HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections among Women Presenting at Urban Primary Health Care Clinics in Two Cities of sub-Saharan Africa

Elizabeth Mukuze Mbizvo1,2,3*, Sia Msuya1,2,5, Akhtar Hussain1,2, Mike Chirenje3, Michael Mbizvo4, Noel Sam5 and Babill Stray-Pedersen2

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, The National Hospital, University of Oslo N - 0027 Oslo, Norway1; Institute of General Practice and Community Medicine, Department of International Health, University of Oslo, Postbox 1130, Blindern 0317, Oslo, Norway2; Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Zimbabwe, P. O. Box A-178, Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe3; Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization, CH 1211 Geneva - 27, Switzerland4; Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, P. O. Box 3010, Mosh, Tanzania5

*For Correspondence: E-mail: elizabethmbizvo@hotmail.com and Phone: 41 22 791 0253

Abstract

In a cross-sectional study, 786 consenting women from two cities in Africa, Harare and Moshi, attending primary health care clinics were interviewed, examined and tested for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The aim of the study was to assess and compare differences in the characteristics that may affect the prevalence of HIV/STIs among women in the two cities. Multivariate analysis was used to generate odds ratio. STIs and behaviour characteristics among this low risk group of women could not fully explain the higher HIV prevalence in Zimbabwe, 29.3% compared to 11.5% in Tanzania (p < 0.01). Interventions should target identified risk factors with particular attention to youths. (Afr J Reprod Health 2005; 9[1]: 88-98)

Keywords: HIV/AIDS, STI, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, women

References