

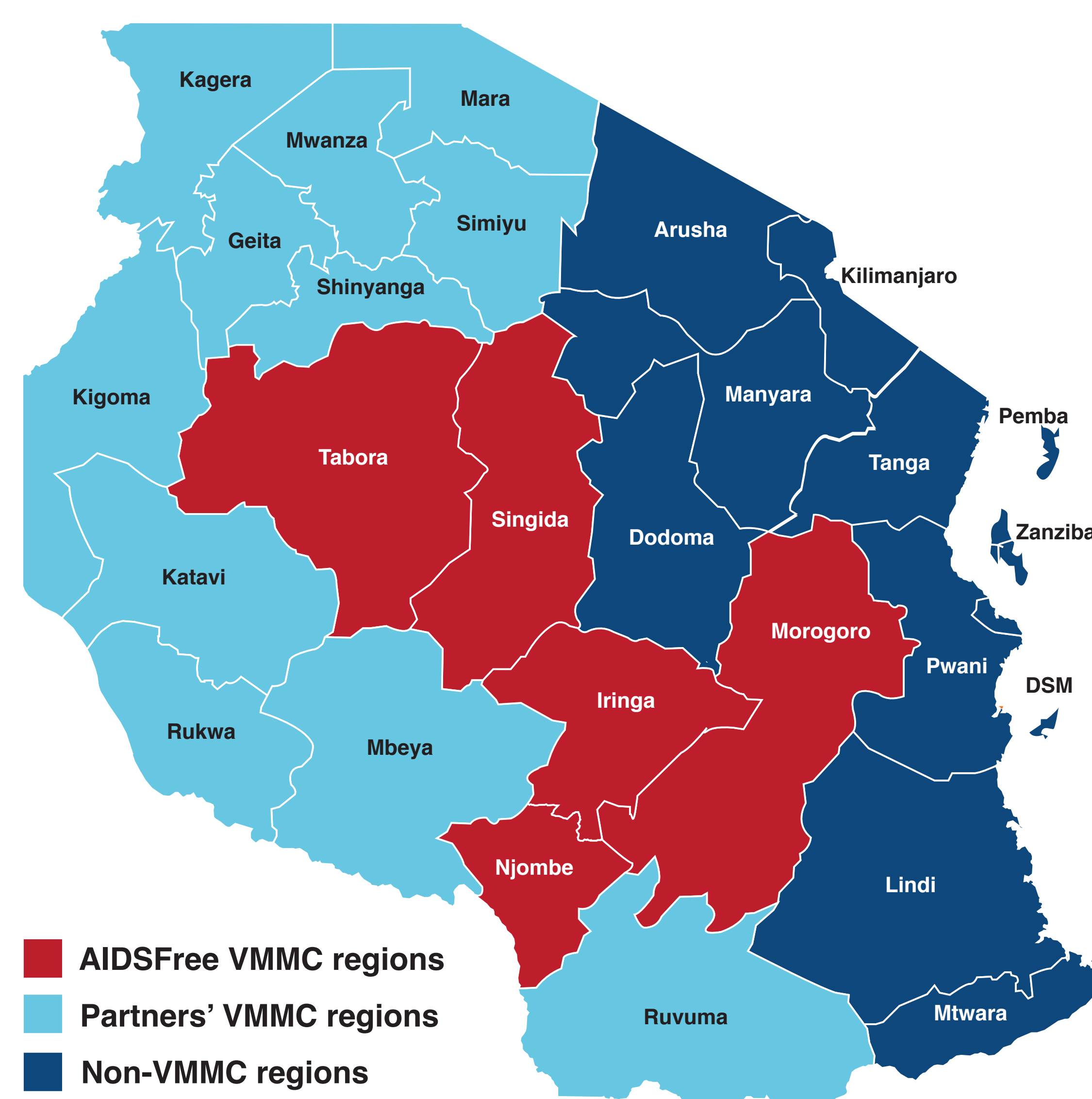
Proportion of Early Infant Male Circumcisions (EIMCs) Performed Compared to Male Deliveries in Eight Pilot Sites in Iringa, Tanzania

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Background

- Prevalence of male circumcisions in regions supported by AIDSFree project in Tanzania has surpassed 80%.
- AIDSFree project is being implemented in Iringa, Njombe, and Tabora Regions.
 - In 2013, the project initiated early infant male circumcision (EIMC) services as a pilot in the Iringa Region.
 - Now, EIMC services are offered in Njombe and Tabora Regions.
 - In fiscal year 2017, EIMC services expanded to Morogoro and Singida Regions.
- The initial EIMC pilot started in four health facilities, then expanded to include eight health facilities.
 - Of these facilities, five are hospitals, two are health centers, and one is a dispensary.
 - All provide labor and delivery services.
- Lessons learned from the pilot are informing the scale-up of EIMC services in other regions of the country.

Map of AIDSFree-Supported Regions in Tanzania



Objective of Study in Iringa Region

- Is AIDSFree Tanzania missing an opportunity to reach more infants through EIMC in the first few days after birth?

EIMC

- Circumcisions are performed on male infants aged 24 hours to 60 days by trained providers (clinicians and nurses working in antenatal clinic, labor room, and postnatal ward).
- EIMC is integrated into reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health services.
- Demand creation for EIMC services occurs in antenatal and postnatal care clinics.

Methods

- We conducted a retrospective review of EIMC data and facility-based infant delivery statistics for males.
- For the eight pilot EIMC sites, we analyzed the following data collected from January to December 2016:
 - Average number of male circumcisions (MC)
 - Average number of MCs performed in each facility over the same period
 - Age distribution of infants during circumcision
 - Geographic location of facility in which child was delivered

Results

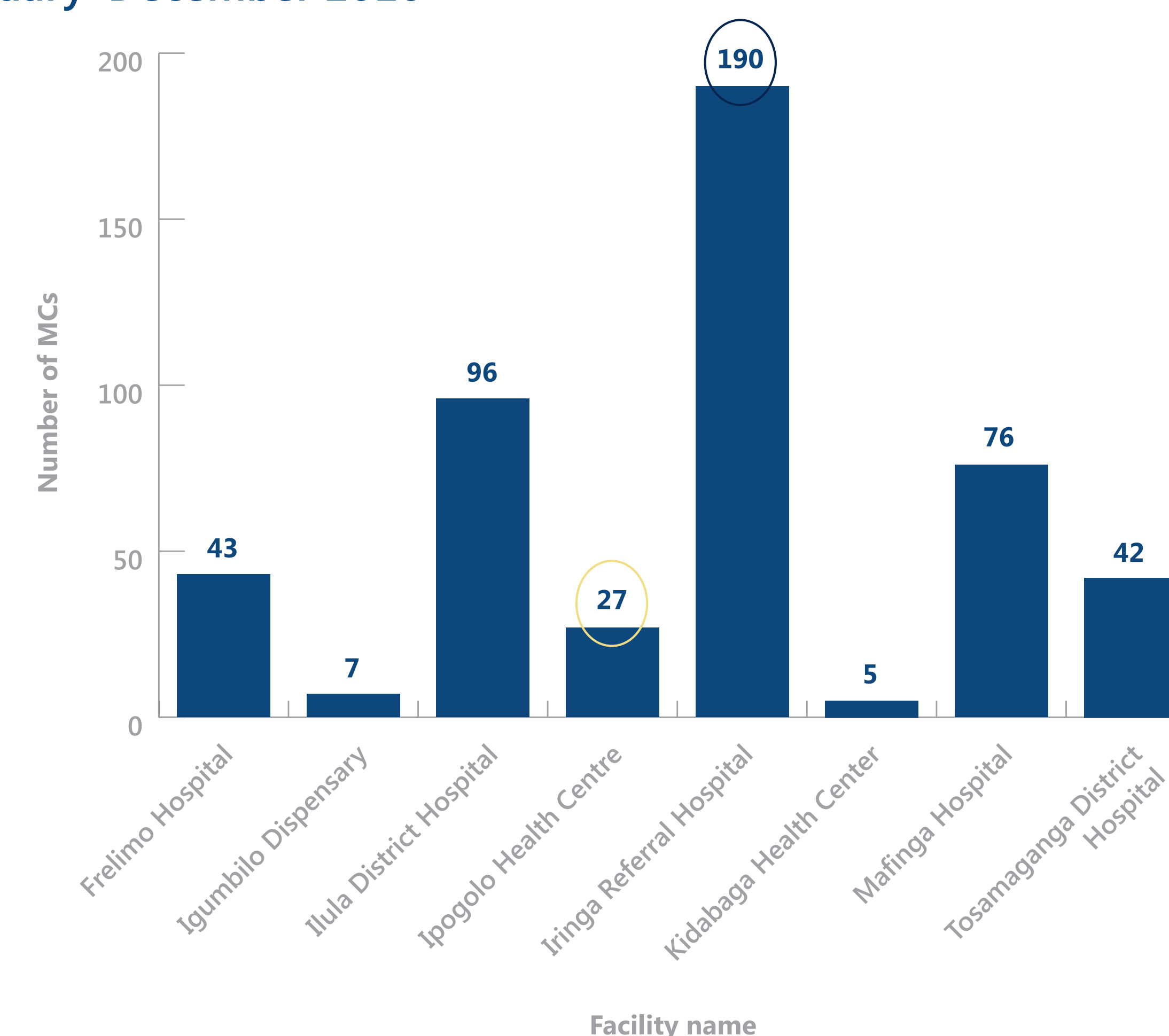
- MC rates did not differ significantly by a health facility's geographic location (see Table 1).
- Iringa Regional Hospital had an average of 190 males delivered per month, but it had an average of performing only nine MCs per month in male infants (see Figure 1).
- Ipogolo Health Center had an average of 27 males delivered per month, and it performed an average of 29 MCs per month in male infants (see Figure 2).
 - The two extra MCs were probably performed in male infants delivered in other facilities or at home.
- Only 23% of the male infants were circumcised within the first 7 days after birth (see Figure 3).
- Just over one-half of the male infants in this study were circumcised at the facility in which they were delivered (see Figure 4).

Table 1. Number of MCs in infants by facility, January–December 2016

Facility name	Geographical location	Number of MCs	Proportion of MCs
Frelimo Hospital	Urban	128	10.0%
Igumbilo Dispensary	Urban	101	7.9%
Ilula District Hospital	Semiurban	232	18.1%
Ipogolo Health Centre	Urban	344	26.8%
Iringa Referral Hospital	Urban	105	8.2%
Kidabaga Heath Centre	Rural	95	7.4%
Mafinga Hospital	Urban	151	11.8%
Tosamaganga District Hospital	Urban	126	9.8%
Total		1,282	100%

Note: male circumcision (MC)

Figure 1. Average number of MCs performed in infants per month, January–December 2016



Note: male circumcision (MC)

Figure 2. Average number of male deliveries per month, January–December 2016

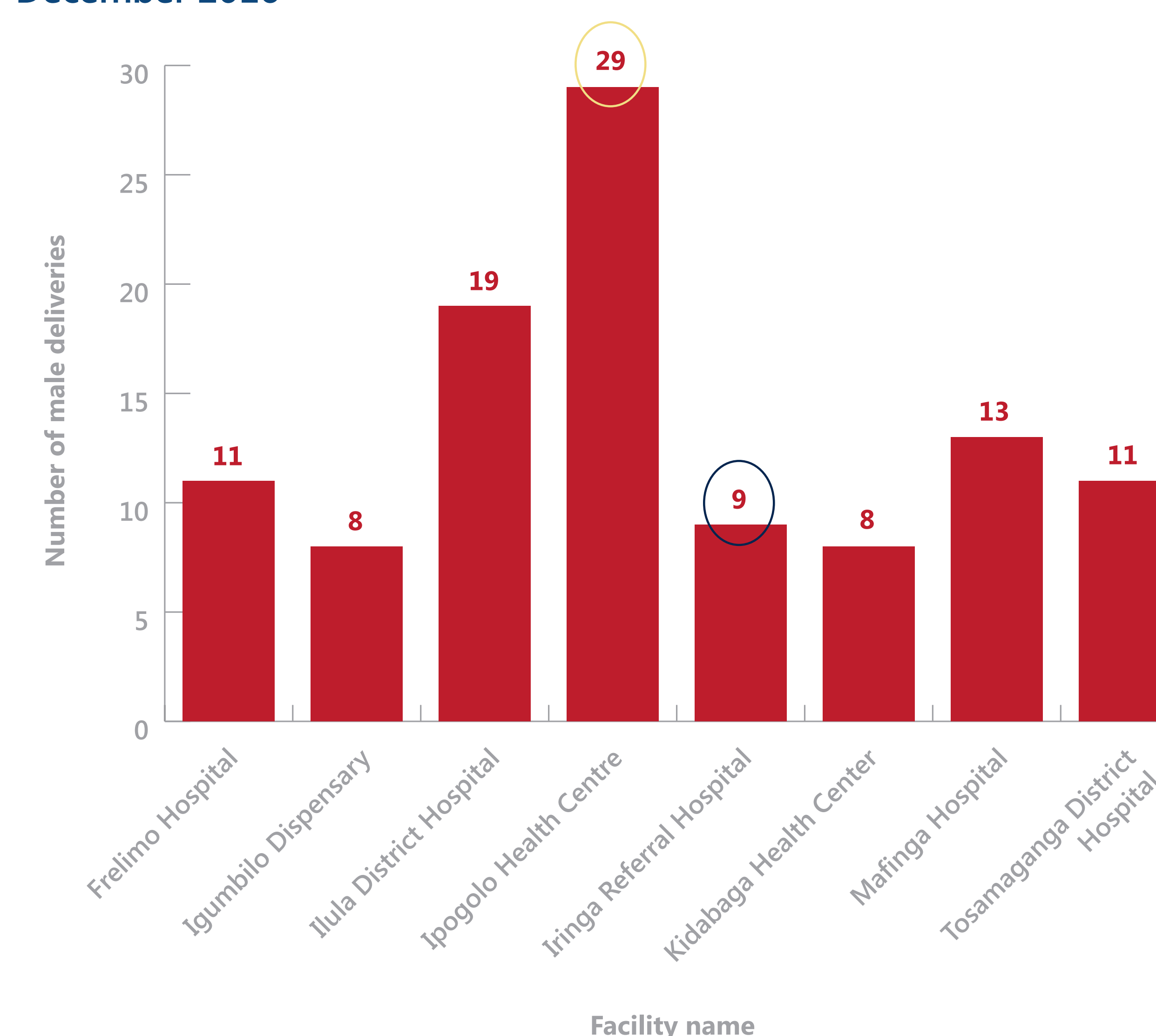
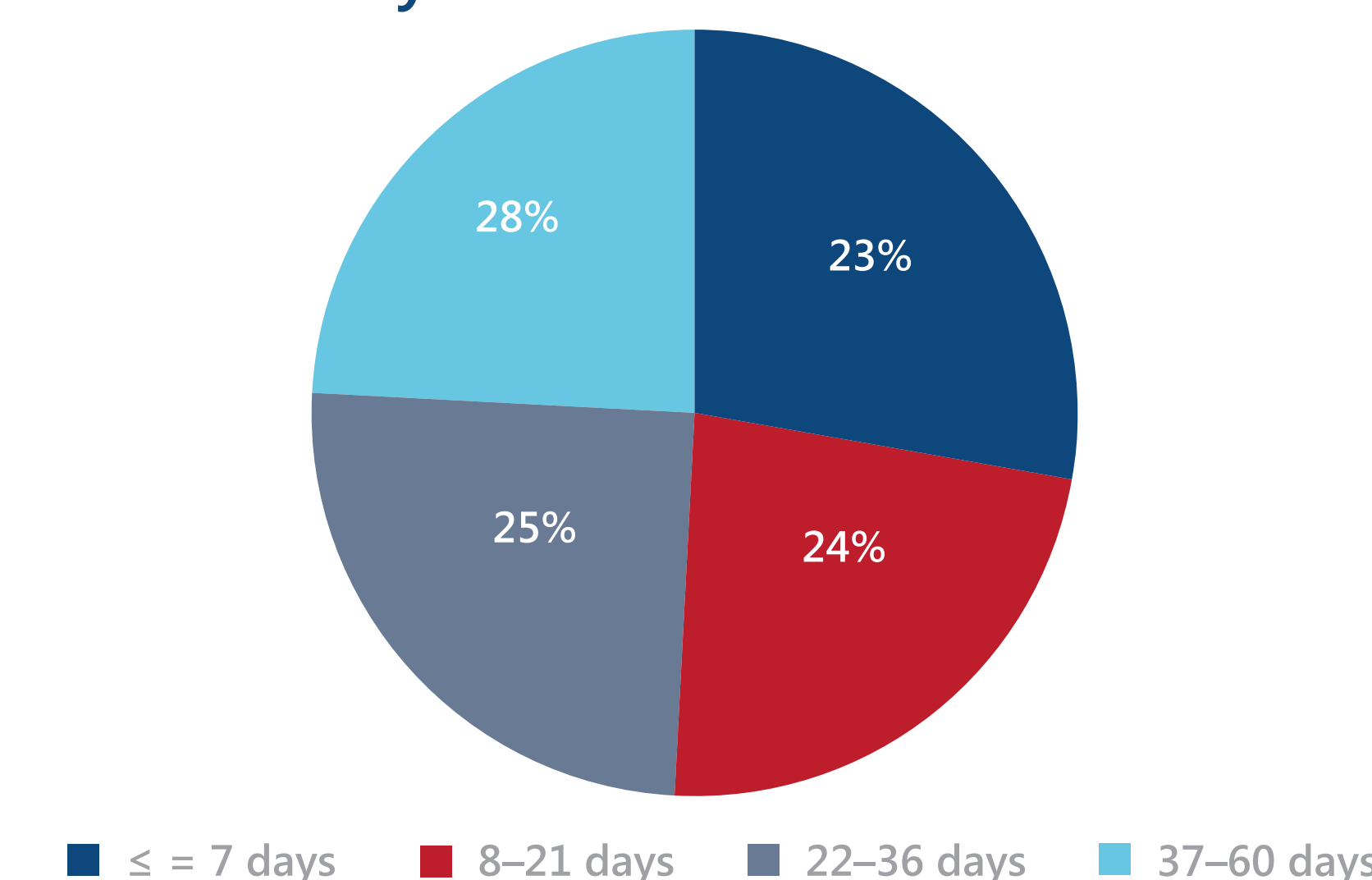
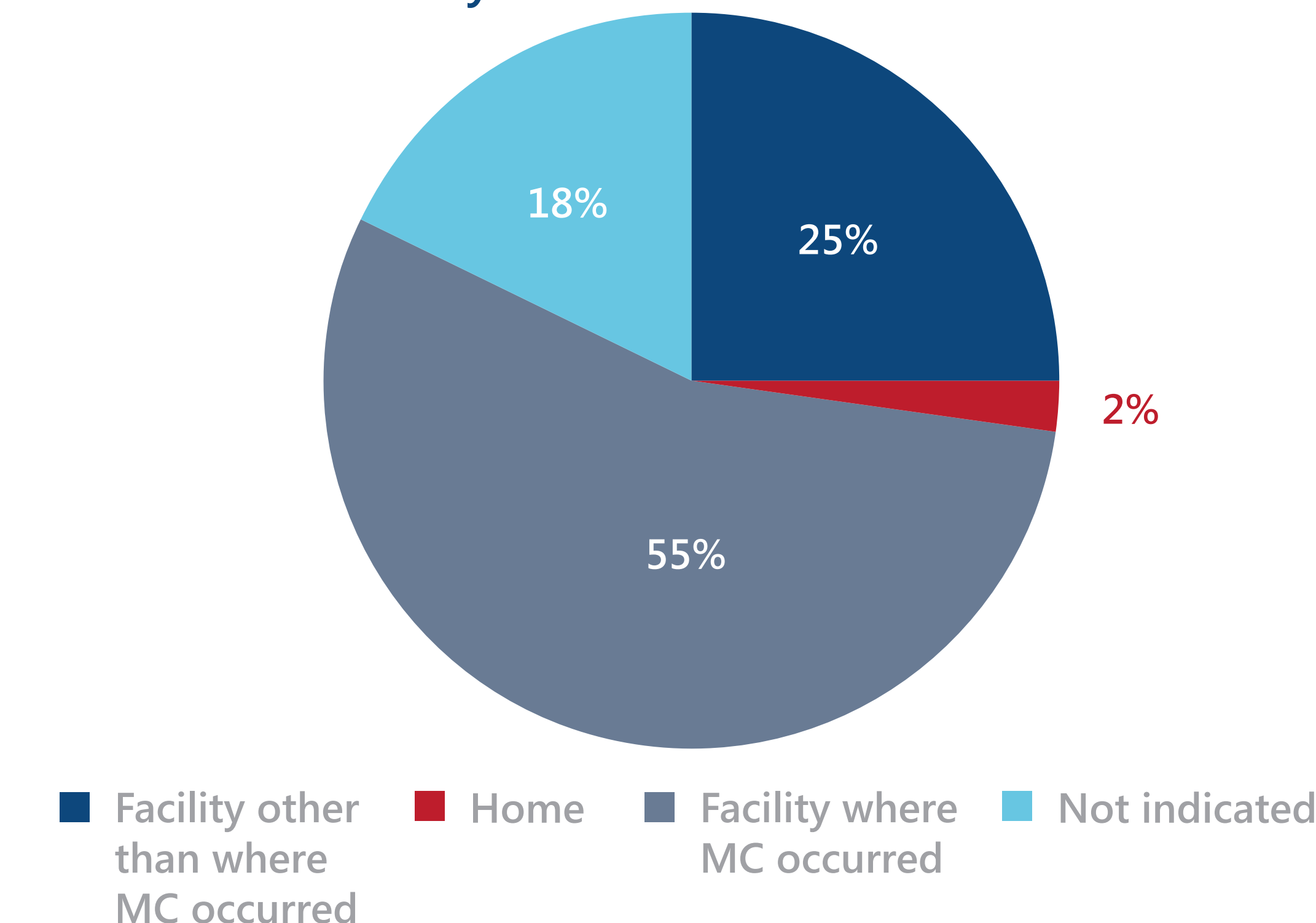


Figure 3. Number of days old at circumcision



Note: male circumcision (MC)

Figure 4. Place of delivery



Note: male circumcision (MC)

Conclusion

- There is a potential to increase uptake of EIMC in Iringa, especially in sites with a high volume of male births.
- This analysis shows the need to improve demand creation efforts for EIMC services during antenatal and immediate postnatal care.
- Geographic location or the care level of the facility in which the male was delivered may not affect the number of MCs performed.
- There is a potential to reach more infants delivered in these facilities within the first week of birth.
- EIMC services may represent a pathway to access health services for male infants delivered at home.



Parents receive education about EIMC services through the continuum of antenatal to postnatal care, thereby allowing them to make informed decisions for their sons. Photo by Alice Christensen and Hawa Mziray.