

**IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS ON PERFORMANCE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS  
IN MURANG'A EAST DISTRICT**

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## ABSTRACT

In the world today, the Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV) which causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has become a global pandemic. Out of the 65 million people infected globally 29.4 million live in sub-Saharan Africa (WHO, 2009). Initially, HIV and AIDS were believed to be a problems confined to the adult domain. However, it has now become common that anyone can be infected at any age secondary school students included. HIV and AIDS is a problem that the human race has had to contend with over the last decade until it has become a pandemic. It has been rated among the leading contemporary problems in Kenya especially among the youth. According to a study carried out by the population council (2003), 66% of adolescent were in relationships with the opposite sex, while 61% were sexually active and have low contraceptive use and 43% think they have a "good "to "moderate "chance of getting sex partners. In Murang'a East district, where the study was carried out, the cases of HIV and AIDS among the students were reported to be rising constantly.

This study was geared towards investigating the challenges of the infected and affected students in Murang'a East district with a view of identifying intervention measures by the schools to these challenges. The target sample of the infected was drawn from the existing records in the support centers while that of the affected was purposively selected with the assistance of their schools. Data was qualitatively analyzed by using simple frequency distributions and percentages and presented in tables.