

Profile of clients who tested HIV positive at ICTC of KMC, Mangalore

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Abstract

HIV infection is a global pandemic & has grown into a public health problem of unprecedented magnitude. Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTCs), previously known as Voluntary Counselling & Testing Centres (VCTCs) provide key entry points for the continuum of care in HIV/AIDS for all segments of the population. I carried out a retrospective study of 524 clients who tested positive for HIV & were registered at ICTC of teaching hospitals of Kasturba Medical College i.e. KMC, Attavar (170 clients) & Government Wenlock Hospital (354 clients). As per the study carried out, it was found that there has been a declining trend of HIV positive cases in the past 10 years, with a little rise in 2006. The majority belonged to the reproductive age-group, i.e. 25-40 years, which is also the most economically productive group. Amongst those who tested positive, majority were males (63%), belonged to married category

(67%). The HIV Status of spouse was unknown in majority of cases (66%) & amongst those it was known, most of them tested positive (81%) for HIV. As per the analysis, majority of the crowd were literate (86%) i.e. they received primary education & were daily wage workers (62%). There were also 21 cases (4%) of clients less than 10 years of age. Heterosexual mode of transmission was found to be the most common mode route, being responsible for 91% of the HIV positive clients, followed by 19 cases (3.6%) of parent to child transmission. There were also 2 cases of MSM in our study. Majority of the clients who tested positive for HIV at ICTCs were referred to ART Centres accounting for 85% cases, some cases were also referred to DOTS Centres. Such a study will help us in evaluating the performance of ICTC & designing the information, education and communication to increase the client uptake in terms of quality and quantity.

Keywords: ICTC; HIV positivity.