HIV Seroprevalence in Women of Childbearing Age in Benin City, Nigeria

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Abstract

HIV seroprevalence was still low in some parts of Nigeria from 1989 to 1991, and only limited reports were available on seroprevalence in childbearing women. In order to assess HIV seroprevalence in pregnant women in Benin City and Bendel State, two sampling methods, unlinked anonymous testing and voluntary testing, were employed. Data obtained from testing 358 sera from pregnant women attending antenatal clinics and cord blood from labour wards in Benin City were compared with data obtained from testing 833 pregnant women at four sentinel surveillance sites in Bendel State. The samples were all analysed by ELISA technique at the University Teaching Hospital, Benin City. Repeatedly reactive samples were confirmed by Western blot. The seroprevalence of HIV-1 in Benin City and in Bendel State was 0.28 percent and 0.36 percent, respectively. At this point in time, intensive health education campaigns targeted at the general population are necessary. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 1997;1(2): 36–40)

Résumé

La séroprévalence au VIH chez les femmes en âge de procréer dans la Ville de Benin, Nigéria

Entre 1989 et 1991, la séroprévalence au VIH était encore faible dans certaines parties du Nigéria, et il existait peu de rapports sur la séroprévalence des femmes enceintes. Afin d'évaluer la séroprévalence au VIH des femmes enceintes dans la Ville de Benin et dans l'état du Bendel, deux méthodes d'échantillonnage, à savoir les tests anonymes et les tests volontaires, ont été employées. Les données obtenues en testant les sérums de 358 femmes enceintes fréquentant des cliniques prénatales et les cordons ombilicaux recueillis dans les salles de travail de la Ville de Benin ont été comparés avec des données obtenues en testant 833 femmes enceintes se trouvant dans quatre sites expérimentaux situés dans l'état de Bendel. Les échantillons étaient tous analysés par technique ELISA à l'Ecole de Médécine de l'Université de la Ville de Benin . Les échantillons qui réagissaient positivement à plusieurs reprises ont été confirmés par la méthode du Western blot. La séroprévalence au VIH-1 dans la Ville de Benin et dans l'état de Bendel était respectivement de 0,28 pourcent et de 0,36 pourcent. Au jour d'aujourd'hui, de vastes campagnes d'information sanitaire visant un publique large sont nécessaires. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 1997;1(2): 36–40)

Key Words: *HIV-1 seroprevalence, childbearing women, Benin City, Bendel State, Nigeria*

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