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Seroprevalence and sociological indices of HIV among the pregnant women attending ante-natal in a secondary health facility

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Women may have persistent risk of being infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) during pregnancy. The associated risks may affect the unborn child unless the adequate surveillance is done and appropriate steps are taken for mitigation. A research to assess the seroprevalence of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) among pregnant women attending ante-natal clinic at a secondary health facility, Uyo was carried out using standard serological methods. A total of 184 pregnant women were screened and thirty-seven (20.1%) of them were HIV positive. The ages of all the women ranged from 17-44 years, out of which the age group 35-39 years had the highest prevalence (41.2%) of HIV positive women, followed by 25-29 years (24.4%) while <20 years and ≥40 years had none.

Married pregnant women had the highest overall prevalence of 14.1% while individual who registered in the hospital as divorcees had highest prevalence (70%) within group. Working pregnant women were more affected (21.9%) than unemployed counterparts (17.8%), just as the educated were more affected (23.9%) than the uneducated (17.9%). None of the pregnant women was undergoing prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) programs. Unmarried youth, underage and those who registered as divorcee were more than the pregnant women. The urgent need for PMTCT programme in this study area becomes obvious due adverse maternal and foetal outcome associated with HIV positive participants.

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