

Smoking Prevalence Amongst People Living with HIV in Western Jamaica

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Background

Smoking and HIV

- With the use of antiretroviral therapy (ART), HIV infection has become a treatable chronic disease. However, modifiable risk factors such as tobacco smoking have continued to impact the morbidity and mortality of PLWH patients. (1)
- Jamaica has an HIV prevalence estimated at 1.3%.
- Modeled estimates and case-based surveillance data estimate that there are 29,000 persons living with HIV in Jamaica, of whom, 16% are unaware of their HIV status. (2)
- In the Western Region of Jamaica, the largest parish, St James, is reported to have the highest prevalence of current use of tobacco (21%) and Hanover the lowest (5%). (3)
- Although the general smoking prevalence in Jamaica is 9.4%, there is limited data available on smoking prevalence and risk factors among people living with HIV (PLWH) in this country. (4)

Objectives

- To assess the smoking prevalence and associated risk factors of cigarette smoking and cessation among a sample of PLWH seeking care at Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) clinics in Jamaica.

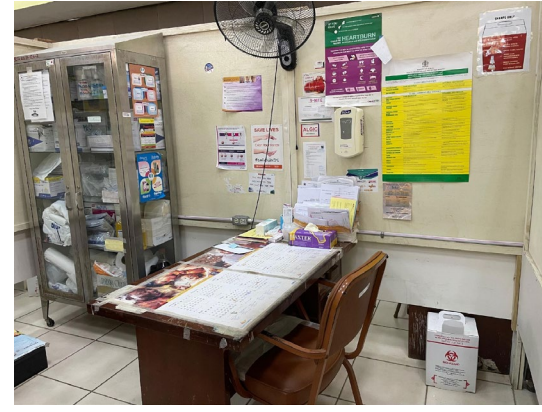
Methods

- Study Design:** Cross-sectional study
- Study Population:** PLWH ≥ 18 years seeking care at 5 HIV treatment sites under WRHA
- Data Collection:** Interviewer-administered questionnaire
- Treatment Site Locations**
 - Pilot test- Catherine Hall Health Centre
 - Type V Health Centre, St. James
 - CRH- Cornwall Regional Hospital, St. James
 - Lucea Health Centre, Hanover
 - Duncan Health Centre, Trelawny
 - SPGH- Savanna La Mar Public General Hospital &
 - SAVHC- Savanna La Mar Health Centre, Westmoreland
- Timeframe:** May to August 2022
- Main Outcome:** Current smoking status
 - Multivariate Analysis:** Association between smoking, smoking-related factors, and socio-demographics among PLWH were assessed using logistic regression
- All analyses were based on p-value of 0.05

Type V Health Centre



CRH- Cornwall Regional Hospital



Results

Socio-demographic characteristics of PLWH (N=392)

Age (Years)	44 (±13.1)
Gender	Male, 167 (42.5%) Female, 222 (57%) Transgender, 2 (0.5%)
Marital Status	Married, 107 (27%) Not Married, 285 (73%)
Years since HIV Diagnosis	10 (±6.5)
Currently receiving ART	Yes, 383 (98%) No, 9 (2%)
Current prevalence of smoking among PWH: 18%	
Smoking-related characteristics of PWH smokers (N=91)	
FTND	Low, 38 (63%) Moderate, 16 (26%) High 10%, 6 (10%)
Motivation to quit	Low, 6 (9%) Moderate, 16 (25%) High, 43 (66%)
Considering quitting	Yes, 60 (88%) No, 8 (12%)
Intention to quit	Within the next month, 25 (42%) Within the next 3 months, 5 (8%) Within the next 6 months, 5 (8%) Do not know, 25 (42%)
Attempt to quit in the last year	Yes, 50 (74%) No, 17 (26%)
Use of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT)	Never used NRT, 42 (85%) Chewing gum, 7 (13%) Others, 2 (3.9%)

Multivariate logistic regression

Independent variable	OR (95% CI)	Pvalue
Gender, Male vs Female (Ref)	3.02 (1.64 - 5.57)	<0.05
Religion, Non-Christian vs Christian (Ref)	2.14 (1.18 - 3.88)	<0.05
Marital Status, Not Married vs Married (Ref)	1.81 (0.88 - 3.71)	0.12
Smoking status asked by healthcare professional, No vs Yes (Ref)	1.73 (1.11 - 3.07)	<0.05
PHQ-9 Depression Score, Moderate to Severe, None-Minimal (Ref)	3.60 (1.19 - 10.88)	<0.05
Alcohol Abuse (CAGE Score), Abuse vs No Abuse (Ref)	3.35 (1.05 - 10.68)	<0.05

Conclusion

- People Living With HIV (PLWH) showed a higher rate of current smokers, than the general population in Jamaica.
- Current smoking among the PLWH was significantly associated with being male, non-Christian, moderately to severely depressed, and clinically significant alcohol abuse.
- Our study provided baseline information for designing and implementing a comprehensive smoking cessation program that considers the needs of PLWH in Jamaica, with the potential of becoming a replicable model for other HIV-specialized healthcare settings in the Caribbean.

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***Authors declare no conflict of interest

