

**KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES OF HIV/AIDS AMONG AFRICAN WOMAN  
IN CHERAS**

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** It has been reported that there are over 86,000 reported cases of HIV infections in Malaysia, where over 13,000 have died from HIV infections since December 2009. The prevalence of HIV amongst African women has been rising and there has been little commitment to reducing this number. UNAIDS (2004), reported that a major source of vulnerability among African women is their lack of knowledge about STD/HIV transmission and their at risk lifestyle.

**Objective:** The objective of the study is to investigate the level of knowledge of HIV/AIDs amongst African women residing in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur.

**Method:** A descriptive quantitative study was conducted using a questionnaire. The Questionnaire contained demographic details, general knowledge, transmission route and prevention questions on HIV/AIDs. The respondents (n=60) were African women that were located in Giant CMC, Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**Results:** The African women had sufficient knowledge of HIV/AIDs. With 56% of the respondents getting the general knowledge questions correct. 64% answering correctly to the prevention questions, 53% answering correctly to the practices questions and 58% answering correctly to the transmission route questions. The response did not seem to be gender discriminative. They still showed stigma towards HIV/AIDs patients where the majority answered wrong to HIV/AIDs transmission by hand shaking, and toilet sharing.

**Conclusions:** It can be concluded the rise in number of HIV/AIDs incidence in African women may be not be due to the lack of knowledge on HIV/AIDs.