

HIV prevalence among pregnant women in Ambanja - Madagascar

The role of environmental changes



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Introduction

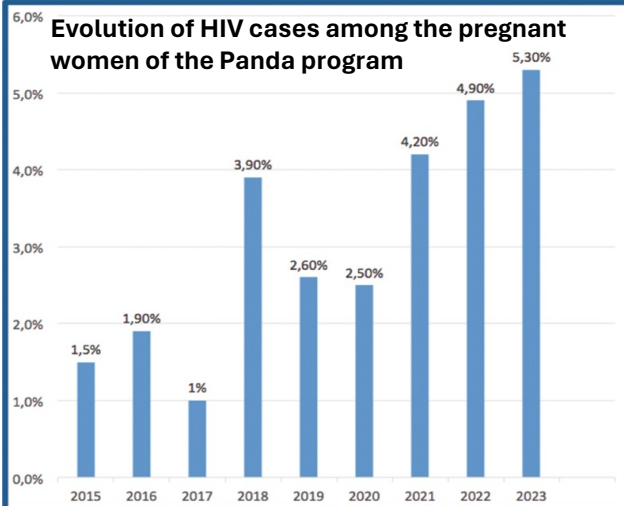
An emerging role in the rise of HIV cases in Madagascar is attributable to climate change, which is responsible for migratory movements from the south to the north of the country. Ambanja, in north-western Madagascar, is a destination for these migrations. This study presents data from an active antenatal visiting programme in the city of Ambanja from 2015 to December 2023.

Methodology

Since 2015, a programme of antenatal visits on an mHealth system called PANDA (Pregnancy And Newborn Diagnostic Assessment) has been active in Ambanja. An independent supply system has been set up to ensure that HIV tests are carried out at the first antenatal consultation, avoiding frequent stock-outs in the hospital

TOTAL PREGNANT WOMEN	4456
PREGNANT WOMEN HIV +	166
AGE RANGE	14 - 41
AVERAGE AGE	24
MOST COMMON AGE	23
TEENAGERS	30 %

Evolution of HIV cases among the pregnant women of the Panda program



Results

From January 2015 to December 2023, 4,456 pregnant women took part in the PANDA programme, resulting in a total of 16,095 antenatal visits. The absence of HIV awareness and testing campaigns was confirmed by the information gathered during the programme, with a high percentage of women taking part advising that they had never previously been tested for HIV. In addition, none of the women mentioned condoms among the contraceptive methods they had used in the past or wished to use in the future.

Conclusion

Internal migration, from the south to the north of Madagascar is a factor to be taken into account when analysing the spread of HIV infection in Madagascar. Mass movements bring changes in the social structure, increased risk behaviour, and public health consequences such as the spread of HIV. Our data shows a much higher prevalence of infection than the ministerial data, which highlights the need to strengthen the prevention programme for pregnant women to reduce vertical transmission.