

Review of: "Factors Associated with Outcomes of Status Disclosure among Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Attendees in Public Health Facilities of Mekelle City, Tigray, Ethiopia"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Manuscript-Review and comments- HIV Status Disclosure

Reviewer: Erica Sanga

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Title: Factors Associated with Outcomes of Status Disclosure among Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Attendees in Public Health Facilities of Mekelle City, Tigray, Ethiopia

Over view: In general this is a good manuscript with merits in HIV area, considering the importance of HIV status disclosure and its association with linkage to HIV care and fully engagement in ART leading to best outcomes for HIV treatment and prevention of further transmission. The manuscript is well written although there minor corrections needed on the flow of ideas, please see some comments as follows:

Introduction

The introduction is okay however in the authors reported *The national prevalence of HIV in Ethiopia in adults aged 15-49 years in 2017 was 0.9% (0.7% in males and 1.2% in females)* ^{[3][4]}. In Ethiopia, only 436,000 individuals are currently taking antiretroviral (ARV) treatment out of the estimated 613,000 people living with HIV by 2018 ^[5].

The prevalence of HIV is in percentage, and then individual taking ART is in numbers, It will be nice to also show the percentage.

The prevalence is high in women than men- you may wish to add the implication of this in the outcomes of disclosure with regards to gender and power imbalances – may add a bit of literature about the relationship.

It is important to also report the current prevalence of disclosure in Tigray or Ethiopia as a country if you have some data it will further strengthen the paper

It is very nice that Assisted partner notification is mentioned here, It will be nice to expand this especially with reference to the WHO, it is well stated in <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-HIV-2016.22>. You may also add in the discussion as an important way of increasing disclosure

Methodology:

This section needs some improvement, some section could be merged instead of reporting them separately e.g. study area and population. Also the study population is unclear,

All HIV-positive clients who were registered and receiving clinical services at the ART clinic in public health facilities of Mekelle city.

HIV-positive individuals who had disclosed their HIV status to somebody else. Participants were approached during their routine follow-up medical visits in their respective health facilities.

Does this mean you interviewed only those who had disclosed? If yes then just report this group as the study population, leave out the All HIV positive.... Sentence

The inclusion and exclusion criteria can be incorporated at the study design and if possible add a sentence on methods you may use to collect data. You don't need many details on exclusion criteria; you may wish to see how these are reported in other papers, since this is not a protocol paper.

Not sure the authors need to report this ***with latitude and longitude coordinates of 13.4830°N, 39.4570°E and is found at an elevation of 2084 meters above sea level.*** to the MS, it can be dropped

I also think something about the Pre-survey mentioned in the sampling section should have been mentioned earlier either in the introduction or under the study design to help guide the reader.

Operational Definition also should appear earlier probably before introduction or at the end of introduction

Results

The results are well organized, though it would have been nice to have some qualitative findings to substantiate the quantitative findings

Discussion

The discussion is also fine, please start by a sentence reminding the reader the aim of the study and then follow by discussing the results and their implications. Although I not a lot of repetition of result, just discuss the result without reporting again eg ***“The participants in this study reported experiencing both negative and positive consequences as a result of disclosure”***, just go ahead to discuss the experiences and their implications, similarities or differences; check this throughout the section

Generally is a good paper and all the best