

Bibliography on HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia and Ethiopians in the Diaspora: 2003 Update

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Introduction

This listing is a continuation of the first bibliography in this series (1), which covered the literature through 2002. The present listing covers the 2003 literature (127 references) and papers from 2002 which could not be included in the earlier edition (19 references). Efforts were again made to cover all published and unpublished materials using online databases and obtaining materials from various organizations and individuals in Ethiopia. This bibliographic update, when compared with the first edition, demonstrates the accelerated increase in research output overall since 2000 and especially during 2003, a shift towards epidemiological/KAP and intervention studies and programs and relative neglect of some other areas. A total of 1,088 references listed in both bibliographies cover the period from 1972 to 2003. Nearly all studies date to the 20 year period starting in 1984 (when HIV infections were first reported from Ethiopia).

We tallied all references in major categories to describe their relative frequency and changes over time. The largest absolute increases in references were recorded for epidemiological and KAP (knowledge, attitudes, practice) studies, which increased from an average of 9.5 per year, between 1987 and 1995, to 42.4/year, between 1996 and 2003. Intervention (including patient care) related research output and program documents increased even slightly more rapidly between the nine year period 1987-1995 (42 references or 4.7/year) and the following eight years (1996-2003) (182 references or 22.8/year). The largest relative increase in both epidemiology/KAP and intervention citations was noted for the four year period since 2000, during which Ethiopia was granted major international support for research and capacity strengthening purposes and the Ethiopian AIDS Council and AIDS Policy were instituted and operationalized. The mean annual number of references to socioeconomic and demographic impact studies increased more slowly, from 1.8 to 4.0, those to clinical studies from 4.5 to 7.8, and to biomedical studies from 6.8 to 10.0 between the 1987-1999 and 2000-2003 periods. Although the number of evaluation studies also increased (from 0.7 to 3.3/year), the numbers in this category are small considering the crucial nature of evaluation and only 4 evaluation studies were dated 2003.

The proportion of references to works on Diaspora topics declined from 4.8 to 3.3 per year between 1987-1999 and 2000-2003. These various frequencies, although underreported in some categories (especially epidemiology and KAP) due to the failure to obtain all unpublished reports, especially from NGOs, and over reported in others due to double citation of several studies in both conference papers and published abstracts are thought to reflect the overall actual numerical and temporal distribution of studies.

The publication between 2001 and 2003 of seven important documents by the Federal Ministry of Health on prevention, treatment and management of HIV/AIDS and STDs (references 17-23 in the Intervention and Patient Care section) reflects the acceleration of programs and activities in the intervention area. These documents include the Policy on Antiretroviral Drug Supply and Use, Guidelines for Use of Antiretroviral Drugs in Ethiopia, National Guidelines for Voluntary HIV Counseling and Testing, a HIV/AIDS Home Care Handbook, Mainstreaming Guidelines on HIV/AIDS Interventions in Federal Ministries and Organizations, and National Guideline for the Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections Using the Syndromic Approach.

The number of graduate theses dealing with HIV/AIDS, STIs and KAP, especially Master degrees, also increased during recent years, peaking in 2003. Whereas 74 theses (67 M.P.H., 5 M.Sc. and 2 M.A.), or 4.4 theses on average per year were accepted by Addis Ababa University on these topics between 1986 and 2002, 13 M.P.H. and 1 M.A. theses were accepted in 2003 alone. Thirty-nine of the pre2003 Masters theses and 12 of the 2003 theses focus on epidemiological and KAP topics, 16 on community health services, and three on biomedical themes but only five on intervention, and four on socioeconomic or demographic impacts. Of the five Ph.D. theses completed, three deal with anthropological aspects of risk behavior of commercial sex workers and youths in Addis Ababa, one with HIV/AIDS epidemiology in Ethiopia and one with reproductive health. The scarcity of intervention studies is in contrast to the rapidly increasing published Ethiopian literature. None of the Masters or doctoral theses dealt with evaluation of programs.

The still small number of evaluation studies reflects a relative neglect of research done so far on this topic in Ethiopia in

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spite of the intrinsic need for simultaneous intervention and evaluation in program development. The importance of interim evaluation as a guide towards program modification and optimization cannot be overemphasized. This may call for, among others, reallocation of resources, rescheduling of activities, identification of new or strengthening of existing organizational structures, functions and networks, and streamlining of administrative practices. The two assessment reports by Hailegnaw Eshete on the National Assessment of Anti-AIDS Clubs in Ethiopia constitute an encouraging start. Evaluation needs are expected to increase as existing prevention and control intervention programs move forward and new ones are being implemented.

Few papers by indigenous, bilateral (except ENARP, EthioNetherlands AIDS Research Project) and international NGOs, religious organizations and civil society could be included in this issue. It is hoped that the increasing number of activities in HIV/AIDS prevention, patient care and antiHIV/AIDS advocacy by Ethiopian and international NGOs, civil society and faith-based organizations can be documented in the next annual update. The few (two) references to Diaspora studies constitute an anomaly and a form of official denial in view of increasing evidence of the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Ethiopian and other immigrant populations especially in North America and Europe, as reported by several studies in the first issue of this bibliographic series and at least one study currently in press.

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