

ABSTRACT

**The Knowledge and Attitude
Of Christian Ministers of Religion
In Kingston and St Andrew
Concerning HIV infection and AIDS**

Mordea E. T. Dinnall

This study was designed to determine the knowledge and attitude of Christian ministers of religion on the HIV infection and AIDS.

It was carried out on 70 Christians ministers of religion residing in Kingston and St. Andrew. These ministers were selected from nine church groups comprising 58 denominations and 230 churches in Kingston and St. Andrew. The instrument used was a self administered questionnaire.

Knowledge on HIV and AIDS was very high with ministers obtaining a mean score of 30.5 marks out of a possible total of 39 marks. Overall, there was little variation in knowledge score between church groups. Attitude towards HIV and AIDS was neither negative or very positive, but was more inclined towards positivity. Differences were observed in attitudes towards particular groups. The effect of moral issues inherent in the HIV/AIDS issue was apparent. Overall there was little variation in attitude scores between church groups.

Involvement of ministers in activities related to HIV or

AIDS prevention or treatment was minimal 16%; and only 9% had any training for counselling.

All felt ministers could contribute towards the prevention of the HIV infection, and identified a number of ways.

The majority of the ministers felt the Ministry of Health was not doing sufficient to deal with the HIV/AIDS problems and suggestions for improvement were given.

Recommendations include : Inclusion of at least one representative from each church group on the National AIDS Committee, and organization of counselling seminars targeted at ministers of religion.