Concurrent advanced HIV disease and viral load suppression in a high-burden setting: Findings from the 2015–6 ZIMPHIA survey

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July 2020
Acronyms and explanation of percentages

- ART: antiretroviral therapy
- VLS: viral load suppression
- AD: advanced disease
- WHO: World Health Organization
- PLHIV: people living with HIV

- Please note that all percentages reflect sample weighting, rather than the raw sample numbers.
Primary Objectives

• To estimate national-level annual HIV incidence among adults aged 15 to 64 years.
• To estimate provincial-level prevalence of VLS among HIV-positive persons aged 15 to 64 years.

Secondary Objectives

• Assess CD4+ T-cell (CD4) count distribution, presence of ARVs, and transmitted drug resistance among people living with HIV aged 0 to 64 years.
• Describe the socioeconomic and behavioral risk factors associated with HIV infection.
Advanced HIV disease

For adults, adolescents, and children ≥ five years, advanced HIV disease is defined as a CD4 cell count <200 cells/mm3 or a WHO clinical stage 3 or 4 event at presentation for care.
Annual incidence of HIV among persons aged 15 to 64 years in Zimbabwe was 0.47%.
- 0.33% among males and 0.60% among females.
- Approximately 33,000 new cases of HIV annually among persons aged 15 to 64 years.

Prevalence of HIV among persons aged 15 to 64 years in Zimbabwe was 14.1%.
- 12.0% among males and 16.0% among females.
- Approximately 1.2 million persons aged 15 to 64 years living with HIV.

Prevalence of VLS among HIV-positive persons aged 15 to 64 years in Zimbabwe regardless of ART status was 59.6%.
- 53.6% for males and 63.7% for females.
PLHIV with CD4 and VL results • 3,466

PLHIV with AD • 542

PLHIV with AD + VLS • 167
Data visualization (1): Advanced disease and gender

% PLHIV with AD

PLHIV, n= 3,466

- AD, 17%
- Non-AD, 83%

AD: Gender breakdown

Advanced Disease, n= 542:

- men 60%
- women 40%
Characteristics of PLHIV with advanced disease: crude (cOR) and adjusted (aOR) odds ratios

Bivariate Analysis, n = 542

• Gender (ref: female)
  • Male cOR 2.61 [2.07–3.29]

• ART duration (ref: >2 yrs)
  • <6mos cOR 1.87 [1.50–2.34]
  • 6-24mos cOR 1.38 [1.01–1.87]

• VL status (ref: <1000/mL)
  • Viremia cOR 4.45 [3.49–5.67]

Multivariable Regression (sex, age, VLS, ART duration, CD4 history, religion), n = 542

• Gender
  • Male aOR 2.26 [1.73–2.94]

• ART duration
  • <6mos aOR 0.54 [0.34–0.87]
  • 6-24mos aOR 1.47 [1.06–2.05]

• VL status
  • Viremia aOR 7.74 [5.41–11.09]

**30% of PLHIV with advanced disease were noted to have viral load suppression: weighted extrapolation = 62,000 individuals**
Data visualization (2): Advanced disease and viral suppression

% AD patients with VLS
Advanced Disease, n= 542:
- AD+VLS: 30%
- AD-VLS: 70%

% VLS patients with AD
Virally Suppressed, n= 2,189:
- VLS+AD: 9%
- VLS-AD: 91%
Characteristics of PLHIV with AD+VLS

- Multivariable analysis (sex, age, ART duration, religion)
  - Male aOR 2.45 [1.61–3.72]
  - Age 35-49 aOR 2.46 [1.03–5.91]
  - Age 50+ aOR 4.82 [2.02–11.46]
  - ART duration <6mos 0.46 [0.29–0.76]
  - ART duration 6-24mos 2.07 [1.35–3.17]
Conclusions

• As of 2015-16, a significant proportion (17%) of Zimbabwean PLHIV were suffering from AD
  • 35% of patients with AD self-report an ART duration of >2 years

• Through VL monitoring alone, 30.1% of AD patients may be missed for AD support, given their VLS
  • 8.7% of patients with VLS also have AD

• Without CD4 monitoring, potential for significant delays in appropriately differentiated care
  • Risk of inappropriate categorization as “stable”
Considerations for policy and practice

1. **CD4 monitoring**
   Particularly for high-risk sub-populations like men

2. **Strengthen clinical staging**

3. **Strengthen and accelerate Test/Treat**
   Particularly for high-risk sub-populations like men
   Poor baseline CD4 => poor immunologic recovery

4. **Differentiated Service Delivery to reduce morbidity/mortality**
   WHO AD package: Cryptococcal screening and prophylaxis, LF-LAM screening for TB, timely ART/CTX initiation, intensified adherence support, prioritization for TPT
Acknowledgements

• People living with and affected by HIV in Zimbabwe

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• ZIMPHIA Team: Ministry of Health and Child Care, PEPFAR, CDC, Nat’l AIDS Council, ZIMSTAT, BRTI, Lancet, Scharp, WESTAT, ICAP

Disclaimer:
The findings and conclusions in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the funding agencies or any organization represented.
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THANK YOU!!!!

- TATENDA
- THANK YOU
- SIYABONGA
- MERCI