

**CAUSES OF HIGH HIV PREVALENCE AMONG PRISONERS.
A CASE STUDY OF KAMITI MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON**

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ABSTRACT

Human Immunodeficiency Virus, commonly referred to as HIV is a virus which causes the disease, AIDS or Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. According to the health records obtained at Kamiti Main Hospital by the clinical officer in charge of HIV prevention, care and treatment, HIV prevalence is on the increase at the Kamiti Maximum Security Prison. The study sought to establish the causes of high HIV prevalence among prisoners. The study was guided by the general objective which was to establish the causes of HIV infection in prison within Kamiti Maximum Security Prison. The study findings and recommendations would guide provision of remedial measures to reduce HIV infection rate among the inmates in the institution. The scope of the study was to establish the causes of HIV infection in Kamiti Maximum Security Prison and got conducted during normal working days and hours. The research design was descriptive, that enabled collection of detailed information through descriptions as well as identifying variables and hypothetical constructs. The target populations of the study were averagely 2000 prisoners at Kamiti Maximum Security Prison. The penal institution holds inmates serving long sentences ranging from ten years to life imprisonment and those on death sentences. The homogeneity of the population determined the size of the sample where a sample size of 100 respondents was selected. The admission register was used to identify every 20th client in a systematic sampling process. Primary data was gathered directly from respondents through the use of questionnaires. The questionnaires had close ended questions and some open ended questions. Quantitative data collected using questionnaires was analyzed by the use of excel and presented in tables and charts. Content analysis was used to analyze data collected from the open ended questions that was of qualitative nature or aspect of the data collected from the open ended questions. Content analysis used a set of categorization for making valid and replicable inferences from data to their context. Results were also discussed in the areas of the respondent's background, responses to HIV knowledge, risk behaviour, institutional contribution to HIV infection, social economic contribution to HIV infection and imprisonment as a contributing factor to HIV infection. Research findings were discussed to answer the three research questions on what were the social factors that contributed to high HIV prevalence among prisoners in Kamiti Maximum Security Prison, what were the institutional factors that contributed to HIV infection among prisoners in Kamiti Maximum Prison and what was the role of imprisonment in the spread of HIV in Kamiti Maximum Security Prison? Recommendations were then included and finally, conclusion.