

HIV Prevalence and Risk Behaviors Remain Stable Among Men at Harare Beerhalls



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BACKGROUND

Introduction

- HIV/AIDS epidemic in Zimbabwe in 2003
 - 1.8 million persons living with HIV
 - 170,000 deaths due to AIDS
 - 980,000 orphaned children
- 25% HIV prevalence among women at urban antenatal clinics
 - major urban areas: 30% (1995-2002)
 - Harare, Bulawayo, Chitungwiza
 - rural areas: 20% (1997-2002)
 - communal lands, small-scale commercial farms
 - other areas: 35% (1997-2002)
 - large-scale commercial farms, administrative centers, mines
- Emerging data from Sub-Saharan Africa point to a decline in HIV prevalence in Uganda, Zambia and preliminarily in Zimbabwe.
 - estimates are based on antenatal clinic attendees
 - do not directly measure HIV prevalence in men
- Establishment of sentinel sites to assess HIV prevalence in men
 - important since male sexual risk behaviors drive the epidemic

Objectives

- To assess HIV prevalence in male beerhall patrons in Harare.
- To examine sexual risk behavior of male beerhall patrons in Harare.

METHODS

Study Design

- Randomized, time-location surveys
 - Venue-Day-Time (VDT) surveys
 - Follows CDC national behavioral surveillance protocol
- Subjects
 - Representative sample of male beerhall attendees
 - Forty-three beerhalls in Harare, Zimbabwe
 - Total Number of Men
 - 2000: N = 324
 - 2002: N = 1,313
 - 2004: N = 1,236
- Key Outcome Variables
 - HIV prevalence
 - Unprotected sexual intercourse
 - Type of sexual partnerships
 - Alcohol use and sexual risk behavior

METHODS

Data Analysis

- Data on sexual risk behaviors in the preceding six months
- Analysis of the trend in HIV prevalence across the three surveys used the Cochran-Armitage test.
- Change in risk behaviors between the 2002 and 2004 surveys was assessed using the chi-square test.

RESULTS

HIV Prevalence

- HIV Prevalence
 - remained stable from 2000 to 2004 (P=0.92)
 - 30% in 2000
 - 28% in 2002
 - 29% in 2004
- Characteristics associated with HIV infection
 - older age (P < 0.001): 2000, 2002, 2004
 - self-report of penile sores or ulcers (P<0.01): 2000, 2002, 2004
 - meeting a sex partner at a beerhall (P < 0.04): 2000, 2002
 - unprotected sex with any non-wife, casual or anonymous partner (P = 0.03): 2002
 - sex with a non-wife partner while drunk (P < 0.05): 2000, 2004

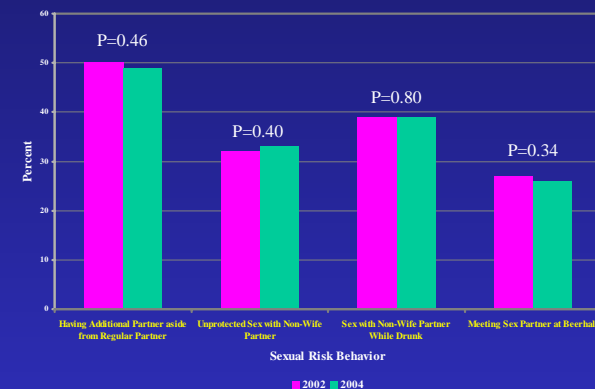
Figure 1: HIV Prevalence within each age category by survey year



RESULTS

Sexual Risk Behavior

Figure 2: Change in sexual risk behaviors from 2002 to 2004 surveys



CONCLUSIONS

HIV prevalence among men in Harare has remained stable across the 2000, 2002 and 2004.

- Observation corroborated by the lack of change in sexual risk behaviors from 2002 to 2004 surveys
- The apparent leveling off in the epidemic is hopeful
- Data suggests the epidemic may be shifting to the older age groups

Beerhalls may serve as sentinel sites for monitoring the HIV epidemic among men.

- Regarded as valued social institutions in Zimbabwe
- Well-attended by a broad section of Zimbabwean male society

HIV prevalence remains high and underscores the urgent need for continued risk reduction efforts.