

# **HIV/AIDS Nkawkaw, Ghana**

**Raymond Ofori CSci FIBMS**

**Treasurer – Motec Life –UK**

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# Brief Profile Ghana



- Population size in 2007: 21,875,100
- Life expectancy at birth in 2006: 57 yrs
- Adult literacy rate for both sexes stood at 63% in 2006
- Economic Status: Low income country

# Infectious agent

- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV),
- Retrovirus.
- Two serologically and geographically distinct types with similar epidemiological characteristics, HIV-1 and HIV-2, have been identified.
- The pathogenicity of HIV-2 may be lower than that of HIV-1
- lower rates of mother-to-child transmission for HIV-2.

# KEY FEATURES OF HIV/AIDS IN GHANA

- HIV/AIDS epidemic appeared in Ghana in March 1986
- Ghana has remained comparatively a low prevalence rate country
- Ghana adult prevalence rate was 3.4% (2002), 3.6% (2003), 3.1% (2004)
- Usage of condoms is low. Only one-third of women and half of men interviewed used a condom at the last higher-risk sex

*Source: Ghana DHS 2003*

# KEY FEATURES OF HIV/AIDS IN GHANA

- Majority of infections (nearly 90%) are within the age group 15-49 yrs
- 63% of infected people are women and girls
- Six cities have prevalence rates above 5%
- Infection rate among age group 25-29 is 4.5%
- The peak prevalence among women is at age 35-39
- The peak prevalence among men is at age 44-49
- AIDS awareness is very high in Ghana; behaviour change is low

*Source: Ghana DHS 2003*

# **Main modes of HIV transmission in Ghana**

- **Heterosexual contact = 75 - 80%**
- **Mother to child transmission = 15%**
- **Blood and blood products and contaminated sharps = 5%**
- **Averting new infections is the main goal for HIV prevention in Ghana**

# **AIDS Associated Disease Categories**

## **1. Gastrointestinal:**

**Cause most of illness and death of late AIDS.**

## **2. Respiratory: 70%**

**of AIDS patients develop serious respiratory problems.**

# **AIDS Associated Disease Categories**

## **3. Neurological:**

Opportunistic diseases and tumors of central nervous system.

## **4. Skin Disorders:**

90% of AIDS patients develop skin or mucous membrane disorders.



# AIDS Associated Disease Categories

**5. Eye Infections:** 50-75% patients develop eye conditions.



Extensive tumor lesions of Kaposi's sarcoma in AIDS patient.

Source: AIDS, 1997

# Entrance Holy Family Hospital





# Nkawkaw Laboratory



# Lab in-charge performing FBC & CD4 Count





# HIV Education Section – pre anti-retroviral Treatment Counselling



# Conclusion

- **More Funding for HIV prevention programs**
- **Dealing with different perceptions of the general public with regard to how to manage the national response**
- **Promotion of Condoms use against cultural and religious values**
- **Care for orphans and vulnerable Children e.g. provision of school fees, uniform, meals, health care.**
- **Home based care and support - includes any or all of the following: counseling, food, clothing, nutritional supplementation, palliative care, treatment, other psychosocial and material assistance.**



**THANK YOU**



# Reference

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