



# **SADA**

## **South African Data Archive**

**Study of knowledge, attitudes, perceptions and beliefs regarding  
HIV and AIDS,1992**

**Human Sciences Research Council**

**CODEBOOK  
SADA 0035**

As agreed upon in the signed 'User Undertaking' that accompanied data collection:

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Du Plessis, G.E., A.J. Meyer-Weitz, and M. Steyn. *Study of knowledge, attitudes, perceptions and beliefs regarding HIV and AIDS, 1992* [Computer file]. S0035. Pretoria: Human Sciences Research Council [producer], 1992. Pretoria: South African Data Archive, National Research Foundation [distributor], 2000.

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## STUDY DESCRIPTION

### SADA 0035

**TITLE:** Study of knowledge, attitudes, perceptions and beliefs regarding AIDS and HIV, 1992

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:** G.E. Du Plessis, A.J. Meyer-Weitz, M. Steyn

**DEPOSITOR:** Human Sciences Research Council

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#### **ABSTRACT:**

The aim of the study was to assess levels of knowledge, types of attitudes, perceptions and beliefs of the general public regarding HIV infection and AIDS. The public awareness campaign of the AIDS programme was carried out by many media, and personal counselling through family-planning personnel, teachers, activists, AIDS Training and Information Centres (ATIC) counsellors and other concerned groups and organisations over some time. However, there were uncertainties as to whether these efforts succeeded in informing the public about AIDS and HIV infection. This study aimed to establish a valid baseline assessment of the levels of knowledge, the awareness, perceptions and attitudes of the general public in order to recommend appropriate programme adjustment if needed. This study had two functions:

- ❖ Descriptive function relevant to programme evaluation (i.e. how many people have correct knowledge regarding AIDS and HIV, as well as the quantity of some attitudes relevant to this study)
- ❖ Predictive function in terms of possible risk behaviours (i.e. how knowledge, attitudes, perceptions, beliefs, behaviours and certain biographical traits relate to one another).

**GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION:** South Africa

**IMPORTANT VARIABLES :** The questionnaire intended to measure : awareness of AIDS/HIV and the seriousness of the disease; knowledge of signs and symptoms; attitudes towards AIDS/HIV and the people infected and affected by it; attitudes towards stereotypes (homosexuals and specific race groups); attitudes and beliefs with regard to safer sex practices; access to sources to sources of information; perceptions about personal vulnerability to infection; and perceptions about general health promotive behaviour.

**DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES:** age, kind of work, employment status, highest level of education, home language and gender.

**UNIVERSE :** Areas of estimated and probable high prevalence of HIV infected were considered as the sampling frame. The demarcation was as follows: Northern route from Zimbabwe; Eastern route from Swaziland and Mozambique; PWV areas; Pretoria and areas in Bophuthatswana; Durban metropole and nearby areas; KwaZulu; Cape Town metropole and nearby areas; Eastern Cape and areas in Ciskei; Transkei and Orange Free State.

#### **SAMPLING METHOD :**

The 1991 census information per enumerator area as well as the 1989 and 1991 aerial photographs and lists of apartment blocks were used as sampling frames in a stratified multistage sampling method. A total of 27 enumerator areas were allocated for each sub-region and were proportionally distributed (according to population size) among the different magisterial districts. In each enumerator area, eight visiting points were randomly and systematically drawn from the maps during fieldwork.

**FIELDWORK** : Fieldwork commenced on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September 1992 and was completed by the end of November 1992.

**METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION** : Structured interview schedule/questionnaire was used for data collection.

**UNITS OF OBSERVATION**: Persons were used as units of analysis. The specific respondent was randomly selected at the chosen visiting point by listing people in the age of group 13 to 60 according to gender, allocating a number to each of them and then making use of a grid to select the interviewee.

**EXTENT OF DATA COLLECTION**

- ❖ 1 data file in SPSS and machine-readable documentation and questionnaire.
- ❖ Number of cases : 5 360
- ❖ Number of records : 5 360
- ❖ Number of records per case : 4
- ❖ Logical record length : 80+
- ❖ Number of variables : 217
- ❖ Number of Kilobytes : 2, 543 KB