Hepatitis B Prevalence
The hepatitis prevalence is 5.8% and all the regions and the highest being the Lubombo Region and lowest was Hhohho Region. Considering the transmission rate, this is a public health concern. Hepatitis B virus is extremely resistant.

Hepatitis Prevalence among pregnant women in 2010

HIV infection by other characteristics
A high proportion (91.1%) of the respondents have heard about family planning, only 49.9% of them had used family planning before current pregnancy. This observation further supports that results showing that almost two thirds (63%) of the pregnancies among the respondents were unplanned.

HIV prevalence is highest amongst clients who had three or more partners (58.3%) in the last 12 months preceding the survey and the lowest among those who reported to have one partner.

HIV prevalence by the number of sexual partners

Conclusion
The HIV prevalence is showing a decline especially amongst the adolescents; and of note is that amongst those aged 15 years there was none testing positive. Prevalence is highest amongst clients whose partners are ten years and above older than them (51%) indicating high risky intergenerational sex as observed in the DHS. In addition, having multiple sexual partners renders one prone to HIV acquisition. The survey has further provided the evidence of unmet need of reproductive health, even amongst those with known HIV positive status.

Recommendations
- Improve integration of comprehensive HIV prevention programs to address the drivers of the epidemic focusing on IEC, condom promotion, knowledge and skills for behavioural change
- Strengthen and integrate HIV/AIDS services into sexual and reproductive health services
- Create awareness on family planning services for all including those that are on treatment
- Strengthen the interval for HIV testing as required by the HTC and PMTCT guidelines
- The second generation ANC Survey should be continued on a biennially basis.

HIV Prevalence by sexual debut

Conclusion
The HIV prevalence is showing a decline especially amongst the adolescents; and of note is that amongst those aged 15 years there was none testing positive. Prevalence is highest amongst clients whose partners are ten years and above older than them (51%) indicating high risky intergenerational sex as observed in the OHS. In addition, having multiple sexual partners renders one prone to HIV acquisition. The survey has further provided the evidence of unmet need of reproductive health, even amongst those with known HIV positive status.

Recommendations
- Improve integration of comprehensive HIV prevention programs to address the drivers of the epidemic focusing on IEC, condom promotion, knowledge and skills for behavioural change
- Strengthen and integrate HIV/AIDS services into sexual and reproductive health services
- Create awareness on family planning services for all including those that are on treatment
- Strengthen the interval for HIV testing as required by the HTC and PMTCT guidelines
- The second generation ANC Survey should be continued on a biennially basis.

Summary of the survey results

12th ROUND OF NATIONAL HIV SEROSURVEILLANCE IN WOMEN ATTENDING ANTENATAL CARE SERVICES AT HEALTH FACILITIES IN SWAZILAND

November 2010

There is hope of halting and reversing the epidemic as observed by the stabilisation of HIV prevalence and downward trend amongst the adolescents.
Background

The Ministry of Health has been monitoring the epidemic since 1992 through biennial surveillance surveys among pregnant women attending antenatal care services at selected clinics. Pregnant women aged 15 to 49 years as a productive age group are essential to measure the level of HIV infection in a population and they sufficiently represent the general population. The HIV prevalence has increased from 3.9% in 1992 to 41.1% in 2010. The HIV prevalence increased rapidly in the early nineties and a sign of levelling-off was observed since 2006.

Methodology

The survey measured the level of HIV, hepatitis and syphilis infection among pregnant women aged 15 to 49 years old attending antenatal care (ANC) services for a first visit at 17 clinics around the country. The clinics were selected based on the proportion probability to be representative for the four regions and by urban and rural variation. The sentinel sites have been maintained over the years.

All pregnant women visiting the sites during the month of September to the end of October 2010 coming for the first time in that pregnancy, a blood specimen was taken that was sent to the HIV reference laboratory in Mbabane. Demographic, behavioural and biological data were collected. Consent was obtained from the participating clients and the refusal rate was 3.2% and clients who met the criteria was 1760 and out of those only 1709 samples were included for analysis since some were discarded due to haemolysis and insufficiency. Specimens were screened for HIV using Beckman Coulter Access ELISA and for syphilis using Rapid Plasma Reagen and all positive samples were confirmed using TPHA whilst for hepatitis an ELISA test was used. The specimen were collected and tested on daily basis. The forms were then sent to the Epidemiology Unit for data entry and the analysis was done by the unit together with the analyst from the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit.

Results

The level of HIV infection

The HIV prevalence amongst pregnant women tested from the seventeen sentinel sites across the four regions was 41.1% (696/1695 Cl: 38.7 - 43.4. This indicates the stabilisation of the epidemic as observed since 2004.

Trends in the level of HIV infection among antenatal clients in Swaziland since 1992

The HIV prevalence by regional variation ranges from 39.5% in Manzini to a high rate of 43.3% in the Lubombo Region. The HIV prevalence is high among those that were aged between 30-34 years (53.8%) and the lowest was among those aged 15-19 years (20.4%).

HIV infection by region

The HIV prevalence among the under nineteen years is showing a decline since peaking in 2002 with a higher prevalence amongst those aged 30-34 years. A sign of hope in the downward trend of infection among the youth.

Trends of HIV Infection by age group

A similar trend is observed amongst the core age group where the epidemic appears to be stabilising.

Prevalence of Syphilis

The prevalence of syphilis is 8.1% which has shown an increase from 3.1% in 2008. The prevalence of syphilis increases with age lowest being amongst those aged less than 19 years and highest amongst those aged 40 years and above.