

## ABSTRACT OF THE REPORT

# **Knowledge of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS Among Women of Reproductive Age in Ethiopia**

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In 2010, it was estimated that approximately 1.49 million women were living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in developing countries (United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2012). In 2009, approximately 370,000 children were infected with HIV and among these more than 90% were infected through mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) (Chukwuemeka et al., 2012). Prior to the use of antiretroviral treatment (ART), HIV was responsible for 35.2% of child mortality within the first year of birth and 52.5% by age two (World Health Organization (WHO), 2007). The World Health Organization also found that in the absence of an intervention, the risk of mother-to-child transmission during pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding ranges from 15-45% (WHO, 2012). This paper examines the knowledge of MTCT among women of reproductive age in Ethiopia. The research utilized secondary data from the Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey from 2011. This research assesses the knowledge of a) MTCT through pregnancy, delivery and breastfeeding and b) the use of Art for the prevention of MTCT. Additionally, identifies demographic variables such as age, level of education, literacy level, and media in relation to the above topic areas. Women living in the urban Oromia region were selected from an initial sample of 16, 702 nationally, resulting in a sample size of 358. Data was analyzed using Univariate, Bivariate and Multivariate Analysis, to examine the association of the knowledge of MTCT and ART. Results suggest education, literacy and media outlets are associated with knowledge of MTCT of HIV by delivery, breastfeeding and knowledge of ART. The women who had higher levels of education and who were more literate were more likely to know about MTCT and ART (chi-square test resulting in p-values < 0.05). Additionally, media outlets, such as radio and television indicated a strong association with the knowledge of MTCT and ART. The results indicate that interventions in sub-Saharan Africa should strive to increase awareness of MTCT through breastfeeding and the use of ART to prevent MTCT through media outlet interventions. Additionally, encourage further research targeting populations with high rates of MTCT of HIV and low awareness of transmission and ART.

*Keywords:* mother-to-child transmission, HIV/AIDS, knowledge

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