

**Title of Abstract:** Factors Influencing Attitude of Artisans towards Human Immunodeficiency Virus Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) three communities.

**Authors:** Adekeye, O. A.

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**Abstract:**

Human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune-deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) is a global problem and its emergence has introduced new dimensions to health care delivery worldwide. One of these dimensions is voluntary counselling and testing (VCT). Young people between ages 15 and 24 (n=77, mean=19 years) are at risk on an unparalleled scale, and they account for more than fifty (50) percent of all HIV infections throughout the world. A survey research questionnaire made up of four trajectories including sexual behaviour scale, attitude towards voluntary counselling and testing scale, attitude towards HIV/AIDS scale and knowledge of HIV/AIDS scale was used in this study. The study made use of frequency counts, percentage and regression analysis. The SPSS software was used to analyze the data. The study indicates a fairly high knowledge level of HIV and the result also shows that there is low uptake of HIV VCT among the participants (34%). More females (65%), married (73%) and older participants (96%) have screened for HIV. Majority of the participants are sexually active (62%). Findings show that sexual behaviour ( $\beta = 0.530$ ;  $t = 0.689$ ;  $p > 0.05$ ) and attitude to HIV ( $\beta = 0.691$ ;  $t = 0.834$ ;  $p > 0.05$ ) of the three predictor variables were not strong predictors of attitude of towards HIV voluntary counselling and testing. Knowledge of HIV was the strongest or most potent predictor of attitude towards HIV voluntary counselling and testing ( $\beta = 4.907$ ;  $t = 5.730$ ;  $p < 0.0005$ ). HIV voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), which is one area of control and prevention of HIV/AIDS is yet to be fully harnessed in Nigeria. Based on these findings, the study shows the need for strong advocacy, enlightenment and community mobilization for improved awareness and utilization of HIV VCT services. Local, community and religious leaders, including youth leaders should be incorporated into the drive to increase awareness and knowledge of HIV/AIDS

**Keywords:** HIV VCT, HIV knowledge and attitude, sexual behaviour, artisans, HIV sites