

ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY UPTAKE AMONG ADULTS 15 YEARS AND OLDER IN SWAZILAND, 2016

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Background: Improving ART coverage to reach the UNAIDS 2nd 90 target requires an understanding of factors that hinder or promote ART uptake.

- The Swaziland HIV Incidence Measurement 2 (SHIMS2) estimated HIV prevalence, incidence and program outcomes like HIV status, ART uptake and viral load suppression (VLS).
- We assessed ART uptake and factors associated with ART uptake

Methods:

- We assessed ART uptake among HIV positive participants using a combination of self-reported ART and a high resolution liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry qualitative assay to detect ARVs in the blood.
- The survey used a two-stage cluster randomized design to attain a nationally representative sample.
- ART uptake was calculated using weighted analyses (Jackknife variance estimation methods)
- Logistic regression was used to examine correlates.

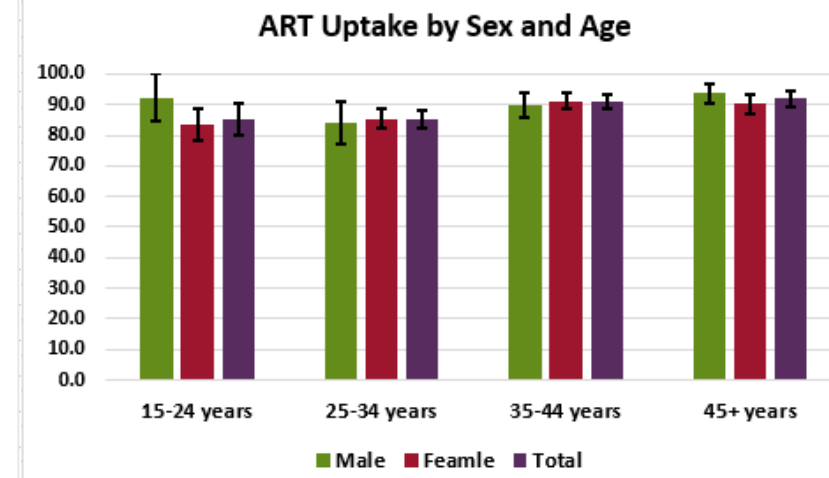
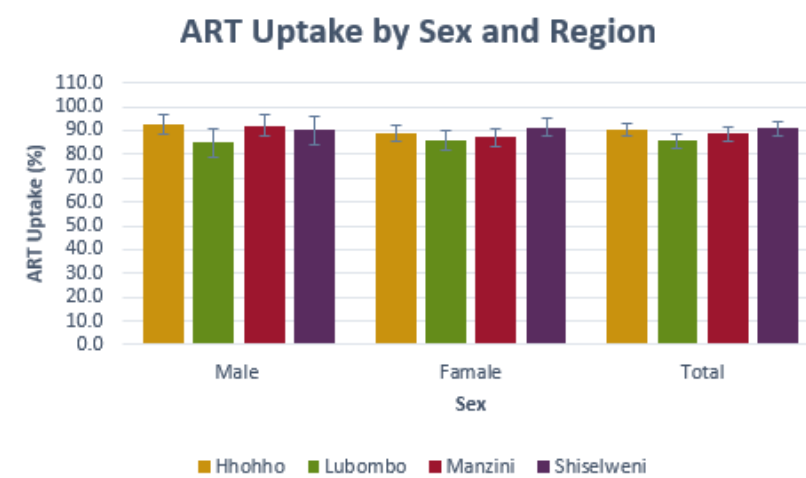
Results:

- There were a total of 2,992 HIV positive participants, 84.7% were aware of their HIV status with 87.4 % reporting ART use
- ART uptake did not differ by sex
- There were regional differences in ART uptake.
 - Compared to participants residing in Lubombo, those residing in Hhohho (aOR: 1.83, p=0.0125) and Shiselweni (aOR: 1.92, p=0.0104) regions had higher odds of ART uptake
- Those with less than secondary education had higher odds of taking up ART compared to those with greater than secondary education (aOR: 1.43, p=0.038)
- Older participants (35-44 years, aOR: 1.70, p=0.0389; 45+ years, aOR: 1.8, p=0.0483) were more likely to be on ART compared to 15-24 year olds
- Those who had disclosed their status were 92% more likely to be on ART compared to those who had not (aOR: 1.92, p=0.0034).

Conclusion:

- Region, age, less than secondary education and disclosure of HIV status were found to affect uptake of ART.
- These disparities in ART uptake emphasize the need to develop age and population appropriate interventions as well increasing focus on specific populations and geographic locations to improve ART uptake.

ART Uptake by Sex, Age and Region



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