART in the study area in this time segment | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 0 | None | | 1 | Available | | 2 | Fully available | |