

INTENTION TO HAVE AN HIV TEST: MODELING VOLUNTARY COUNSELING AND TESTING USING THEORY OF REASONED ACTION

By

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Declaration

This dissertation is the original work of Godfrey Makware. It has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines for Masters in Biostatistics dissertations in the University of Zimbabwe. It has not been submitted elsewhere for another degree at this or any other university.

Chairman of the Department of Community Medicine, University of Zimbabwe

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List of abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	Antenatal Clinics
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
ART	Anti-Retro Therapy
ARV	Anti-Retro Viral
BRTI	Biomedical Research and Training Institute
CSO	Central Statistical Office
DBS	Dried Blood Spot
EA	Enumeration Area
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ICHE	Institute of Continuing Health Education
ICOHRTA	International Clinical Operational and Health Services Research and Training
	Awards
KAP	Knowledge Attitudes and Practices
MoH&CW	Ministry of Health and Child Welfare
NAC	National AIDS Council
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
OI	Opportunistic Infection
PC	Principal Component
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
TPB	Theory of Planned Behaviour
TRA	Theory of Reasoned Action
UNAIDS	United Nations Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
WHO	World Health Organisation
ZDHS	Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey

ABSTRACT

Intention to have an HIV test: Modeling voluntary counseling and testing using

Theory of Reasoned Action

Introduction

There is a low uptake of HIV test in Zimbabwe despite the population knowledge about HIV/AIDS as shown in studies on knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP). Success in alleviating the spread of HIV/AIDS can only be fully realised if people take up HIV tests on their decision. In order to solicit information from people on their intentions towards HIV test, this study was carried out in two high-density suburbs of Harare namely Glen View and Kuwadzana. The HIV will remain unabated if HIV-positive people who do not know their HIV status take the initiative to make their status known. The study aims to model determinants of intention to have an HIV test using the theory of reasoned action framework.

Study design, participants and methods

An analytic cross sectional study was conducted in randomly selected enumeration areas in Glen View and Kuwadzana high density suburbs of Harare, Zimbabwe. Data was collected through a self-administered questionnaire distributed to 150 consenting participants, men and women aged 15 to 49 years, who had never tested for HIV and who reside in the two areas. The theoretical framework used was Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA). Two types of response variables on intention to have an HIV test were used. The first was dichotomous and used as a classification variable in discrimination analysis. The second was a continuous variable derived as a score from items in the construct and used in linear regression analysis.

Results

Data was analysed based on 134 questionnaires collected from participants, of which 61 (46%) were from Glen View and 73 (55%) Kuwadzana; 86 (65%) were females and 47 (35%) males. Sixty-nine (52%) were married and/or living together while 53 (40%) were single and/or never married and 99 (76%) were not employed. Sixty-six (49%) had an intention to have an HIV test within three months. Linear regression for intention on attitudes and subjective norms based on scores from factor analysis showed that only subjective norms [coefficient=0.67; 95% CI: 0.50 0.84] predicted intention. Linear regression for intention on attitudes and subjective norms based on belief-based attitudes and subjective norms showed that both attitudes [coefficient=0.14; 95% CI: 0.09 0.20] and subjective norms [coefficient=0.21; 0.05 0.37] were predictors of intention. Attitudes [coefficient=0.88] had a greater contribution in discriminating individuals into their groups than subjective norms [coefficient=0.30].

Conclusion

The study has shown that using factor analysis, the direct measure of the subjective norms construct is the main determinant of intention to have an HIV test as compared to attitudes. The same study has also shown that both belief-based subjective norms and belief-based attitudes are determinants of intentions. Attitudes and subjective norms obtained from scores based on Cronbachøs alpha predict intentions to HIV testing better than those based on factor analysis. Using discriminant analysis, the study has shown that the attitudes construct is better than the subjective norms construct in the discriminating participants into the groups with intention to test and with no intention.

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