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## Gender and HIV testing service uptake: Trend in Northern Nigeria

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HIV counseling and testing remains a fundamental entry point of care in limiting transmission of HIV/AIDS. Community outreaches serves the dual function of improving access to service and outcome of care through early linkages and subsequent initiation of Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART). Gender and socio-cultural factors affects uptake of screening services and ultimately early treatment. This study therefore assessed gender-related HIV counseling and testing uptake and linkage to care among those who were tested. A review of data from 423 community outreaches conducted during August 2012 to July 2015 by AHF Nigeria in which information on socio-demographic characteristics, HIV counseling and testing and time to accessing care was obtained. Means and proportions were used to document the results. With a monthly mean of 2650 [male 68.8%, female 38%] clients counseled, tested and received results, 2.6% (SD 0.7) were positive; male 33.5% (SD 10), female 60.8% (SD 9). An average of 64% of positive clients were linked to care; male 40% (SD 10), female 60% (SD 10). Male predominance in testing uptake with more female positive results and early linkage to care forms a persisting trend. HIV testing activities aimed at increasing female participation by addressing social and cultural barriers limiting their participation through advocacy and community dialogue approaches would increase case detection and early linkages to care and help reduce gaps in prevention and treatment in HIV.

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## Adherence to anti-retroviral post exposure prophylaxis following needle stick injury among health care workers in Umuahia-Urban Abia State, Nigeria

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This study assessed health care workers' adherence to anti-retroviral post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) following needle stick injury. The health care workers studied were Doctors, Nurses and Medical Laboratory Scientists working in health facilities in Umuahia-Urban, Abia State of Nigeria. Descriptive survey design was employed for the study while multi-stage sampling technique was used to draw a sample size of 214 from target population of 740. Instrument for data collection was structured, self-administered questionnaire. Data were analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Hypotheses were tested using Chi-Square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistical test with level of significance set at 0.05. Results of the study revealed that most (90.7%) of the health workers made use of needle stick and other sharp instruments often in the course of performing their professional duties. However, the rate of needle stick injury (NSI) was low for majority (62.6%) of the respondents. Only 55.1% of them who had NSI reported the incidence, but majority (79.4%) accessed anti-retroviral drug and used it for the recommended period of time. Only 30.8% of respondents who had NSI underwent the prescribed post-exposure screening. The study concluded that adherence to anti-retroviral PEP by these health care workers was below expectation, which has implication for increased risk of HIV infection. The researchers recommended that programs to promote adherence to NSI PEP among health workers be instituted without delay by government and non-governmental organizations.

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