

Title of Abstract: Attitude of Counsellors towards Undergoing HIV Voluntary Counselling and Testing in Ado-Odo/Ota, Nigeria.

Authors: Olujide Adekeye

Outlet: *International Journal of Psychology and Counselling*, Vol. 3 (3): 33-39.

Date: 2011

Abstract:

This study was an investigation into the attitude of counsellors who offer HIV pre and post counselling. Sixteen (16) counsellors who offer HIV pre-post-test counselling were identified from the preliminary field work, of these, nine counsellors were identified who reported they had not presented for HIV testing and seven eventually participated in the study. The non-scheduled structured interview was employed for data collection while the cross case method was used to analyze the data. The study found that the participants possessed negative attitude towards HIV testing though they acknowledged the importance of HIV test. The participants identified fear of being HIV positive, lack of confidentiality and knowledge of HIV/AIDS as barriers to their undergoing HIV test. Being counselled by a professional counsellor/ psychologist or someone living with HIV/AIDS, feeling too sick or being pregnant were highlighted as factors that may facilitate their undergoing HIV test. It was also found that HIV counsellors are as vulnerable to HIV as the general population. Counsellors who by their training or job schedule encourage others to undergo HIV test were themselves unwilling to test for HIV. Based on these findings, it was recommended that enlightenment campaigns, periodic seminars and workshops be organized for HIV counsellors to update their knowledge on issues pertaining to HIV, AIDS and HIV voluntary counselling and testing.

Key Words: HIV counsellors, Attitude, HIV VCT/test, Interview, Confidentiality