

The State of Women's Gynecologic Health in Africa

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Discussion



1. The United Nations (UN) Statistics Division has subdivided the African continent into five regions: Northern Africa, Central or Middle Africa, Southern Africa, East Africa, & Western Africa.
2. We will look at the resources for women's health that each region of Africa has and how they vary.
3. Analyze and interpret how underlying diseases impact fertility and family including statistical findings, visuals, & research on the topic as evidence.
4. Make inferences about how the state of their health can be changed/improved for the future.
5. Look at local issues going on in the Eastern Shore of Maryland revolving around women's health.
6. Examine how combating these problems relates to select UN sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Cervical Cancer

Low human papillomavirus (HPV) & cervical cancer incidences are collected in the extended Middle East & North African (EMENA) regions.

However, there are many issues:

- Bias data with rare occurrences of cancer screenings and registries
- Inadequate resources
- Leads to undetected HPV & late stages of cervical cancer
- Higher mortality rates for women



WAR

Plays a role in the lack of data for incident rates especially in the Middle East areas, with most screenings in the entire EMENA area being privately owned and funded.



Cost

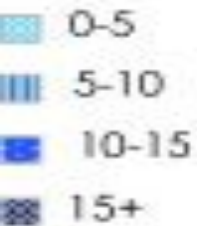
HPV screening and cancer treatments are services a lot of women in the EMENA region cannot afford.

Lifestyle

Smoking, sexual behavior, and no contraceptive use in younger cohorts of women make it more likely to modify these incident projections.

Cervical cancer mortality rates

ASR



EMENA Solutions



Implement
a variety of systematic screening programs with back up treatment facilities for different cancer types also in relation to HPV.



Survey
larger populations to represent more women and not just a select few.



Public Sectors
for screenings need to be formed in more places that are fully covered for women who are less fortunate.



Cross-Sectional Survey

18 years and older patients attending
gynecology clinics at a tertiary hospital in
Pretoria, South Africa.



45.6%

This is the percent of people who knew it was possible for HPV to cause cancer



11.8%



This is the percent of people who do not think it is possible for HPV to cause cancer



42.6%



This is the percent of people who did not know it was possible for HPV to cause cancer at all



Socio-economic Concepts

1)

Divorced/widowed/separated participants were more likely to have good knowledge of HPV compared to single participants.

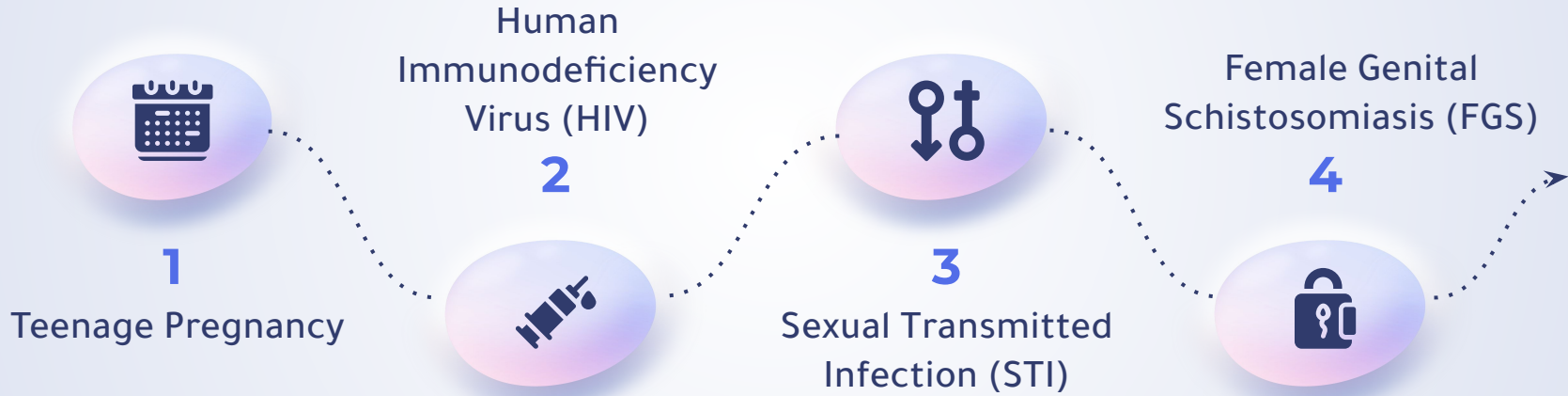
2)

Unemployed participants were less likely to have good knowledge compared to employed participants.

3)

Increasing knowledge of HPV and cervical cancer can lead to less cases of both and have less impacts on women's health and their possibilities of childbearing.

Four Reproductive Health Problem in KZN Study



Almost half of the girls in the study had experienced teenage pregnancy and almost 20% had HIV but were not aware of that prior to the screening due to:

- Drug and sexual abuse
- Older partners
- Low level of education



To Solve these Problems:



Drug Treatment Programs

in areas with high schistosome

Educational Programs

for safe sex in schools

Youth Friendly

health care facilities should be made more easily accessible

Young Women

to obtain effective diagnosis, treatment, and care



Sub-Saharan Africa



Cancer Management

for gynecologic malignancies is poor with inadequate resources.

Radiotherapy

is expensive, but these reliable machines are a necessity to decrease the morbidity involved with women's health and reproductive conditions.



Cervical Cancer

outcomes will remain poor in the region because of the high prevalence and the lack of preventive health services.



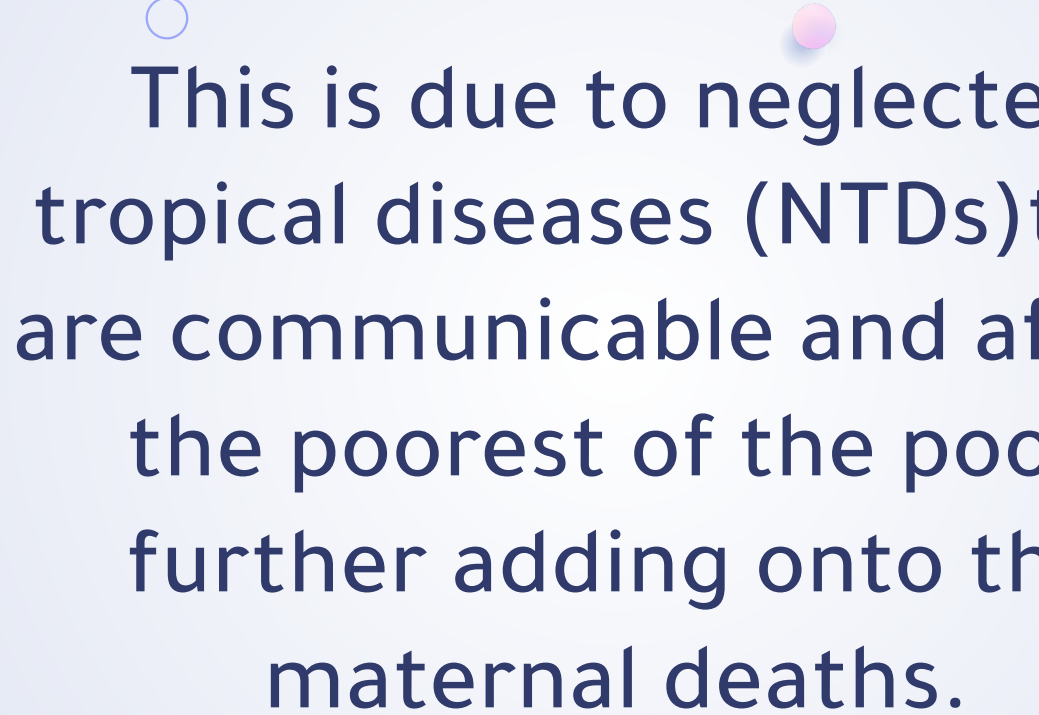


Few Oncologists

as a job make it harder to have these radiotherapies readily available for patients.

The infographic features a large, light purple circular shape with a dotted border, containing the fraction '2/3' in a bold, dark purple font. A white callout box with a dotted border is connected to the bottom of the circle by a thin blue line. The background is light blue with various decorative elements: a large blue blob in the top left, a pink-to-purple gradient sphere in the middle right, a blue-to-purple gradient sphere in the bottom left, and several smaller pink-to-purple gradient spheres and blue circles scattered throughout. There are also three blue wavy lines in the top right and three blue wavy lines in the middle left.

2/3

of all maternal deaths happen in
Sub-Saharan Africa.



○ This is due to neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) that are communicable and affect the poorest of the poor, further adding onto the maternal deaths.

Common Themes in the Region



Issues

Female Genital Schistosomiasis

- Impacts fertility and places a stigma on women with it
- Women end up feeling insignificant and isolated
- Adds onto the gender-based violence against women

Cesarean Section

- Access to safe operations are at only 1-2% in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Women with low social status and education are more susceptible to fetal distress, uterine rupture, and antepartum hemorrhage (all in which increase risk to maternal and fetal health)

Approaches

Integrative, multi-stakeholder
workshops for healthcare providers
and systems

(A)

B)

Research collaborations for
women's health with European
countries

Administering vaccinations for HPV
and drug intake for FGS

(C)



Complications with Migrant Women Workers In Maryland Crab Industry

Migrant Clinical Network, 2020

Recurring Issues



- **Maryland's crab industries** purposely abuse the system for **H-2B VISA Programs**
- Women workers are **underpaid** and work in **bad conditions** with the **company's supervision** and knowledge
- ***Vibrio vulnificus* bacterium** exposure from the crab's seawater can get exposed to the **cuts and scrapes** these women have and **cause a 50% fatality rate**
- The **chemicals, fumes, and infections** are putting these women's health are at risk and have many **workplace hazards**
- Using and **taking advantage of these women** and crab companies putting their employees **under these circumstances are unacceptable**
- **Legal services and outreach** for these female migrant workers need to be placed for this **Eastern Shore** population



Focus SDGs



Impacts on Women's Health



3

Women's health and well being
being prioritized and well
funded globally



4

More advocating for higher levels
of education for all women and
their future generations



5

Equal opportunities for and
affordable healthcare for
women and children



10

Less prejudice and injustice
reactions towards diseases that
are prevalent for girls



17

International partnerships for large
clinical trials dedicated for women
in curing disorders and cancers



Conclusion

The health issues occurring in many regions in Africa have impacts on women's health, but they have promising future results with time and interventions.

References

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**Thank
You!**