



Applicant Information

Applicant Name	Applicant Email	Affiliation	Country
Dr Emily Boakye-Yiadom	ebyiadom@uhas.edu.gh	University of Health and Allied Sciences	Ghana

Abstract Details

Title:

Acceptability and Barriers to HIV Self-Testing (HIVST) among Tertiary Students in the Volta Region

Category:

Communicable diseases (Malaria, TB, HIV, NTD)

Authors:

Abel Delawu Blenyi^{1*}, Yvonne Antwiwaa Kyere^{1*}, Dennis Kweku Mawuli¹, Emmanuel Senyo Kasu^{1,2}, Senanu Kwesi Dzokoto³, Kwadwo Koduah Owusu⁴, Raphael Adu-Gyamfi⁴, Joseph Osarfo¹, Emily Boakye-Yiadom^{1,2**} ¹University of Health and Allied Sciences, PMB 31, Ho, Volta Region, Ghana. ²Ho Teaching Hospital, P. O. Box MA 374, Ho, Volta Region, Ghana. ³Regional Health Directorate, Ghana Health Service, Volta Region, Ghana. ⁴National AIDS/STI Control Programme, Ghana Health Service, Accra, Ghana. *Both contributed equ

Objectives:

There are increasing new HIV infections among young persons in Ghana. Tertiary students have high-risk sexual behaviours. HIV self-testing (HIVST) improves uptake of testing leading to earlier treatment initiation. We assessed the knowledge, attitudes, perceptions, acceptability, and barriers to HIVST among tertiary students in the Volta Region of Ghana.

Method:

A cross-sectional study of 953 tertiary students from Ghana's Volta Region using stratified sampling and self-administered questionnaires. Data were analyzed in STATA[®]. Chi-squared tests ($p = 0.05$) assessed associations, followed by logistic regression with odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals for significant findings.

Results:

Key findings include high knowledge ($n = 906, 95.07\%$), good attitudes ($n = 498, 52.26\%$), and significant HIVST acceptability ($n = 727, 76.29\%$). Barriers included cost ($n = 606, 63.59\%$), privacy concerns ($n = 495, 51.94\%$), and fear of incorrect results ($n = 558, 58.55\%$). Participants with low knowledge levels of HIVST were significantly less likely to accept HIVST, $COR = 0.452$ (95% CI: 0.349–0.586, $p = 0.000$).

Conclusion:

We found high knowledge and acceptability of HIVST among tertiary students in the Volta Region, despite barriers like cost, privacy concerns, and fear of inaccurate results. Promoting HIVST is vital for early detection and treatment.

Submission Date:

2024-09-23 19:41:28