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## CORRELATION OF UNSAFE ABORTION AND HIV SEROPOSITIVE STATUS AMONG WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE IN A NATIONAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL IN KENYA

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Unsafe abortion is a leading cause of maternal morbidity and mortality in Kenya. In the developing world approximately 35 million people live with HIV/AIDS. The aim of this study was to establish the correlation between unsafe abortion and HIV seropositive status.

**Methods:** This was a cross sectional study. Participants were selected using simple random sampling. Data was collected using a self-administered questionnaire and analyzed using SPSS version 21.0. at a statistical threshold of  $p < 0.05$ .

**Findings:** Seventy-two women of reproductive age participated in the study. Proportion of unsafe abortion was high among respondents aged 20 years. Among 33% of the participants who had ever been pregnant, 66% procured an unsafe abortion. The study depicted an association between knowledge of HIV status and the participants decision to procure unsafe abortion ( $p = 0.0023$ ). Similarly, women who had ever had an abortion in their previous pregnancies were more likely to procure an abortion on learning their HIV seropositive status (OR- 8.504,  $p < 0.0001$ ).

**Conclusion:** HIV seropositive status influences women's decision to procure unsafe abortion. Therefore, there is need for improved access to sexual and reproductive health services within the four-pronged context of elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (eMTCT).

### KEYWORDS

Unsafe abortion, HIV Seropositive

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## KEYWORDS

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Access, place of birth, choice, women, Kenya, reproductive age, determinants Behavioral factors, HIV transmission, Reproductive Age mothers, Community health volunteer, community health worker, under-five health care services, Community midwifery, Community health volunteers, Skilled birth attendance, Sustainability Continuing Professional Development, Factors, CPD Practices

Determinants First time mothers HAART Hypertension, Mental illness Indications, outcomes, Caesarean section, Kenya Percutaneous Injuries, Reporting, Needle Stick Injuries Post-partum family planning Prevalence, Hypertension, Women of reproductive age, Central obesity, BMI Unmet need kenya **labor** light, New Born Unit, MTRH, Kenya, Change midwives pregnancy outcomes seronegative mothers seropositive mothers

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