Male Circumcision in Swaziland: Demographics, Behaviors and HIV Prevalence

Findings from the Swaziland HIV Incidence Measurement Survey (SHIMS)

Abstract# MOPDE0105

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The Kingdom of Swaziland

- Highest HIV prevalence: 26% (‘07 DHS)
- Male circumcision uncommon 8% of men, age 15-49 (‘07 DHS)
- HIV prevention campaign launched 2011 to curb epidemic -expanded VMMC and ART
- HIV incidence measurements needed to demonstrate and quantify impact SHIMS

Adapted from WorldVision
Swaziland HIV Incidence Measurement Survey (SHIMS): Methods

- **Survey**
  Nationally-representative, household-based sample of men and women, age 18-49y, completed HIV testing and face-to-face questionnaire about demographics, behaviors and self-reported circumcision status (men)

- **Current analysis**
  Compare demographics, health/risk behaviors, beliefs about VMMC benefits, and HIV prevalence among circumcised and uncircumcised men
Results

• 7,121 men in survey, 97% gave circumcision status
• 16% Swazi men circumcised, at mean age 20.7 y
• Sexual health/risk behaviors:
  ➢ Consistent condom use (uncirc vs circ: 31% vs 36%, NS)
  ➢ Mean # sex partners (uncirc vs circ: 1.4 vs 1.3)
• HIV prevalence:
  uncirc men (25%) vs circ men (16%), p<0.001
• Believe VMMC is protective against HIV:
  uncircumcised men (76%) vs circ men (85%)
Conclusions

- Male circumcision prevalence doubled from 8% (2007) to 16% (2011)

- The majority of Swazi men remain uncircumcised, though most are aware of the HIV protective benefits

- In light of low VMMC uptake and wide knowledge of the benefits, facilitators and barriers should be addressed to increase coverage
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