

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

Jayne Lewis-Kulzer¹

¹ University of California, San Francisco

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Summary

This is an interesting paper on disclosure outcomes among people living with HIV. Although most had positive experience with disclosure, a sizable number had negative experience, particularly among women.

A few minor suggestions are below.

Abstract

Overall, it reads very well. A couple suggestions: in the Results, indicate female gender and in the Conclusion consider "substantial proportion" instead of "significant" and modify "are experiencing" to "experienced".

Introduction

Nicely done. Regarding where failure to disclose to a sexual partner is illegal, it be helpful to clarify where the 24 states are? Is it in the US?

This is not very clear "partner notification, which is applied when people become afraid of the consequences or have limited knowledge of their partner's location ^[5]." Who is notifying in such a case?

Suggest clarifying the first half of the first sentence in the paragraph below. For the second sentence suggest removing "As far as my level of knowledge goes..." and instead say "There is lack of sufficient evidence of disclosure outcomes and the factors... In the last sentence, suggest removing "Therefore" and start with "The.."

"Although HIV status disclosure demands culturally and locally specific and also timely evidence, research on the factors that contribute to an adverse outcome to the disclosure of HIV seropositive status has been uneven, both in time and geography, and is limited, particularly in the Tigray region." As far as my level of knowledge goes, evidence is insufficient on the outcome of disclosure and the factors that have an association with it. Therefore, the present study is intended to contribute by bridging the knowledge gap and subsequently improving HIV care and treatment.

I suggest moving this paragraph below up to be the fourth paragraph in the Introduction.

“Disclosure of HIV status is a critical gateway and central strategy in HIV prevention and treatment^{[7][14]}. HIV-positive status disclosure has become the major concern and determining factor in the success of HIV/AIDS-related programs, and so, it should be addressed in HIV prevention and control activities^[9].

Methods

The Methods are well-detailed and clear. For the chart audits, suggest indicating the time frame parameter for the clinical variables abstracted.

Results

The results are clear and well-stated. I suggest adding the gender percent, in addition to the N for each. For example N(%).

Not seeing Table 2?

Discussion and Conclusion:

Discussion - paragraph 3 and Conclusion paragraph – suggest “substantial” rather than “significant”