

HIV and Pregnancy Intention (HAPI) Study Dissemination event



The HIV and Pregnancy Intention (HAPI) study held a dissemination workshop at the Panafric Hotel in Nairobi on April 30, 2015. Among those attending this meeting were the Principal College of Health Sciences represented by Prof Muia Ndavi, Director University of Nairobi Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases Prof Walter Mwanda, Ministry of Health Head Division of Reproductive Health Dr Bartilol Kigen, members of the community advisory boards from Nyando, members of Kisumu county health teams, researchers from University of Nairobi (UON) and KEMRI, Principal Investigators, study co-investigators, study staff and other invited guests.

The HAPI study was funded by the US National Institutes of Health to the University of Nairobi (UON) in collaboration with the New York University (NYU). Under the leadership of Prof James Kiarie from UON and Prof Ann Kurth from NYU, this community based study aimed to determine how HIV testing influenced reproductive health decisions among couples in former Nyando District of Nyanza Province using Audio Computer Assisted Self Interview (ACASI). The study adopted a household based random spatial sampling approach to recruit couples and follow them prospectively for 2 years to document HIV incidence, pregnancy, sexual behavior, reproductive health decisions and mortality. We compared these outcomes between couples who were concordant positive, concordant negative and discordant.

During the dissemination meeting, participants were briefed on the outcomes of the study. The desire for more children was similar between HIV positive and HIV negative persons. It was also similar between HIV concordant negative, concordant positive and discordant couples. HIV incidence was still high in this community and the biggest risk for HIV infection was having a HIV positive partner. Polygamy and intimate partner violence were also high in this community. Mortality was higher among those who were HIV positive.

It was observed that since spatial sampling was feasible and efficient method for obtaining a representative sample, it should be recommended for future community based studies. Use of ACASI should be recommended for collecting data on sensitive behaviours such as MSM and physical abuse of men. HIV prevention efforts need to focus on stable partnerships and there is need to have interventions to prevent and reduce violence as these can be effective strategies of HIV prevention for both men and women.

It was proposed that this be disseminated at the community and at the college level.

