

**INVESTIGATIONS INTO CAUSES OF GENDER BASED SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE IN NYERI TOWN**

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Introduction:** Gender based violence has been associated with risky sexual behaviors such as low condom use multiple and concurrent sexual partnering with low levels of HIV self-risk perception.

**Study Design:** The study was a survey conducted at the Majengo slums of Nyeri town. Data was collected from 50 study participants aged between 18 and 49 who were self-reporting Gender Based Violence by perpetrators through interviewer administered questionnaires by simple random sampling.

Individual knowledge was collected on Gender based violence, sexual practices and personal experience with gender based violence in all aspects.

**Findings:** The study found high levels of awareness and knowledge on Gender Based violence (98%). The study found that 90% of females interviewed thought Gender based violence in Nyeri was a serious problem with 92 % saying men who beat their wives were breaking the law. Frequency of GBV experienced by an intimate partner in the last 12 months found 10% indicated having beaten 1 time , 16% beaten 2 times, 6% being beaten 3 times and 68% being beaten more than 4 times in the past. The study further found that only 40% of participants had knowledge of the **Anti-Gender Based Violence law**.

**Conclusions:** The study concluded that there were high knowledge levels and high awareness of gender based violence among the females in the study. Gender Based Violence increases vulnerability of women to risk HIV infection by reducing ability to negotiate safe sex.