

# Patterns of infant and child mortality in Kenya. A historical perspective

Mugazi, Z; Muchunga, EK

## Abstract:

**OBJECTIVES** To compare sociodemographic profiles, child care, child feeding practices and growth indices of children born to HIV-1 seropositive and seronegative mothers. **METHODS:** A cohort study of 234 children (seropositive and seronegative) born to HIV-1 seropositive mothers and 139 children born to seronegative mothers in Pumwani Maternity Hospital which serves a low-income population in Nairobi, Kenya from December 1991 and January 1994. **RESULTS:** With few exceptions, at the time of their birth children in all three cohorts had parents with similar characteristics, lived in similar housing in similar geographical areas, had their mothers as their primary care givers, had similar feeding practices and similar growth status and patterns. However, the HIV-1 seropositive mothers were slightly younger (23.8 years vs. 25.0 years,  $P < 0.01$ ), if married they were less likely to be their husband's first wife (79% vs. 91%