

HIV after 40 in Rural South Africa: Routes of HIV Acquisition and Transmission among Middle Aged and Older Adults

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South Africa has the highest number of people living with HIV (5.3 million) as well as a rapidly aging population with 15% of the population aged 50 and over (Statistics South Africa 2009). In Agincourt, South Africa, a third of those in their 40s, a quarter of women and a third of men in their 50s, 10% of adults in their 60s, and over 5% of those in their 70s were HIV positive (Gomez-Olive et al 2013). These findings reflect not just aging with HIV, but also non negligible acquisition of HIV at older ages. Using a life course approach, this paper combines HIV prevalence survey data, 60 nested life history interviews, 9 focus group and 9 key informant interviews to examine routes of HIV acquisition/ transmission among adults aged between 40-80. Specifically, we examine how and why adults over 40 are getting HIV.

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