

Eliud Wekesa and Ernestina Coast

"Just like a taste of water which is too little to quench the thirst": condom use among people living with HIV/AIDS in Nairobi urban slums

Conference Item (paper)

Original citation:

Wekesa, Eliud and Coast, Ernestina (2010) *"Just like a taste of water which is too little to quench the thirst": condom use among people living with HIV/AIDS in Nairobi urban slums*. In: 9th International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH), 27-29 October 2010, New York, USA. This version available at: <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/42040/>

Available in LSE Research Online: May 2012

© 2012 The Authors

LSE has developed LSE Research Online so that users may access research output of the School. Copyright © and Moral Rights for the papers on this site are retained by the individual authors and/or other copyright owners. Users may download and/or print one copy of any article(s) in LSE Research Online to facilitate their private study or for non-commercial research. You may not engage in further distribution of the material or use it for any profit-making activities or any commercial gain. You may freely distribute the URL (<http://eprints.lse.ac.uk>) of the LSE Research Online website.



“Just like a taste of water which is too little to quench the thirst”: Condom use among people living with HIV/AIDS in Nairobi urban slums.

By: Eliud Wekesa and Dr Ernestina Coast

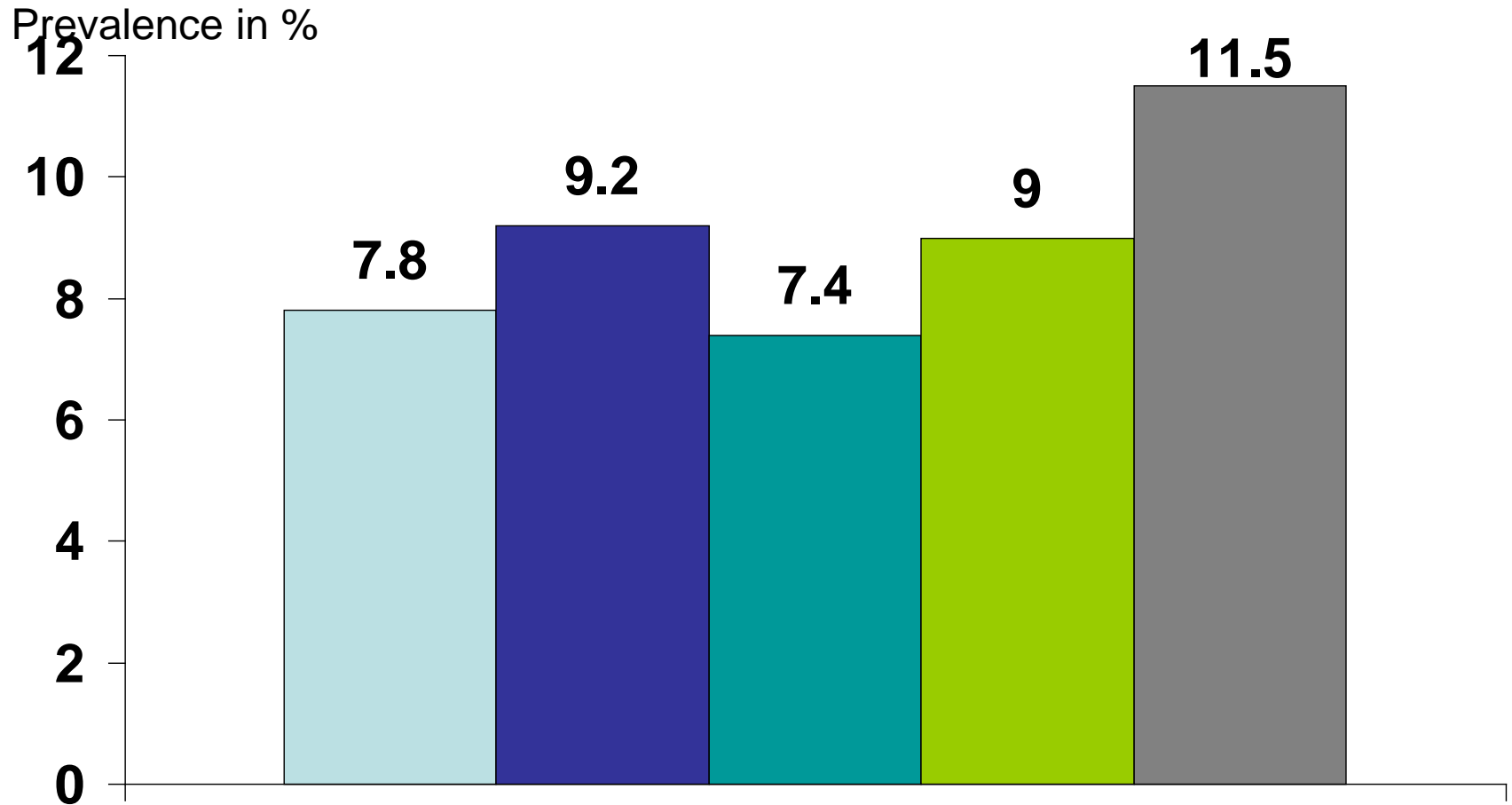
Affiliation: LSE



Study justification

- Globally, > 1 billion people live in urban slums
- Prevalence of HIV is higher in slums
 - Yet little is known about slum HIV risk factors (i.e. determinants) and also outcomes
- Little is known about sexual behaviour among people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)
 - More than 22 million PLWHA in SSA

HIV Prevalence higher in Nairobi slums in Kenya



Source: APHRC
and KAIS

Kenya Urban Rural Nairobi Slums



Consistent condom use crucial

- Unprotected sex among PLWHA carries:
 - Risk of transmitting HIV to uninfected partners
 - Re-infection with different strains that might be resistant to antiretroviral treatment (ART)
 - Unintended pregnancies (mother to child transmission of HIV)



Study objectives

- Overall study:
 - sexual behaviour, fertility desires and contraceptive use among PLWHA in Nairobi slums.
- This presentation:
 - The prevalence and context of condom use among PLWHA.



Methods

- Combined qualitative and quantitative methods
- Quantitative
 - 513 survey based interviews with...
- Qualitative:
 - 57 in-depth interviews (PLWHA and healthcare workers)
- Selection: systematic selection based on socio-demographic characteristics

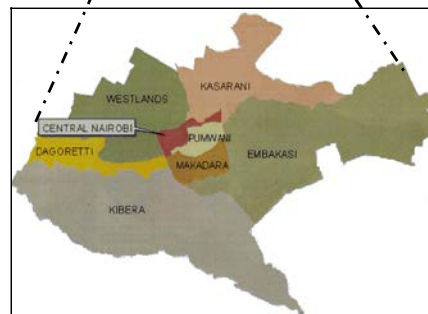
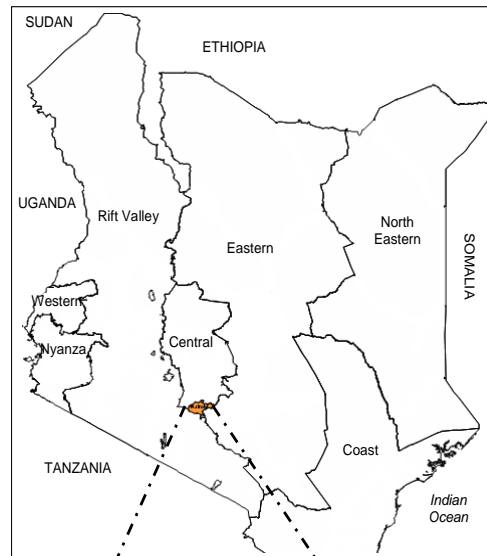
Analysis

- ► Quantitative:
 - □ STATA 10
 - □ Univariate, bivariate, and multivariate, logistic regression performed.
 - □ Statistical significance determined
 - at level of $P < 0.05$
- ► Qualitative: In-depth interviews coded in Nvivo 8 and analyzed using thematic analysis.

Community health workers as mobilizers



Study sites map- Viwandani and korogocho slums



Socio-demographic Background

Characteristic	Female (N=318)	Male (N=195)	Total (N=513)
	%/mean	%/mean	Overall
All respondents	62	38	100
Mean age(range =18-66 years)***	36	42	38
Slum of residence			
Korogocho	49	54	51
Viwandani	51	46	49
Education***			
No Schooling	7	5	7
Primary	72	54	65
Secondary+	20	41	28
Marital Status***			
In a Union	42	75	55
Not in Union	58	25	45

Sexual activity in the last 12 months

TYPE OF SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR	Frequency	%
Engagement in sexual intercourse		
Sexually active	378	74
Abstain from sex	135	26
Total	513	100
Use of condoms		
Consistent use	201	56
Inconsistent use	98	25
Never	79	19
Total	378	100
Multiple sexual partners	321	85
Single sexual partners	57	15
Total	378	100



Findings: low condom use

- Nearly **3/4 (74%)** of these PLWHA were sexually active in the preceding 12 months
- But **just over half (56%)** of those who were sexually active reported consistent condom use
- And almost **a fifth (19%)** reported no condom use in the last 12 months

Reasons why condoms not used at last sex

Reasons	Female	Male	Total
Why Condom was not used at last sex	%	%	%
Not available	4	5	4
Too expensive	0	0	0
Partner objected***	49	0	29
Don't like them	15	24	18
Used another contraception	0	3	1
Not necessary	11	11	11
Trust/Love partner	11	18	14
Didn't think of it	15	24	18

Covariates of consistent condom use (bivariate) analysis

Socio-economic characteristic	Unadjusted odds ratio	Pvalue
Sero status(Ref: cocordant)		
Sero-discordant	1.47	0.181
Status Unknown	0.57	0.039
Disclosure of HIV status to partners(Ref: Never)		
Yes	1.89	0.005
Fertility desire (ref: no more)		
Want more	0.52	0.003
ART status (Ref. Not on ART)		
On ART	2.42	<0.0001
Treatment duration(Ref: <1Yr)		
one and two years	3.90	<0.001
Three and four years	4.89	<0.001
Over 5 years	6.99	<0.001
Depression	0.95	0.009
Social support	1.04	0.013

Significant predictors of consistent condom use (Multivariate analysis)

Socio-economic characteristic	Adjusted odds ratio	P value
Duration after diagnosis (Ref: less than 1Yr)		
one and two years	3.36	0.001
Three and four years	4.24	0.001
Over 5 years	4.98	0.001
Disclosure of HIV status to partners(Ref: Never)		
All the time	4.24	0.022
Sometimes	2.39	0.033
Fertility desire (ref: no more)		
Want more	0.48	0.009
Social support	1.05	0.037

Why condoms are disliked- qualitative results

- “..When having sex with condoms they [men] do not feel the sweetness of a woman. They want to feel that warmth, but the condom prevents it. It is just like a taste of water which is too little to quench the thirst..” [male respondent Korogocho] {**pleasure**}
 - “the moment we removed the condom...my friend! the feeling I had.. its like someone had applied pepper in your mouth.. I decided not to use condoms[female viwandani] {**pain or irritation**}
 - “It [condom] is lubricated with oil- you don't even know if this oil is responsible for aggravating your disease...this oil can create problems for you [Male korogocho] {**Misconceptions**}
- “Aaahi! How can I have sex with a woman while using a condom? Am I to have sex with the condom or the woman so my blood gets into her? Then I go and throw away my semen, why? This semen should have made your wife pregnant yet you have gone to dump this child...”[Male respondent korogocho]” {**wasting semen**}

Facilitators of condom use- women insistence

- “The man I am with, the first thing is, I am the person who will put the condom on for him. I do not want him to do it himself. Even if it is at night the lights have to be on, because a man is just a man, he might cut the condom and add me more viruses” [Female respondent viwandani]
- “*Nakaa ngumu!* (I stand firm) and insist on condom use because I don't know his strain of the virus and he also doesn't know my strain of the virus. Everyone should just carry his/her own cross”. [Female respondent Korogocho]



Summary of findings

- **Barriers to consistent condom use :**
 - **Opposition from sexual partners.**
 - **Impedes sexual pleasure.**
 - **Desire for a child**

Facilitators of consistent condom use:

- **Disclosure of HIV status to partner**
- **Use of Antiretroviral treatment and increased survival**
- **Women insistence (agency)**



Policy Implications

- Inconsistent condom use among PLWHA warrants attention because:
 - Transmits HIV among discordant partners
 - Unintended pregnancies (PMCT)
- The importance of ART to facilitate condom and increase survival (which is a predictor of consistent condom use) needs to be recognised
- PLWHA have sexual and reproductive health needs that are not being met.



Policy Recommendations

- Target PLWHA with prevention messages in social marketing programmes.
- Develop capacity of community health workers to distribute condoms in the slums through training and transport allowance.
- Enlist men as support group members so that they can be educated to be supportive partners
- Increase ART access as it fosters consistent condom use (through increased survival)