



Diagnosing HIV/AIDS

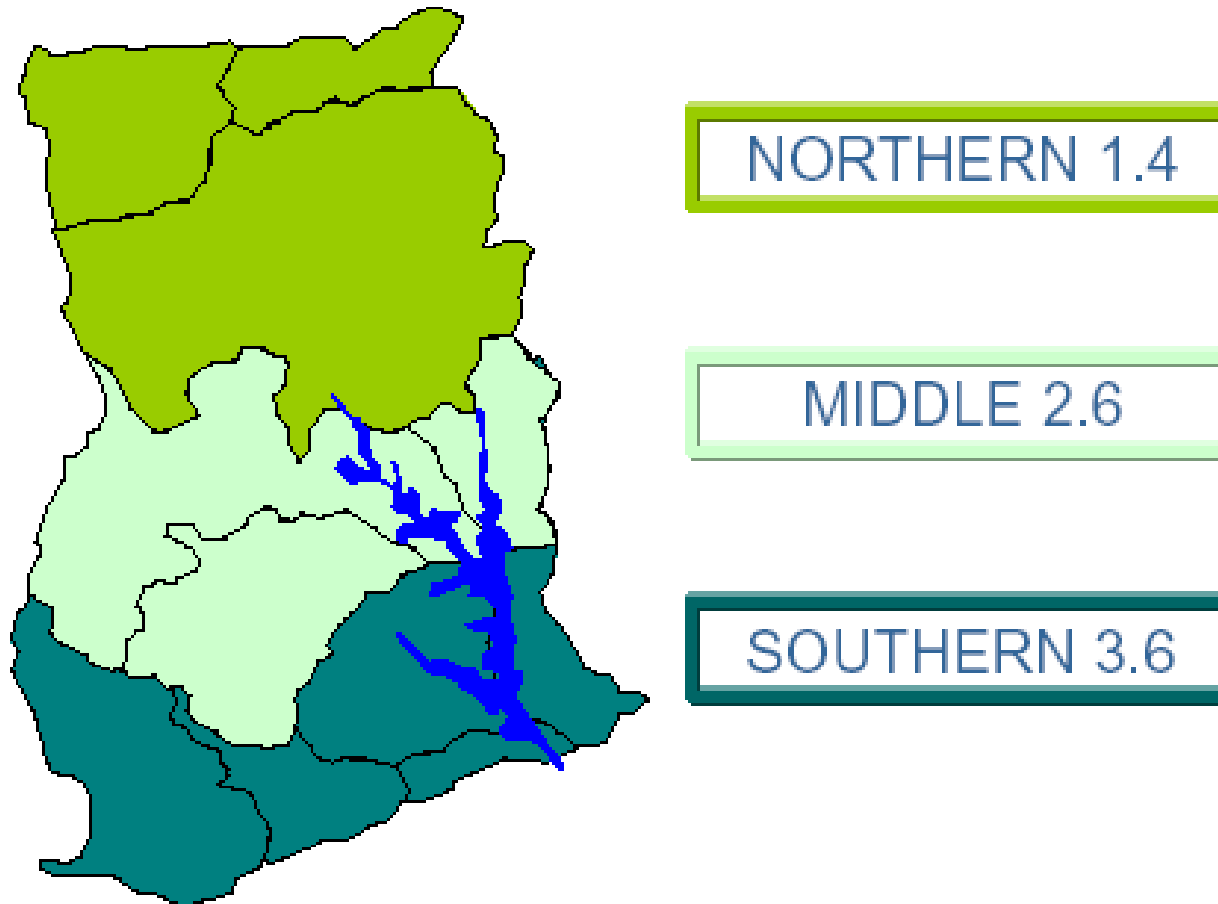


Marissa Humphrey MSIV
New York Medical College
GE/NMF Scholar

Introduction

- The World Health Organization estimates that 70 percent of all AIDS cases have occurred in Africa and the highest HIV rates in the world are now in southern Africa.
- Poverty, the high prevalence of other sexually transmitted diseases, and cultural beliefs all contribute to the rapid spread of HIV in Africa.
- In Ghana, the Sentinel Surveillance Systems for HIV are designed to provide information on trends to policy makers and program planners.
- HIV Sentinel Surveillance recorded a prevalence of 3.6% in 2003, 2.7% in 2005 and an increase to 3.2% in 2006.

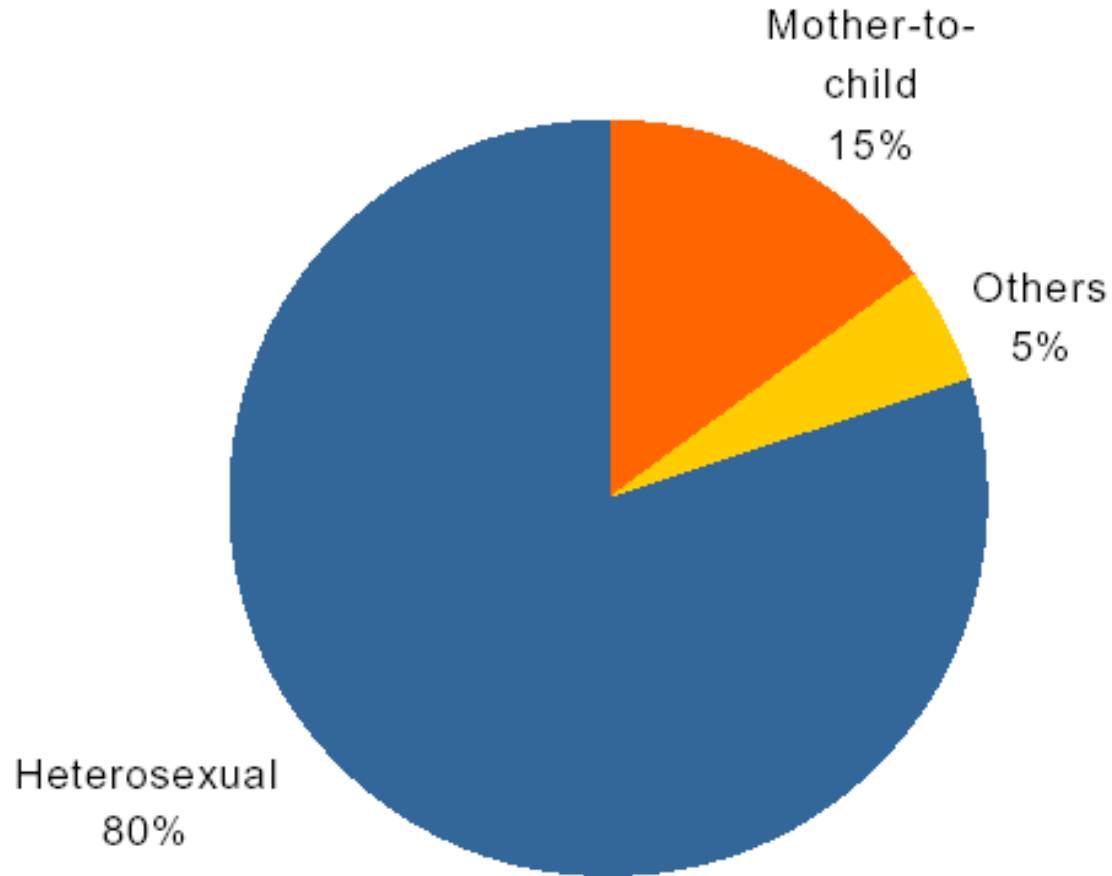
HIV Prevalence, Age 15-49 by Geographic Region 2000



Testing Programs

- Voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) allows patients to learn their HIV status based on their desire to know.
- VCT is available in all 138 districts at 421 public and private facilities across the country.
- Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) is a program where all pregnant mothers are encouraged to be tested for HIV in order to protect their unborn child.
- PMTCT started services in 2002, by September 2007, 407 PMTCT sites had been established in 138 districts.
- About 30 to 40 percent of infants born to infected mothers will themselves be infected.

HIV Transmission Mechanisms



Cost of Care

- HIV/AIDS Economic Impact Study in Ghana
June 2001
- Cost of out-patient care including drugs and laboratory services for opportunistic infections for an AIDS patient ranges between 3.63 Cedis (US\$3.82) and 38.03 (US\$40.23) per episode of illness.
- Total cost for treating an AIDS patient for opportunistic infections for one year is approximately 420 Cedis (US\$442).
- Total cost for full anti-retroviral treatment 4,500 Cedis (\$4736.84) per patient per year.

Barrier to Diagnosis

- Poor access to adequate medical care and social support.
- Fear of stigma and discrimination
- Lack of information and education about HIV/AIDS among the general population
- Inadequate confidentiality
- Cost of tests and trained counselors

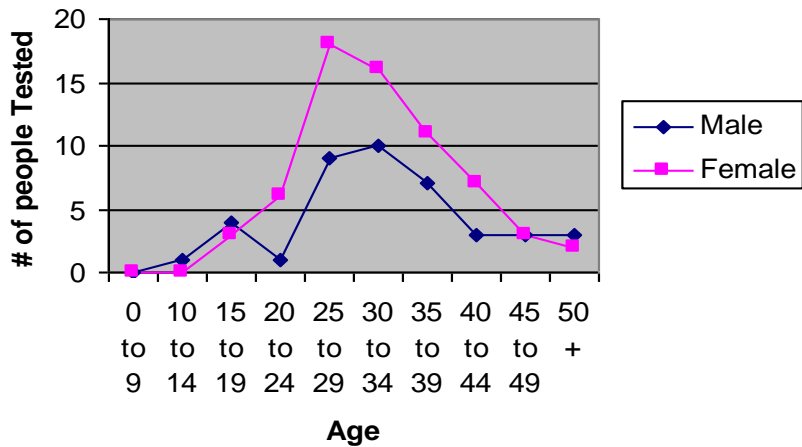
Methods

- Location:
 - 3 weeks at Apam Catholic Hospital in Apam, Ghana
 - 2 weeks at Manhyia District Hospital in Manhyia, Ghana.
- Data was collected from the priest who did VCT at Apam Catholic Hospital and the nurse who did VCT at Manhyia District Hospital on all of the patients counseled and tested for HIV in 2006 and 2007.
- Data collected included:
 - number receiving pre-test counseling
 - number of patients tested for HIV
 - number of patients receiving results
 - number of patients having positive HIV test results
 - number receiving post-test counseling.

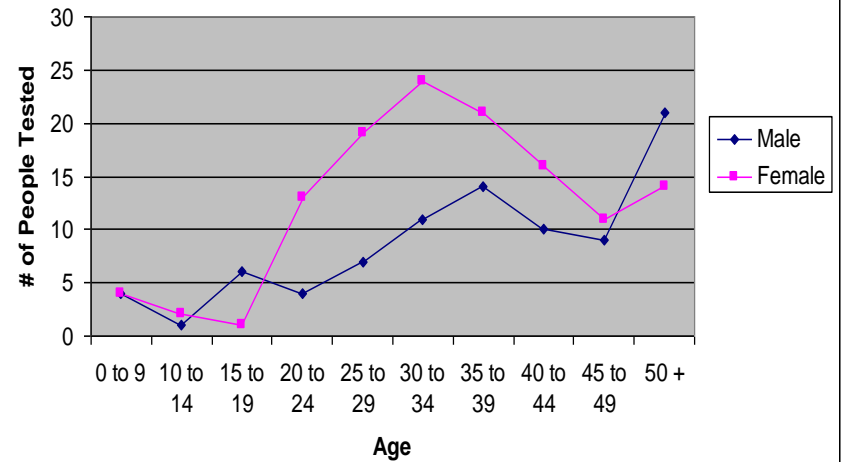


Results

Manhya Testing 2006

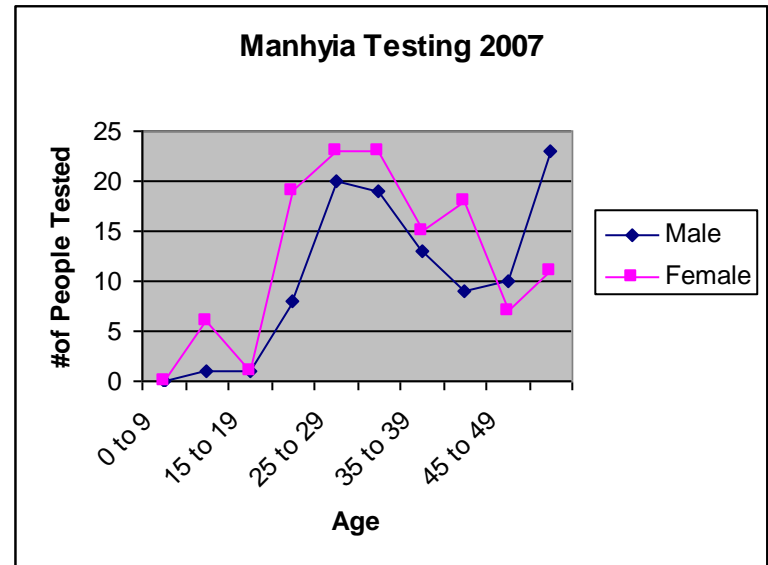
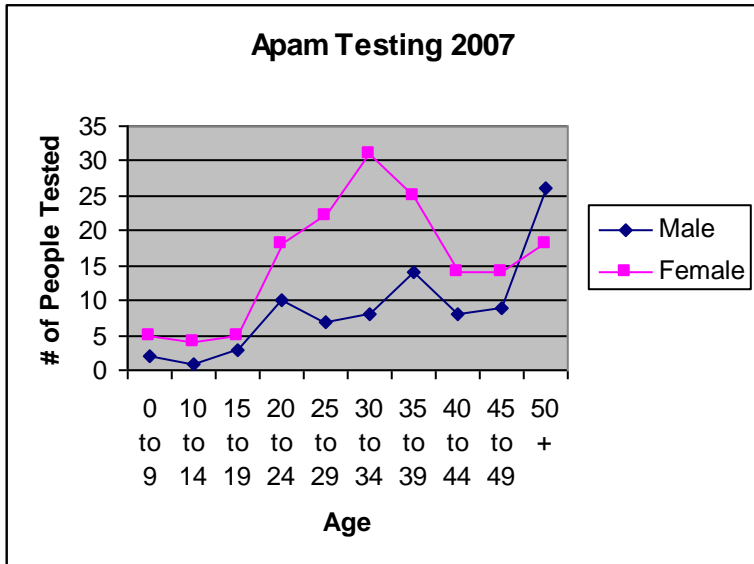


Apam Testing 2006

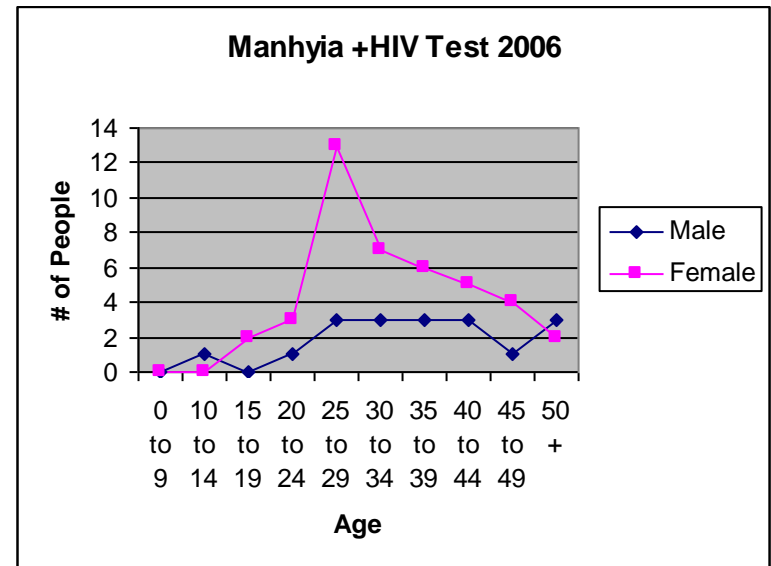
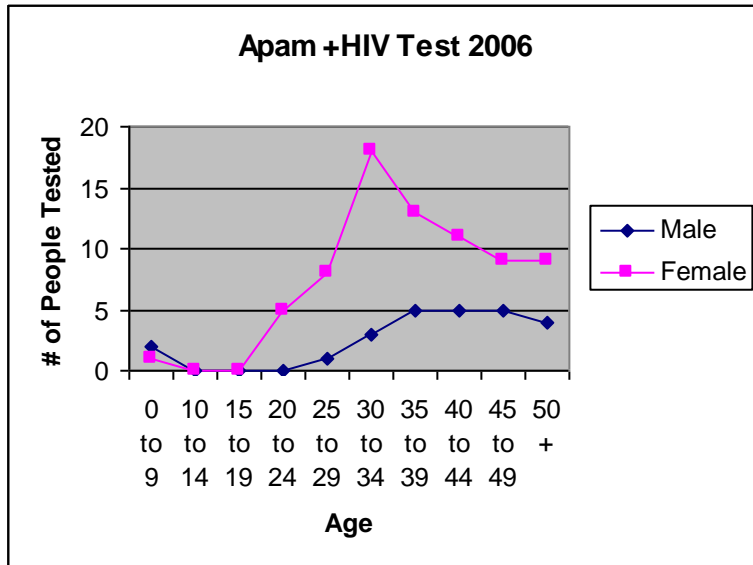


Manhya: 60% more women were tested than men

Apam: 43% more women were tested for HIV

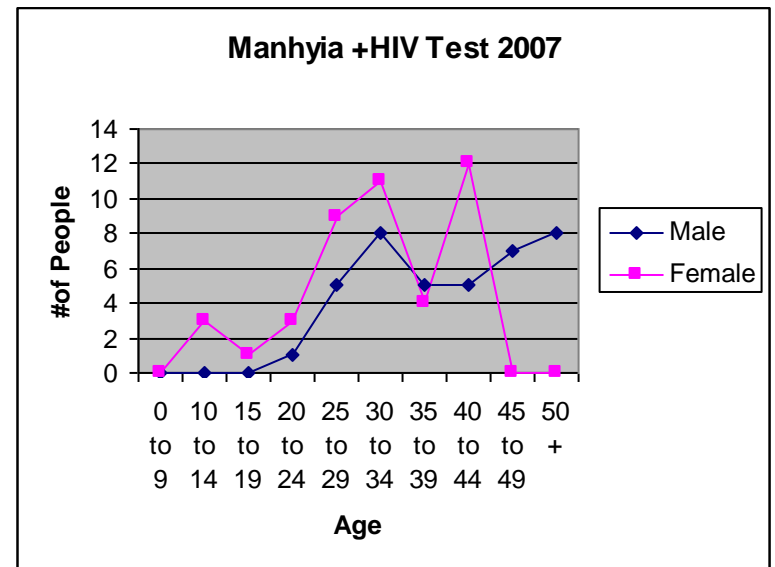
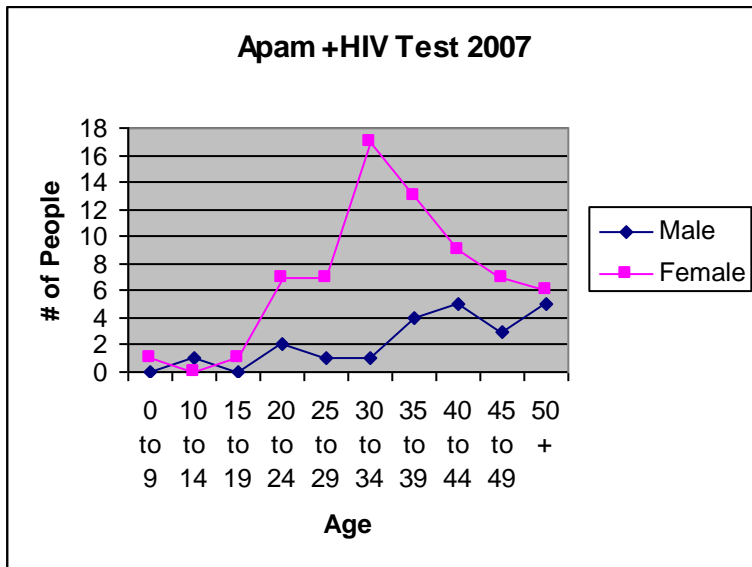


Manhya: 18% more women were tested for HIV
 Apam: 77% more women were tested for HIV



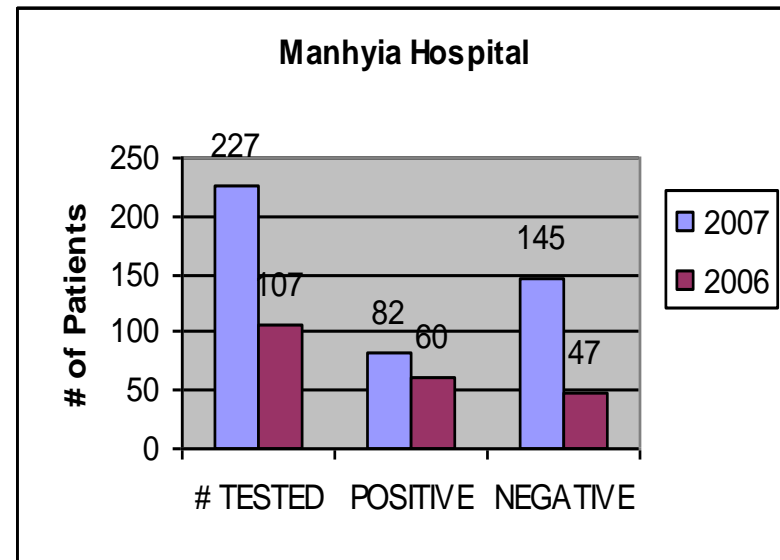
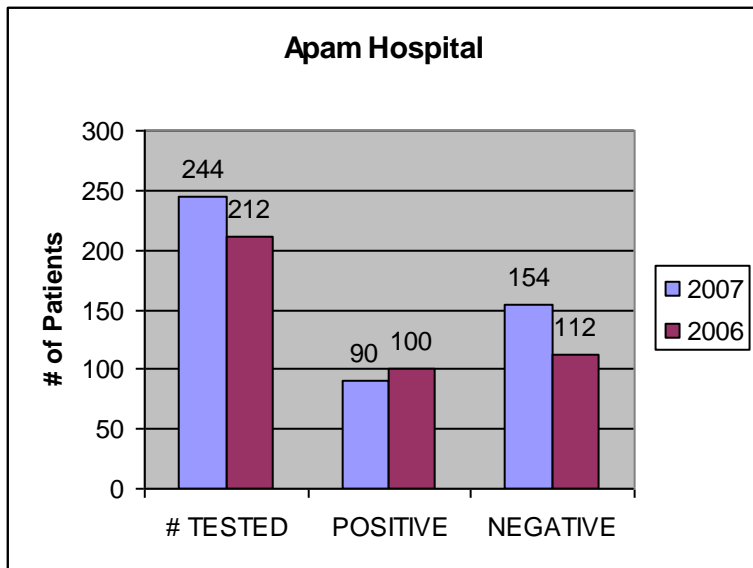
Apam: 59% of women and 28% of men tested were HIV positive.

Manhya: 63% of women and 43% of men tested were HIV positive.



Apam: 43% of women and 25% of men tested were positive.

Manhyia: 34% of women and 37% of men tested were HIV positive.



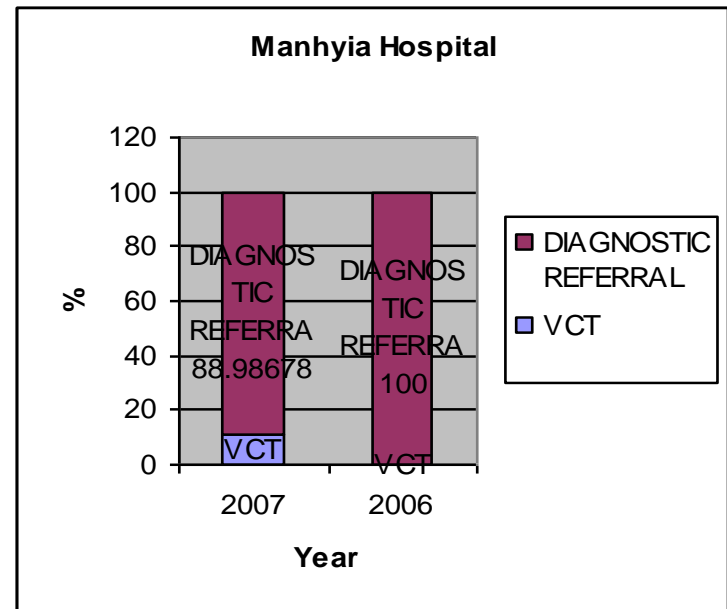
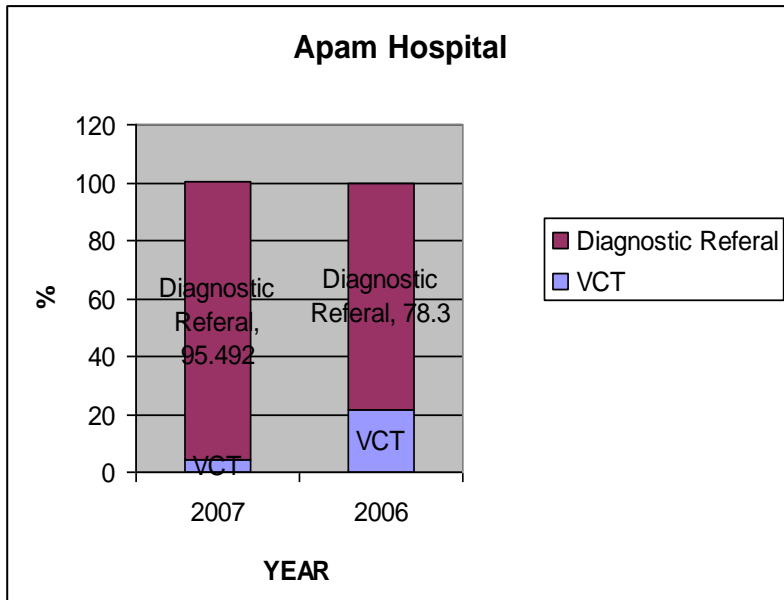
Apam: 47% of patients tested were positive for HIV in 2006
36% were positive for HIV in 2007.

HIV+ patients are referred to Cape Coast Hospital for ART

Manhyia: 56% of patients were positive for HIV in 2006
36% were positive for HIV in 2007.

HIV+ patients are referred to Konfo Anokye for ART

Apam Hospital had 98% more testing than Manhyia Hospital
in 2006 and 7% more testing in 2007



The majority of diagnostic referrals are for patients with:

- prolonged fever (more than one month)
- prolonged and chronic diarrhea (usually over a month)
- significant weight loss (over a period of time and more than 10 percent of body weight).

Recommendations

- Educate all patients on HIV/AIDS while they wait to be seen in the OPD.
- Encourage condom use.
- Educate women and men on the signs and symptoms of STIs
- Educate adolescents about HIV and STIs, 60% of the population in Ghana is below the age of 18 years
- Encourage testing: although testing everyone is not plausible due to the large cost, the VCT services that are available should be maximized by willing patients

References

- National AIDS/STD Control Programme, Ministry of Health. *AIDS in Ghana: Background, Projections, Impacts, Interventions*. Accra, Ministry of Health, 2001.
- Ghana AIDS Commission, National Report on the Follow-up on the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, December 2007.
- UNAIDS. *Report on the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic*, June 2000.
- Stigma training in Ghana – a participant's view, December 2006.

Acknowledgements

- National Medical Fellowships (NMF)
- General Electric (GE)
- Apam Catholic Hospital
- Manhyia District Hospital

Thank you!