

FACTORS INFLUENCING ATTRITION AMONG PATIENTS RECEIVING ANTI-RETROVIRAL THERAPY IN THE ACCRA REGIONAL HOSPITAL**Jerry S Sifa**

Accra Regional Hospital, Ghana

Introduction: Human immunodeficiency virus and acquired deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic remains a global health challenge. Addressing the issue of attrition is critical for ending the epidemic. We therefore sought to determine the factors influencing attrition among patients receiving antiretroviral therapy in Accra Regional Hospital (Ridge Hospital).

Methods: Retrospective study design was adopted using routinely collected data of National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) on HIV/AIDS patients receiving care from 2006 to 2017 at Greater Accra Regional Hospital. Convenience sampling is used to select the study area and unit. All gathered data was exported to STATA statistical software package for analysis including descriptive, trend and survival analysis.

Results: Between January 2006 and December 2017, 4,330 people living with HIV were enrolled into care. Of them, 196 (4.53%) died and 1,166 (26.93%) were loss to follow-up (LTFU). Enrollment peaked with increased campaigns in 2008 and then fell with expansion of treatment sites in Greater Accra region. LTFU mimicked changing enrollment; deaths peaked with shortage of ARVs in 2015. The determinants of LTFU were: Muslims (aHR: 1.296; CI: 1.034-1.625); CD4 count <250 (aHR: 1.546; CI: 1.308-1.828); other funding source (aHR: 0.736; CI: 0.579-0.935); completed counselling (aHR: 1.328; CI: 1.093-1.613); disclosed status (aHR: 0.798; CI: 0.651-0.978). Predictors of mortality were: more than 54 years of age (aHR: 2.915; CI: 1.165-7.297); male gender (aHR: 1.507; CI: 1.051-2.160); being divorced/separated (aHR: 1.763; CI: 1.014-3.064); CD4 count <250 (aHR: 1.069; CI: 1.027-2.797); funded by special project (aHR: 0.393; CI: 0.185-0.835).

Conclusion: The trend of attrition was influenced by institutional and national events. Factors influencing attrition in the hospital is comparable to those found in other parts of Africa and Asia. Interventions should therefore be implemented for optimal health.