### HIV/AIDS Nkawkaw, Ghana

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### **Brief Profile Ghana**



- Population size in 2007:21,875,100
- Life expectance at birth in 2006:57yrs
- 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

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.

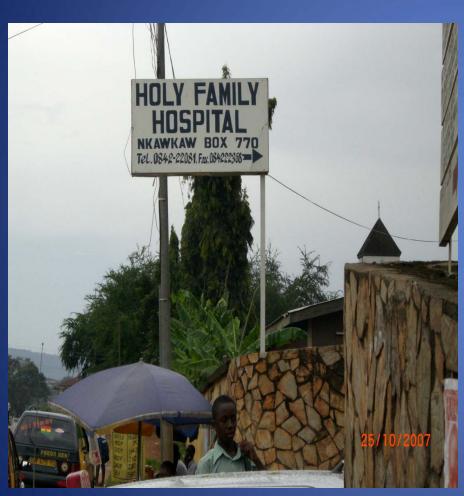
# AIDS Associated Disease Categories

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



Extensive tumor lesions of Kaposis'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 antiretroviral 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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