

## **ABSTRACT**

**The knowledge Attitude and Practice of the elderly  
Regarding HIV and AIDS in four senior citizens clubs  
in Kingston and St. Andrew**

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The HIV infection has become the greatest threat to global development and a long term humanitarian crisis of unprecedented proportions. Millions have been infected globally since the epidemic and now there is a growing concern for the elderly population. Not only can older adults contract the HIV but they experience multiple consequences as older relatives.

**Purpose:** To explore the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of the elderly regarding HIV and AIDS in four senior citizens club in Kingston and St. Andrew.

**Methodology:** A cross sectional study with an analytic approach was used, an interviewer administered questionnaire, and a conducted focus group discussion to gather the information. The sample was selected by stratified random sampling of the clubs and then simple random sampling for the study population of 120.

**Results:** A total of 120 participants were interviewed, 34.1% were males and 65.9% were females. Respondents were knowledgeable about the spread of HIV/AIDS> 93.3% said HIV is spread by having sex with an infected person, 12.7% said working with an infected person, and 4.9% said touching an infected person, 15.9% said mosquito bite, 95.9% said transfusion with infected blood and 89.9% said HIV is spread by homosexual intercourse. Respondents perceived that prostitutes and persons with multiple partners were at highest risk (100%) of contracting HIV. The attitude of respondents to persons with HIV/AIDS were; sympathetic (61%), empathetic (30%), angry (6%) and fearful (3%).

**Conclusion:** The study concluded that the elderly are knowledgeable about the transmission, symptoms and persons at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

**Keywords:** Coralita Celestina Rosena Joseph; Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of the Elderly regarding HIV/AIDS.