



HIV prevalence among children under 15 years of age in Zimbabwe

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Outline

- **Background**
- **Study of HIV among children in Zimbabwe**
- **HIV prevalence among 2-11 year olds**
- **HIV prevalence among 12-14 year olds**
- **Conclusions**

Background

- **The national HIV prevalence rate in Zimbabwe in 2005 was estimated at 18.1% (UNAIDS, 2007). [The estimate a year earlier was 20.1 [13.3 – 27.6%] (UNAIDS, 2006).]**
- **At the end of 2006 the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe in 2006 was estimated at 1 700 000 [1 100 000 – 2 200 000]**
 - **Of these some 160 000 [54 000 – 340 000] were children aged 0 to 14 years.**
- **Unlike in Botswana, South Africa and Swaziland, no national household HIV prevalence survey in Zimbabwe has included children younger than 15 years of age.**

Background (contd)

- **A team of researchers undertook such a study in Zimbabwe in 2005.**
- **The team included the following:**
 - **Prof Exnervia Gomo (UZ, now at UM),**
 - **Prof Simba Rusakaniko (UZ),**
 - **Mr Wilson Mashange (Biomedical Research and Training Institute),**
 - **Ms Junior Mutsvangwa (Biomedical Research and Training Institute),**
 - **Mr Brian Chandiwana (Biomedical Research and Training Institute), and**
 - **Ms Shungu Munyati (National Institute of Health Research (formerly the Blair Research Institute)).**

Background (contd)

- The study was part of a 5-year multi-country and multi-site project undertaken by SAHARA which was known as The W.K. Kellogg Foundation's (WKKF) OVC Care Interventions Project.
- The study involved, among other things, undertaking a household (population-based) HIV prevalence and behavioural risks survey in one district each in South Africa and Zimbabwe as well as in two districts in Botswana.

Study of HIV among children in Zimbabwe

- The study was conducted in 13 randomly selected of the 23 wards of the Chimanimani District in the Manicaland Province in the Eastern Highlands
- Every ninth household in each ward was selected and up to four people were randomly selected from each household.
- The sample consisted of 2394 individuals of whom 1350 were children.
- The following response rates were obtained:
 - 78.4% (n = 732) out of 934 children aged 2-11 years
 - 69.8% (n = 618) out of 885 children aged 12-14 years

Study of HIV among children in Zimbabwe (contd)

- **Participants including parents/guardians of children aged 2-11 years of age as proxies were interviewed on behavioural risks.**
- **All participants provided dry blood spots for HIV testing.**
- **The presentation will cover the HIV prevalence results from children aged 2 - 14 years of age by sex, age group and locality type.**

HIV prevalence among 2-11 year olds by sex (n = 689).

Demographic characteristics	n	HIV-positive (%)	95% CIs
Overall	689	3.3	2.1-5.0
Sex			
Male	340	2.4	1.0-4.6
Female	349	4.3	2.4-7.2

HIV prevalence among 2-11 year olds by age and locality type (n = 689).

Demographic characteristics	n	HIV-positive (%)	95% Cis
Age group			
2- 5 years	330	2.7	1.3-5.1
6-8 years	189	5.8	2.9-10.2
9-11 years	179	1.3	0.4-5.1
Sector			
Communal	326	2.8	1.3-5.2
Resettlement	166	2.4	0.7-6.4
Large-scale commercial	103	3.9	1.1-9.6
Small-scale commercial	31	3.2	0.08-9.64
Urban	63	7.9	2.6-17.6

HIV prevalence among 12-14 year olds by sex (n = 601).

Demographic characteristics	n	HIV-positive (%)	95% CIs
Overall	601	3.0	1.8-4.7
Sex			
Male	306	2.0	0.7-4.2
Female	295	4.1	2.1-7.0

HIV prevalence among 12-14 year olds by age and locality type (n = 601).

Demographic characteristics	n	HIV-positive (%)	95% CIs
Age group			
12 years	229	3.9	1.8-7.3
13 years	177	3.4	1.3-7.2
14 years	195	1.5	0.3-4.4
Sector			
Communal	311	2.9	1.3-5.4
Resettlement	149	1.3	0.2-4.8
Large-scale commercial	49	2	0.1-10.9
Small-scale commercial	33	0	0-12
Urban	59	10.2	3.8-20.8

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Conclusions

- This study provided some empirical evidence of the existence of a sub-epidemic among children below the age of 15 years of age in one district in Zimbabwe.
- Whilst it is possible that some of the HIV infection was transmitted vertically from mother to child amongst some of the younger children, the prevalence rate among older children suggests either the fact that children living with HIV/AIDS live much longer than was previously thought or there is a possibility that there might be other possible routes of transmission.
- These findings suggest the need for further investigation to determine the routes of HIV transmission involved with a view to prevent any further infection of children.

Reference

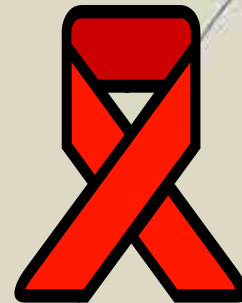
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