

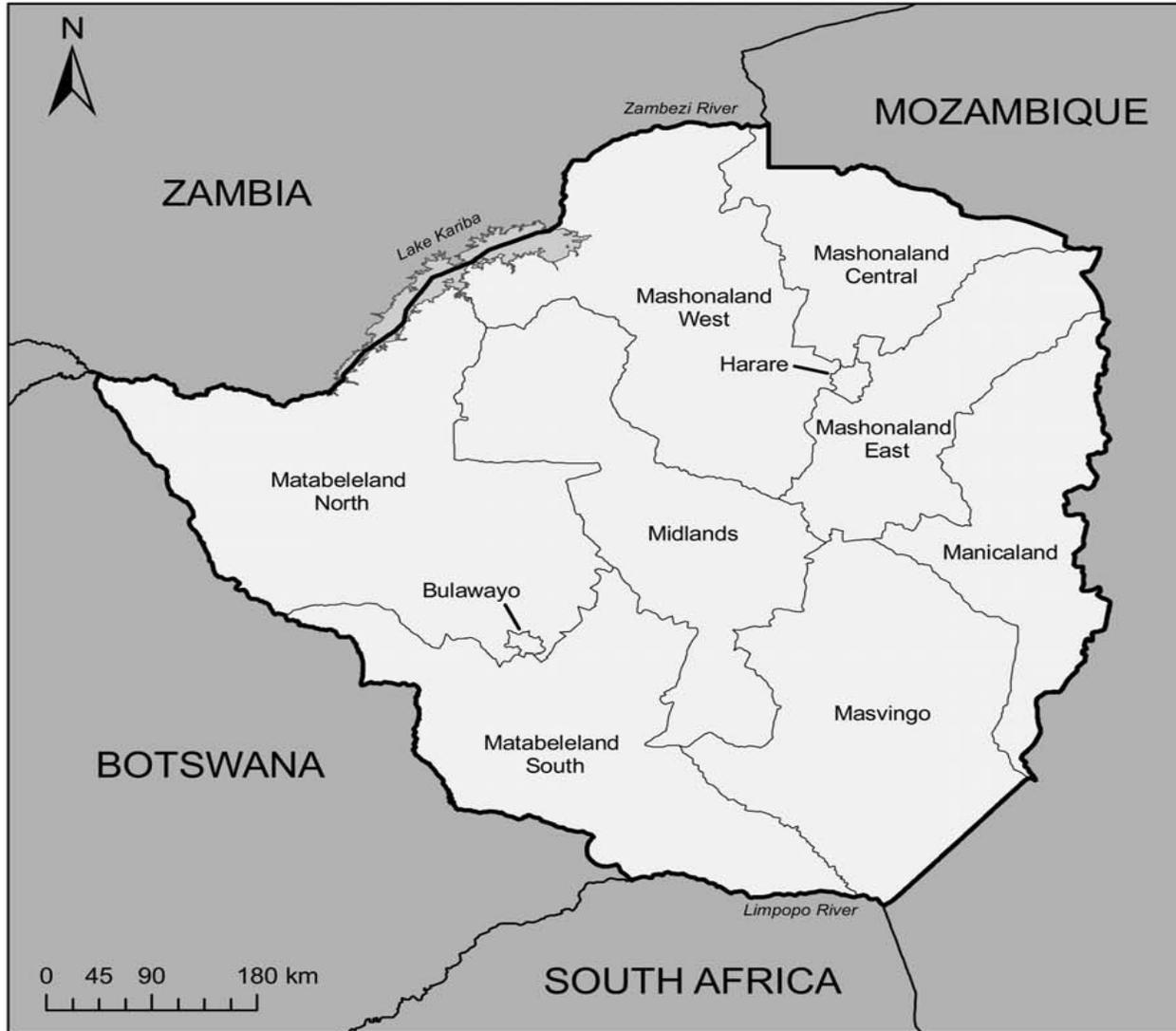


# An Analysis of HIV Seroconverters at a Sexual Assault Clinic in Harare, Zimbabwe

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# ZIMBABWE



# Introduction



- ❖ Prior to 2009 March, there was no formal training in care and support of sexual assault survivors
- ❖ Survivors were previously seen in health departments together with all other patients- environment not conducive
- ❖ Had no guidelines = no standardisation of care
- ❖ The clinic operates in a low-resource setting with a high prevalence rate of HIV infection of 14.8% (ZDHS 2005-6)
- ❖ To date, 4 similar clinics have been set up
- ❖ About 1300 survivors have been seen in the clinics
- ❖ More than 400 service providers (doctors, nurses, police, judiciary) have been trained

# Study type and Objectives



- ❖ Retrospective, cohort study of women sexual assault survivors who attended the sexual assault clinic between January 2010 and December 2011.
- ❖ To determine the HIV sero-conversion rate among women attending this sexual assault clinic
- ❖ To establish factors associated with HIV sero-conversion among these women.

# Results



- ❖ Period covered: Jan 2010 – Dec 2011
- ❖ A total of 849 patients were seen in clinic during this period
- ❖ All were offered an initial HIV test and a follow up test at 3 months
- ❖ All were offered antiretroviral drugs for Post Exposure Prophylaxis according to the local protocol
- ❖ They all had their history of assault taken and they had examinations – genital and non-genital
- ❖ Information was entered into Access statistical package

# Results



- ❖ Of the 849, 722 were tested for HIV at initial visit.
- ❖ Ninety-six (96) tested positive, giving an HIV prevalence rate of 13.3%.
- ❖ Of the 626 with an initial negative test result, 180 survivors were retested after 3 months; 4 tested positive for HIV, giving an HIV sero-conversion rate of 2.2%.
- ❖ All 4 survivors received prophylactic antibiotics but only one received Post Exposure Prophylaxis with antiretroviral therapy. (3 were not eligible for PEP)
- ❖ Three of the 4 had signs of pelvic infection at the time of presentation, while one of them did not.
- ❖ Only 1 survivor had obvious genital injuries and reported having bled vaginally during assault

# Results



- ❖ All reported assault by one perpetrator, but 3 reported having been detained and were sexually assaulted several times.

# Conclusion



- ❖ From the analysis, it appears as if signs of pelvic infection, not receiving PEP and having several episodes of sexual assault could have been factors contributing to the HIV sero-conversion among these women
- ❖ However, the sample size is too small to make such a conclusion

# Recommendations



- ❖ the period of observation should be longer. The study is ongoing and analysis will be conducted at intervals to assess the trend.
- ❖ more work is needed to improve follow-up rate; this should include community awareness campaigns to inform and educate communities about the need to present for medical care within 72 hours of the assault.
- ❖ More units need to be established throughout the country to improve access to the service and also increase the sample size

# Acknowledgements



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