Intimate Partner Violence against HIV positive men receiving ART services: A case study of TASO and KCCC clinics in Central Kampala

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ABSTRACT:

Background: Domestic violence is a global problem. It poses several health risks to those involved. Since the beginning of the epidemic, HIV has claimed about 34 million lives and infected almost 71 million people. Intimate partner violence against men has largely been left unexplored and study in this area is limited. Levels of Intimate Partner Violence against men both locally and globally are significant and according to the WHO people's access to HIV services, including prevention, treatment and care, are limited by gender-related barriers.

Overall Objective: To understand the occurrence of Intimate Partner Violence perpetrated against HIV positive men.

Approach: The study was cross-sectional in nature and used mixed-methods. The The study population was those HIV infected adults receiving ART services at TASO and KCCC clinic in Central Kampala and thus a facility-based approach was utilized. The quantitative sample size was 100 and the qualitative sample size was 4. A semi-structured questionnaire (which included the Severity of Violence Against Men Scales), in-depth interview guide were used. Microsoft Excel, Thematic content analysis were used to analyse the data.

Results: The prevalence of men exposed to any form of IPV at both facilities is 64%. This figure encompasses frequencies of violence ranging from never to almost every day. Of this 64% the number of men in mutually violent relationships was 71%. These trends show that as the aggressiveness of the different forms of violence increases, the frequencies reduce and that the most common forms of violence were threats of mild violence and psychological aggression followed by sexual aggression. The second objective could not be completely met because of data limitations however from the qualitative data, the risk factors identified included HIV Status, discordant couple and women empowerment. 4% of the respondents did not adhere to their ARVs due to their intimate partners. Thus Intimate Partners play a vital role in drug adherence.

Conclusion: The prevalence of men who had been exposed any form of IPV is high and HIV is a disease driven by the socio-cultural ideologies of societies. The treatment and prevention of the virus needs to centred around these factors which include gender in an increasingly modern and globalised context.

KEY WORDS: AIDS, HIV, Intimate Partner violence, Violence against men