

MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF NURSING

**HIGH RISK SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS AND HIV KNOWLEDGE
AMONG MALE INMATES IN NAKURU G.K PRISON**

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ABSTRACT

The prison population worldwide accommodates a higher proportion of inmates with high risk sexual behaviour and knowledge on HIV/AIDs, and there is recognition of risky sexual activities among the inmates. But for complex political, legal, social, cultural and religious reasons, preventive measures like use of condom in prison are often not permitted and access to community based intervention in prison is limited. In order to make meaningful decisions about their reproductive health, inmates need reliable information. This study was to determine high risk sexual behaviours and HIV knowledge among male inmates in Nakuru male G.K. prisons, Nakuru County. The study employed a descriptive cross-sectional study design among 295 inmates, and simple random sampling technique was used to sample the respondent's among male inmates in Nakuru G.K. Prison. A researcher-administered questionnaire were used to collect data from the respondents these enabled to overcome illiteracy barriers as questions were translated to those who do not understand English. The study findings were analyzed using statistical package for social science SPSS version 22 and data was presented in form of charts, tables, histogram, frequency distribution charts and graphs. The majority of the respondents are single 67.1% and unemployed 46% and minority are married 9.5% and self employed 9.8%. This shows that they are of low socio economic status and under educated whereby majority of them had primary education 46.8% and minority had no education at all 8.5% which are some of the factors that influence high risk sexual behaviour, criminal activity and incarceration. The study also found out that inmates had higher knowledge on HIV with 88.8% of the respondents being aware of HIV infection and only 11.2% who said they were not aware of HIV infection. This shows that high level of knowledge do not correlate with changes in behaviour thus stress of daily life, under education, unemployment, younger age make high risk behaviour more enticing to inmates during incarceration who are idle and unhappy all day. Further the study clearly depicts that a number of respondents were aware of homosexuality 69.1% while minorities were not aware of homosexuality 30.9% of these respondents. Majority of the respondent 58.6% had the information that HIV can be transmitted through homosexuality and minority 41.4% were not aware that HIV can be transmitted through homosexuality. 82.4% agreed that homosexuality existed inside the Nakuru GK prison while 17.6% said that it does not. 26.4% had practiced homosexuality before being imprisoned and 73.6% had not and 21%

still practice homosexuality inside the Nakuru G.K prison despite majority of the respondent 58.6% having the information that HIV can be transmitted through homosexuality still practiced it and minority 41.4% were not aware. 65.6% of the 295 respondent interviewed were not aware of someone who practices homosexuality, 34.4% knew someone who practiced homosexuality. In conclusion this study attempted to establish the high risk sexual behaviours and HIV knowledge among male inmates in Nakuru G.K Prison. Based on the study findings, the main obstacles to effective implementation of high risk behaviour programs in Kenyan prisons appear to be high risk sexual behaviour by inmates, lack of clear and proper mechanism of identifying those who practice homosexuality and may be HIV-positive inmates, prisons congestion, poor access to health care services, inadequate knowledge about HIV/AIDS, inadequately exposure to HIV/AIDS information to inmates by prison education or clinic, poor facilitation of continuity of HIV/AIDS programs in the transition from prison to community as well as lack of elaborate post-release or discharge planning program to sick and terminally ill patients.