



HIV Stigma-associated Attitudes

Goal and Proposed Outcomes

In Ethiopia, in partnership with the University of Minnesota's Division of Epidemiology and Community Health, NASTAD Ethiopia set out to identify factors that enhance or limit patient adherence to antiretroviral treatment (ART) in rural communities. It was proposed that the findings could inform the design and successful implementation of Ethiopia's national and community-level interventions.

Strategy and Approach Used

A total of 561 adults were surveyed from 250 randomly selected households in the area in and around Arba Minch. Respondents were asked about positive or negative attitudes towards people living with HIV (PLWH), as well as their knowledge about HIV transmission and treatment.

Results

- 80% of respondents agreed with ≥ 1 negative statements indicating blame or shame towards people with HIV.
- 41% of respondents agreed with ≥ 1 negative statements associated with distancing themselves from people with HIV.
- 14% of respondents expressed negative responses about whether people with HIV should receive support from their communities.

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Summary of Outcomes and Impact

"In a rural Ethiopian setting in which rapid scale-up of HIV treatment occurred, many respondents still characterized HIV as associated with shame or blame, or indicated people living with HIV (PLWH) would be isolated or discriminated against. HIV stigma can hamper both prevention and treatment programs. We identified multiple issues which, if addressed, can help promote a more positive cycle in which PLWH are appreciated as members of one's own community... Stigma reduction programs should address knowledge gaps such as fears of casual contact contagion, and lack of awareness of medical interventions to help prevent HIV disease, as well as building upon community-based attitudes of the importance of supporting and showing compassion for PLWH."



Training Data Collectors, Ethiopia