

UPTAKE OF HIV RE-TESTING AMONG POSTPARTUM WOMEN WHO INITIALLY TESTED NEGATIVE DURING ANTENATAL VISIT IN UBUNGO DISTRICT, DAR ES SALAAM

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ABSTRACT

Background: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) remains a serious public health problem affecting all walks of life and women in the reproductive ages. Global response to the pandemic recommends HIV retesting during the third trimester, at labour and should be followed with a third test at six months postpartum. The uptake of HIV retesting among mothers is still low.

Aim: To determine the uptake of HIV re-testing among postpartum women after Initial HIV negative test result among mothers at ANC clinic in Ubungo district, Dar es salaam.

Method: A cross sectional analytical study was conducted among women who were delivered during the study period and met the criteria for inclusion. Study participants were selected through convenience sampling until the desired sample was attained. Data was collected through a standardized questionnaire, secondary data from Health Information System and ANC clinic card. Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 28 was used to analyze the data. Bivariate and multivariate logistic regression models were used to calculate the adjusted odds ratio (AOR) with their 95% confidence intervals (CI) to quantify the association.

Results: 426 women participated in the study. The overall HIV retesting rate was 324 (76.1%), 102(23.9%) did not re-test and 9(2.1%) were infected with HIV after the second test. Married women have higher re-testing rate (52.8%) than single, separated, and divorced. Women aged 25-34 had a significant higher (84.6%) proportion of retesting for HIV than those below 25 and those above 34 years of age ($p < 0.001$); Other significant predictors for HIV retesting were women who made at least five or more visits to ANC [AOR=2.121, 95% CI: 1.046-4.301] and those who knew the HIV status of their partner [AOR=2.035, 95% Q: 1.217 3.403].

Conclusion: The uptake of HIV retesting was higher but still has not reached the Tanzania national target of 95%. Efforts to sensitize communities to appreciate the importance of early booking at ANC, making more visits to ANC and retesting for HIV during labour, delivery and postpartum should be enhanced. Innovate motivational methods should be developed to complement existing strategies.