

# **HIV/AIDS Knowledge, Awareness and Perception of Undergraduate Students at the University of Stellenbosch**

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Assignment presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Philosophy (HIV/AIDS Management) at Stellenbosch University



Study leader: Prof JCD Augustyn

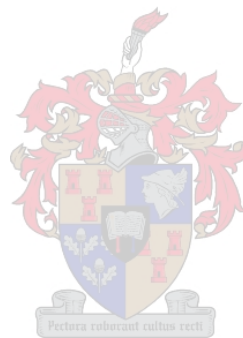
December 2005

## **Declaration**

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that the work contained in this assignment is my own original work, and that I have not previously, in its entirety or in part, submitted it at any university for a degree.

Signature:

Date:

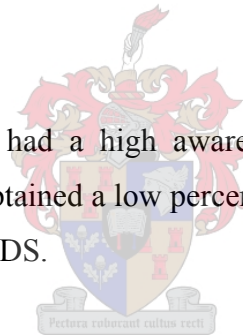


## Summary

The number of people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide is estimated at 42 million. HIV/AIDS is one of the leading causes of death in Sub-Saharan Africa. HIV/AIDS has reached epidemic proportions in South Africa and has serious consequences for individuals as well as for South Africa's health resources and economy. In the light of the pandemic the understanding and planning for HIV/AIDS is of increasing importance, particular with reference to a subgroup of the South African population, its youth.

The aim of this study is to analyse the knowledge, awareness and perception levels of undergraduate students at the University of Stellenbosch regarding HIV/AIDS. Close-ended questions on a 4-point Lickert scale was electronically submitted through the e-learning system, WebCT to 800 randomly selected students of whom 206 completed it.

Results indicated that students had a high awareness and perception level about HIV/AIDS. However students obtained a low percentage on questions relating to their factual knowledge about HIV/AIDS.



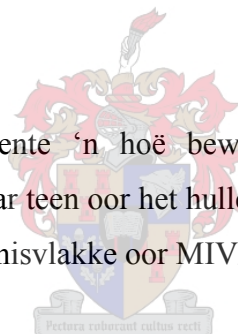
Recommendations for future research in the area of HIV/AIDS within the context of tertiary education are proposed.

## Opsomming

Daar word beraam dat ongeveer 42 miljoen mense wêreldwyd met MIV/Vigs geïnfecteer is. MIV/Vigs is een van die grootste enkele oorsake van sterftes in Sub-Sahara Afrika. MIV/Vigs het epidermiese proporsies in Suid-Afrika bereik en hou ernstige gevolge vir individue sowel as die Suid-Afrikaanse gesondheidssektor en ekonomie in. In die lig van die pandemie is die begrip en beplanning rondom MIV/Vigs van kardinale belang, veral vir 'n subgroep van die Suid-Afrikaanse bevolking – die jeug.

Die doel van hierdie studie is 'n ondersoek na die kennis-, bewustheids- en persepsie vlakke van voorgraadse studente aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch met betrekking tot MIV/Vigs. Geslote vrae op 'n 4 punt Likert skaal is elektronies via die e-leer stelsel, WebCT aan 800 ewekansig geselekteerde studente gestuur. Hiervan het 206 dit voltooi.

Resultate dui daarop dat studente 'n hoë bewustheids en persepsie vlak met betrekking tot MIV/Vigs het. Daar teen oor het hulle 'n lae persentasie ten opsigte van vrae wat handel oor feitelike kennisvlakke oor MIV/Vigs behaal.



Aanbevelings vir toekomstige navorsing in die veld van MIV/Vigs binne die konteks van tersiere onderwys word voorgestel.

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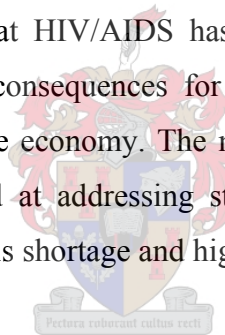
## 1. Introduction

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infects and destroys the white blood cells that play a critical role in the fight against diseases. HIV is a delicate virus and dies if it is exposed to air (van Wyk, 2005). HIV can be transmitted through the following methods:

- Unprotected sexual intercourse (heterosexual as well as homosexual);
- Transmission of infected blood;
- Sharing of contaminated needles among illegal intravenous drug users;
- Accidental needle sticks, especially in the medical profession;
- Prenatal contact from mother to foetus.

(Firmansyah & Kleiner, 1999)

Van Wyk (2005) points out that HIV/AIDS has reached epidemic proportions in South Africa and has serious consequences for individuals as well as for South Africa's health resources and the economy. The negative impact of HIV/AIDS may adversely affect efforts directed at addressing structural problems, including high levels of unemployment, the skills shortage and high levels of income inequality.



In the light of the pandemic the understanding and planning for HIV/AIDS in South Africa is of increasing importance, in particular with reference to a subgroup of the South African population, its youth. According to Whiteside & Sunter (2000) this is especially significant, as this is coherent with the fastest growing rate of HIV infection. The negative implications of a high death rate among youth on social and economic progress cannot be overstated. The increased incidence of HIV infection amongst students at tertiary institutions can also be highlighted as a cause for concern (Uys, Ichharan, Martin and Alexander, 2001). Only a limited number of studies of HIV/AIDS have been undertaken amongst students at tertiary institutions. Van Wyk (2005) points out that not much research has been done on the perception, attitudes and awareness of undergraduate students regarding the epidemic. All of these studies indicated that students were generally knowledgeable about the causes and modes of transmission of HIV/AIDS. The umbrella organisation for tertiary education in South Africa, Higher Education South Africa, admits this and also points out that

international research on HIV/AIDS and higher education appears to be based on case studies of knowledge, attitudes and practice amongst students ([www.heaids.org.za](http://www.heaids.org.za)). Although literature on HIV/AIDS is extensive, relatively little has been devoted to testing the perceptions of the different role players and more specifically the youth on the disease. According to the website [www.heaids.org.za](http://www.heaids.org.za) the literature on HIV/AIDS and education is growing. It is however dominated by a focus on schooling, debates on curriculum change and a focus on prevention.

The aim of this study is an attempt to analyse the knowledge, awareness and perception level of undergraduate students at the University of Stellenbosch regarding HIV/AIDS. It focuses on the knowledge level, attitudes, practices and behavioural factors central in influencing students' views on the epidemic. For this research a questionnaire was electronically distributed to 800 students and a total of 206 responded by completing it.

## **2. Background Statistics**

By the end of 2002 the estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide were 4.2 million. 3.2 Million of these were children under the age of 15 years (UNAIDS and WHO, 2002). More than 90% of all adult infections occur in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is estimated that the HIV positive population in South Africa were approximately 3.83 million, which relates to a HIV prevalence rate of 15.2% of the adult population. Approximately 1700 people were estimated to be infected each day. The accumulated AIDS deaths up to 2004 were estimated to be 1.94 million (Stats SA, 2004).

HIV/AIDS is one of the leading causes of death in Sub-Saharan Africa and also a major contributor to the infectious disease component of the present and future disease burden (van Wyk, 2005). AIDS related deaths in South Africa is expected to increase from 120 000 in 2000 to between 545 000 and 635 000 in 2010 (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2000).

Although HIV/AIDS is not a notifiable disease in South Africa the vast majority of deaths in South Africa is also usually associated with secrecy and denial. Thus, one word describes HIV/AIDS in South Africa: catastrophic.

According to Uys et al (2001) the projections of infection rates for University students paint a very bleak picture. High estimates were evident in a study undertaken at the University of Durban-Westville (UDW). Infection rates of 26% in women and 12% in men between the ages 20-24 were reported. Dhianaraj Chetty estimated HIV infection levels in 2000 as follows:

- 22% for University undergraduate students;
- 11% for postgraduate university students;
- 24.5% for technikon undergraduate students.

These figures are expected to increase to the following levels by the year 2005:

- 33% for University undergraduate students;
- 21% for postgraduate University students;
- 36% for technikon undergraduate students.



The above projections were based on a presentation by Athony Kinghorn, a consultant with ABT Associates, the firm that undertook the UDW study (Chetty, 2000). A study by the Department of Health indicates that 22% of undergraduate students were infected in 2001 and that this figure could rise to 33% in 2005 (Macfarlane, 2001).

HESA acknowledges that the life-blood of Universities is the crop of students they enrol each year. These 18-30 year olds are amongst the most capable and promising members of all societies. They are the future corps of the highly skilled base of any economy. But they are also the age group at the highest risk of contracting the HI virus. Many arrive at University already infected others will become infected whilst at University. Therefore HIV/AIDS is of particular relevance to higher education and indeed the University of Stellenbosch.



### **3. Method of Research**

#### **3.1 Permission**

Permission to conduct a knowledge, awareness and perception study amongst undergraduate students at the University of Stellenbosch regarding HIV/AIDS had to be obtained from the office of the Registrar: Academic. Permission was granted by the Registrar's Office on the condition that students participate in the study on a voluntary basis and that students participating in the study should remain anonymous.

#### **3.2 Measuring Instrument**

After permission was obtained from the Registrar's Office to go ahead with the study, a questionnaire was developed by the researcher in consultation with a senior academic staff member of the African Centre for HIV/AIDS Management as well as the Director for the Centre for Statistical Consultation – both at the University of Stellenbosch. The questionnaire consisted of 35 questions and was divided into four sections. The first section consisted of demographic questions, the second section consisted of knowledge questions, the third section consisted of awareness questions and the fourth section consisted of perception questions. Questions were posed in a close-ended format and questions based on a 4-point Lickert scale (Strongly Agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree). As this was a newly designed questionnaire developed specifically for this study no data is available regarding the validity and reliability of the measuring instrument (The questionnaire is attached as Annexure A).

#### **3.3 Collection of Data**

With the help of the Assistant Registrar: Student Records a sample of 800 undergraduate students were randomly selected. The questionnaire was uploaded (with the help of the Division Academic Support) on to the University's e-learning system WebCT. The 800 selected students were requested via e-mail (attached as Annexure B) to log onto WebCT and complete the questionnaire. The questionnaire was available for completion from the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2005 to the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2005 – thus for a period of three weeks.

### 3.4 Research Design

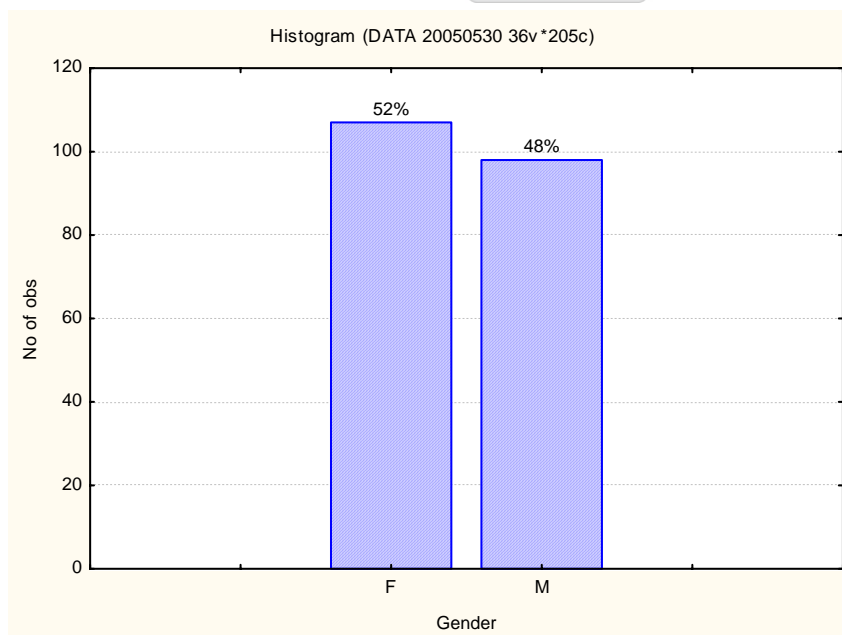
Our research design can be best described as a cross-sectional survey design. It was decided to use this research design because it was believed to be the best research design.

### 3.5 Statistical Analysis

The statistical analysis was carried out with the aid of the Statistica program with help from the Director of the Centre for Statistical Consultation. Descriptive statistics was obtained and a comparison was made between gender, age, home province and place where they stayed at Stellenbosch.

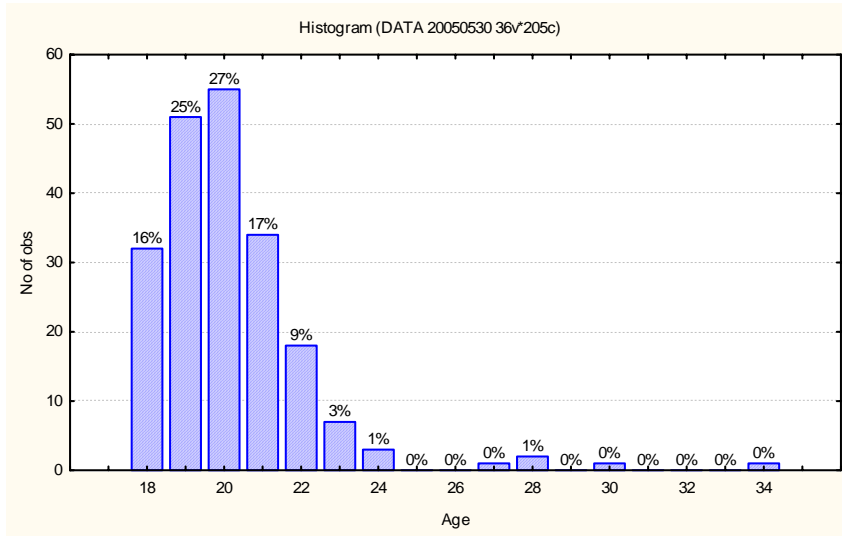
### 3.6 Participants

From the sample of 800 students requested to complete the questionnaire a total of 206 (n=206) completed the questionnaire. Of these students 52% were female and 48% were male. (See Graph 1)



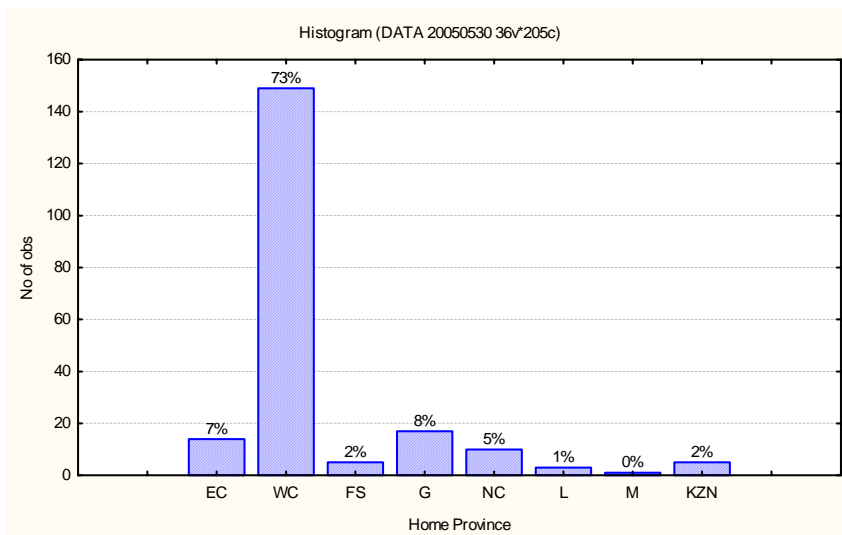
Graph 1: Gender distribution of respondents

The majority were in the age group 18-24 with 16% eighteen, 25% nineteen, 27% twenty, 17% twenty-one, 9% twenty-two, 3% twenty-three and only 1% twenty-four and twenty-eight respectively. (See Graph 2)



Graph 2: Age distribution of respondents

The majority of the students who completed the questionnaire home province were the Western Cape. 73% of the respondents reside in the Western Cape. (See Graph 3)



Graph 3: Distribution of respondents per Home Province

The students who completed the questionnaire were almost evenly spread between those living in University residence (47%) and private accommodation (52%).

#### 4. Results and Discussion

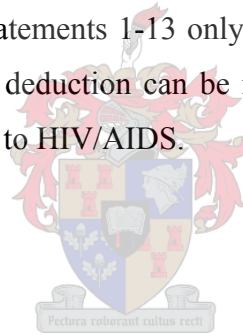
Please note that for analysing purposes (Tables 1-3) that if the correct answer was strongly agree, agree was also considered to be correct. In such a case disagree or strongly disagree was considered to be incorrect. Visa versa if strongly disagree was the correct answer, disagree was also considered to be correct. In such a case agree or strongly agree was considered to be incorrect.

**Table1**

**Results regarding respondent's knowledge of HIV/AIDS**

No	Statements regarding knowledge	Correct %	Incorrect %
1	HIV was carried over from chimpanzees to the human race	31	69
2	The first HIV cases was diagnosed in the United States of America	49	51
3	The first HIV cases was diagnosed in Africa	50	50
4	The majority of HIV infected people live in Sub-Saharan Africa	73	26
5	An estimated 100 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS worldwide	23	77
6	An estimated 40 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS worldwide	35	65
7	The number of people dying of AIDS per year is over 4 mil	75	25
8	The number of people dying of AIDS per year is over 20 mil	56	44
9	In South Africa it is estimated that nearly 8 million people is infected with HIV/AIDS	80	20
10	The province in South Africa with the highest HIV prevalence rate is the Eastern Cape	45	55
11	Men is more likely to get HIV then women	94	6
12	More women in South Africa is infected with HIV then men	71	29
13	HIV can be eradicated by the use of antiretroviral drugs	88	11
	<b>AVERAGE</b>	59.23	40.62

Table one identifies the factual knowledge level of the respondents about HIV/AIDS. On statement 1, 5 and 6 a very low percentage of respondents (31, 23 and 35 respectively) gave the correct answer. As both statements 5 and 6 relate to how many people are infected with HIV/AIDS worldwide the conclusion can be made that respondents have no idea of how many people is infected with HIV/AIDS worldwide. The correct answer is 40 million and only 35% of the respondents answered correctly. On statement 11, 13, 9 and 7 a relatively high percentage of respondents (94, 88, 80 and 75 respectively) gave the correct answer. In statement 9 that relates to the number of people infected with HIV/AIDS in South Africa 80% of the respondents answered correctly. This is in contrast with the low percentage of correct answers for statement 5 and 6 that deals with the infection rate worldwide. A positive aspect is that high percentages of respondents now that women are more vulnerable for the disease than men (94%) and that antiretroviral drugs cannot eradicate HIV (88%). However if we look at the overall picture for statements 1-13 only 59% of the respondents gave the correct answer on average. The deduction can be made that students do not have a high knowledge on facts relating to HIV/AIDS.



**Table2****Results regarding respondent's awareness of HIV/AIDS**

No	Statements regarding awareness	Correct %	Incorrect %
1	HIV can only be transmitted through unprotected sex	88	12
2	You and your partner should be tested for HIV before practicing unprotected sex	95	5
3	A condom should be used when you are uncertain about your partners HIV status	92	8
4	If you have come in contact with another persons blood you should immediately consult a doctor and ask for AZT treatment	95	5
5	It is save for drug users to share needles if they know each others HIV status	94	6
6	An employer may force its employees or prospective employees to test for HIV	68	32
7	An employer may terminate an employees contract if they find out he/she is HIV positive	95	5
8	It is safe for HIV infected women who use antiretroviral drugs to breastfeed	31	69
9	Before a HIV test is done one should go for counseling	76	24
	<b>Average</b>	81.55	18.44

Table two tries to identify the respondent's awareness level about HIV/AIDS. The overall average of correct answers for statements 1-9 was 82%. This is a very high percentage and the deduction can be made that students have a high awareness level of HIV/AIDS. One exception is however statement 8 where only 31% of the respondents gave the correct answer. This statement relates to the fact that it is safe for HIV infected women who use antiretroviral drugs to breastfeed. On statement 1 88% of the respondents gave the correct answer that HIV can be transmitted on more ways than just unprotected sex. According to van Wyk (2005) this corresponds with the findings of Lim & Lee (2001). Their findings suggest that their respondents

surveyed were generally knowledgeable about the four main modes of HIV transmission, namely through sexual contact, through sharing of contaminated needles among HIV drugs users, through transfusion of contaminated blood products and from an infected mother to her baby during pregnancy.

Table3

Results regarding respondent's perception of HIV/AIDS

No	Statements regarding perception	Correct %	Incorrect %
1	HIV/AIDS is more commonly found amongst black people	35	65
2	HIV/AIDS is more commonly found amongst homosexual men	61	39
3	HIV can only be transmitted through unprotected sex	92	8
4	HIV positive people cannot continue to live a productive life as they have to use a lot of medicine with side-effects	87	13
5	The right use of antiretroviral drugs in combination with a healthy diet can cure HIV	89	11
6	Pregnant women who is HIV positive will transmit the virus to the unborn baby and he/she will die at birth	89	11
7	Poverty is the main reason for the spread of HIV	70	30
8	HIV does not lead to AIDS	89	11
9	You must first get TB to become HIV+	98	2
	<b>Average</b>	78.89	21.1

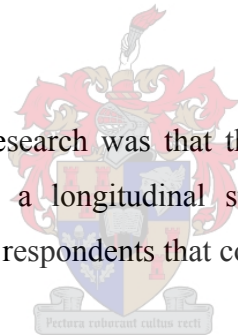
Table 3 tries to identify the respondent's perception level about HIV/AIDS. The overall average percentage of correct answers was 79%. This is a very high percentage and the deduction can be made that students have a high perception level of HIV/AIDS. One exception however was statement 1 where the perception (incorrectly) among 65% of the respondents was that HIV/AIDS can be more commonly found amongst black people. This high percentage can be ascribed to the

fact that almost 71% of the University of Stellenbosch enrolled students of 15 548 for 2004 was white.

This study found a significant difference between males and females in terms of total knowledge [ $f(1,200) = 5,9537; p \leq 0,01$ ]. Further a significant difference was also found between males and females in terms of levels of awareness [ $f(1,200) = 9,8211; p \leq 0,01$ ]. The results of this study therefore indicate females are in general more knowledgeable and aware in terms of HIV/AIDS than males.

This research was administered among only 206 undergraduate students at the University of Stellenbosch. Therefore, one could argue that the findings are not necessarily a generalisation of all undergraduate students' knowledge, awareness and perception about HIV/AIDS. It can be argued that only the "converted" participated in this study. It does, however serve as a point of reference for future research on this topic.

One of the limitations of this research was that the questionnaire used was a self-reported questionnaire and not a longitudinal study. Another limitation of this research is the low percentage of respondents that completed the questionnaire.



## **5. What do we know – what have we learned**

The results of this study does not correspond with the predictions about prevalence in terms of HIV/AIDS as was found and predicted by Uys et al , Chetty and Macfarlane in their studies (see page 3). It can be argued that KAP studies are not necessarily a valid indication of HIV/AIDS prevalence as the results of this study do not reflect the projected reality. Knowledge and awareness about HIV/AIDS is no guarantee for a low prevalence rate. It can also be argued that the questionnaire as a measurement design is not a adequate to predict knowledge and awareness in terms of HIV/AIDS and that future studies should look at different measurements designs eg. focus groups.



## 6. Recommendations for Future Research

Based on the results of this study, the following recommendations are proposed for future research in the area of HIV/AIDS. These will be in line with the factors influencing the perceptions of students regarding the epidemic (van Wyk, 2000)

- the HIV/AIDS preventative programme that is already in place and run by the University's HIV/AIDS co-ordinator, Monica du Toit should be intensified to promote changes in lifestyle to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS;
- awareness programmes with a emphasize on the factual aspects of the disease should be intensified to create a bigger understanding of the disease.

In the light of the fact that not much research in the area of HIV/AIDS in the tertiary sector has been done, further studies should be undertaken on a wider scale in order to generate a better and more general view of the knowledge, awareness and perception of undergraduate students on HIV/AIDS. This also proposed by van Wyk (2005) in his study on the perception, attitudes and awareness level of undergraduate students at the North-West University (Vaal Triangle Campus). Future research at the University of Stellenbosch should look at the students' knowledge, awareness and perception level and link this to their HIV status. The study conducted by Uys et al (2001) at the Rand Afrikaanse University can be used as a model.

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## ANNEXURE A

### Demographic Questions

1. Gender

male  female

2. Age

\_\_\_\_\_ years

3. Home Province (choose one)

Western Cape  Northern Cape  Eastern Cape  Free State  
 Kwazulu-Natal  Gauteng  Limpopo  Northern Province  
 Mpumalanga

4. Residence (choose one)

University residence  University Home  Private accommodation



### Knowledge based questions

5. HIV was carried over from chimpanzees to the human race

strongly agree  agree  disagree  strongly disagree

6. The first HIV cases was diagnosed in the United States of America

strongly agree  agree  disagree  strongly disagree

7. The first HIV cases was diagnosed in Africa

strongly agree  agree  disagree  strongly disagree

8. The majority of HIV infected people live in Sub-Saharan Africa

strongly agree  agree  disagree  strongly disagree

9. An estimated 100million people are infected with HIV/AIDS world wide

strongly agree       agree       disagree       strongly disagree

10. An estimated 40million people are infected with HIV/AIDS world wide

strongly agree       agree       disagree       strongly disagree

11. The number of people dieing of AIDS per year is over 4 million

strongly agree       agree       disagree       strongly disagree

12. The number of people dying of AIDS per year is over 20 million

strongly agree       agree       disagree       strongly disagree

13. In South Africa it is estimated that nearly 8 million people is infected with HIV/AIDS

strongly agree       agree       disagree       strongly disagree

14. The province in South Africa with the highest HIV prevalence rate is the Eastern Cape

strongly agree       agree       disagree       strongly disagree

15. Men is more likely to get HIV then women

strongly agree       agree       disagree       strongly disagree

16. More women in South Africa is infected with HIV then men

strongly agree       agree       disagree       strongly disagree

17. HIV can be eradicated by the use of antiretroviral drugs

strongly agree       agree       disagree       strongly disagree

### Awareness Questions

18. HIV can only be transmitted through unprotected sex

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

19. You and your partner should be tested for HIV before practicing unprotected sex

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

20. A condom should be used when you are uncertain about your partners HIV status

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

21. If you have come in contact with another persons blood you should immediately consult a doctor and ask for AZT treatment

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

22. It is safe for drug users to share needles if they know each others HIV status

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

23. An employer may force its employees or prospective employees to test for HIV

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

24. An employer may terminate an employees contract if they find out he or she is HIV positive

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

25. It is safe for HIV infected women who use antiretroviral drugs to breastfeed

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

26. Before a HIV test is done one should go for counseling

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

### Perception questions

27. HIV/AIDS is more commonly found amongst black people

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

28. HIV/AIDS is more commonly found among homosexual men

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

29. HIV can only be transmitted through unprotected sex

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

30. HIV positive people cannot continue to live a productive life as they have to use a lot of medicine with side-effects

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

31. The right use of antiretroviral drugs in combination with a healthy balanced diet can cure HIV

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

32. Pregnant women who is HIV positive will transmit the virus to the unborn baby and he/she will die at birth

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

33. Poverty is the main reason for the spread of HIV

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

34. HIV does not lead to AIDS

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

35. You must first get TB to become HIV+

strongly agree     agree     disagree     strongly disagree

## ANNEXURE B

### VRAELYS OOR KENNIS VAN EN PERSEPSIES EN HOUDING OOR MIV en Vigs

Soos die meeste van julle waarskynlik bewus is, het die Vigs-pandemie ernstige afmetings begin afneem in Suider-Afrika. Die projeksies oor die verloop van die pandemie skets 'n redelike donker prentjie en sonder doeltreffende bestuur van die pandemie, gaan dit die lewe van omtrent elke persoon in Suid- Afrika beïnvloed word.

Ten einde die pandemie te bestuur is inligting nodig voordat 'n behoorlike strategie beplan kan word. Die doel van die aangehegde vraelys is om kennisvlakke, houdings en persepsies op Kampus te bepaal en u in die ewekansige steekproef van studente ingesluit. U hulp met die invul van die vraelys word dringend benodig vir die datapoel. Ons waarborg dat die inligting wat u verskaf anoniem hanteer word. Daar is trouens geen manier wat enigiemand ooit kan weet waar die vraelys vandaan kom nie.

Die opname wat onder Stellenbosch studente gemaak word dra die seen weg van Stellenbosch Universiteit en word onder beskerming van die Afrika Sentrum vir MIV/Vigsbestuur gedoen. Prof. Johan Augustyn van die Afrika Sentrum tree as studeieleier op en ekselwerk vir Stellenbosch Universiteit en is tans 'n ingeskrewe MPhil student.

U hulp met die invul van hierdie vraelys kan die studie maak of breek. U word vriendelik versoek om die vraelys elektronies te voltooi en terug te stuur. Dit sal net 'n paar minute van u tyd in beslag neem, maar sal uiters waardevolle inligting aan die navorser verskaf. Instruksie vir die invul van die vraelys word aangeheg en ek sal graag die vraelys terug wou hê voor of op 18 Mei 2005.

  
Pectora roburant cultus recti

U samwerking word baie hoog op prys gestel.

GM Cornelissen

Prof JCD Augustyn

## QUESTIONNAIRE ABOUT KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTIONS OF HIV AND AIDS

As most of you are probably aware, the AIDS pandemic has begun to reach alarming proportions in South Africa. The projections of the progress of the pandemic are gloomy and without effective management of the pandemic, practically every person in South Africa will be affected.

Information is needed before a proper strategy can be planned to manage the pandemic. The attached questionnaire is intended to determine levels of knowledge, attitudes and perceptions on campus and to include you in the random survey of students. Your input by means of the questionnaire is essential for the data pool. We guarantee your anonymity. In fact there is no way in which anybody can establish the origin of the questionnaire.

The survey done among Stellenbosch students is approved by the University and is done under the auspices of the Africa Centre for HIV/AIDS Management. Prof. Johan Augustyn of the Centre is the supervisor. I am an employee of Stellenbosch University and currently a registered MPhil student.

Your help in this regard is crucial to the success of the study. Please answer and return the questionnaire electronically. It will only take a few minutes of your time, but will be invaluable to the researcher. I attach instructions how to complete the questionnaire and I would like to have it back before or by 18 May 2005.

Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated.

GM Cornelissen

Prof JCD Augustyn

