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Effectiveness of three intervention models for scaling up circumcision among general population in western China with high HIV prevalenceJunjun Jiang, Hao Liang, Li Ye, Bo Zhou, Chuanyi Ning, Jiegang Huang and Bingyu Liang
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Male circumcision (MC) has been recognized as an effective strategy to reduce sexual transmission of HIV; however, no studies to be explored intervention models for promoting MC to prevent HIV transmission among general population in China. A cohort study was conducted among general population in three western Chinese provinces. A total of 1640 male subjects were randomly allocated to three groups to receive three intervention models (A, B, C), in which the dissemination of promotional materials and expert and volunteer led discussions were conducted in three, two and one stage interventions, respectively. Changes in knowledge of MC, willingness to accept MC, uptake of MC surgery, the cost per acceptance and HIV/STD infection rate was analyzed at 9-months follow-up visits. For all intervention models, knowledge about MC has increased substantially after intervention ($P < 0.05$). In model A, B and C, the changes of willingness to accept MC were 7.9%, 16.1%, and 6.2% after intervention, respectively ($P < 0.05$). The surgery rate was higher (23.7%) among those who received model A intervention and another model was 17.1% (A) and 9.4% (C). Multivariable Cox regression analysis identified that model A or model B about twice as effective as model C, as comparing model A or model B to model C, $RR = 2.397$ (95% CI, 1.498-3.833) and 2.194 (95% CI, 1.344-3.581), respectively. Our results show that model B (a two-stage intervention model) worked best in improving the willingness to accept MC, while model A (a three-stage intervention model) was the most effective intervention to scale up MC among the three models.

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Socio-cultural construction of HIV/AIDS stigma among African migrant women in lower Saxony, GermanyJoyceline Ntoh Yuh
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An estimate of 80,000 people are living with HIV in Germany with 4,400 sero-positive persons in the State of Lower Saxony which counts amongst the high HIV prevalence states in Germany. Yet, many sexually active people do not know their HIV status. In so doing, HIV-related stigma stands a major barrier in seeking VCT especially within the African communities. Gender and culture play a significant part in the aftermath of the infection. Women are more likely to be blamed for the transmission of HIV compared to men. All these complicate the disclosure of infection and prevention of HIV transmission. HIV prevention efforts are slowed down by societal and cultural factors that largely lead to stigmatization of infected individuals. The current research therefore examines the socio-cultural constructions of HIV stigma and dilemmas as African-migrant Women struggle to cope with the challenges posed by HIV/AIDS in their day to day lives. The social context of HIV-related stigma is reflected in negative behaviors including discrimination, denial, secrecy and self-blame. Most HIV infections are through heterosexual transmission, a mode of transmission closely linked to promiscuity and the resultant HIV-related stigma. The complexity surrounding HIV-related stigma cannot be ignored considering the fact that, it is layered amongst other stigmas such as gender and promiscuity. Intersectionality is an ideal framework for analyzing complex health inequalities that occurs among HIV-infected subgroups especially African Women whose experiences are different from their male counterparts. Multiple factors often precipitate stigmatization experiences and their social identities at the individual level such as being female, ethnic minority, low economic status which interlocks with oppressive forces at the macro level e.g., classism or sexism which creates social injustice. It is vital to examine the underlying aspects creating and re-enforcing HIV-related stigma in order to design culturally sensitive intervention. Thus, redefining HIV/AIDS from the social perspective which created stigma in order to eradicate it is the main concern.

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