

The burden of sexually transmitted infections among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Kisumu, Kenya.

Partner: Nyanza Reproductive Health Society

Principal investigator: Fredrick Otieno.

Problem statement:

22%-24% of MSM in coastal Kenya and Kisumu have HIV infection and 65% of MSM also have sex with women. The 2009 *Modes of Transmission* study estimated that the proportion of HIV infections attributable to MSM in Kenya is as high as 20%.

Sexually transmitted infections (STI) are associated with elevated risk of HIV acquisition in MSM, however there is currently little knowledge of STI prevalence and incidence among MSM in sub-Saharan Africa.

Purpose:

The results of this study will provide the information on the STI acquisition that is necessary for African Ministries of Health to develop policy and best practice guidelines for addressing hepatitis and the STI burden in this key population.

Target group: Men who have sex with men.

Setting: The study will take place in Kisumu, the main town of Kenya's Nyanza Province which has the highest national HIV prevalence of 14.9%.

Scope of Work:

This study will leverage an already-funded implementation project, *Anza Mapema*, to assess STIs in a group of 700 HIV-negative and HIV-positive men, through a comprehensive STI screening and treatment programme. The specific objectives of this study are to:

1. Assess the prevalence of hepatitis B (HBV) and C(HCV) and of four common STIs (HSV-2, syphilis, gonorrhoea and chlamydia) at enrolment.
2. Assess the incidence of the four common STIs over 12 months of follow-up.
3. Evaluate behavioural and biologic risk factors for incident STIs, including unprotected sex, multiple partners, concurrent partners, HIV status and circumcision status.
4. Determine whether retaining men in an MSM-affirming HIV prevention programme, *Anza Mapema* reduced incident STIs as biological markers for risk behaviour.