

Infant Feeding which way?

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Outline of Presentation

- **Background Information**
- **Experience with infant feeding – MTCT Pilot Project**
- **Challenges of MTCT Expansion**

Background Information

- **HIV Seroprevalence pregnant women in 2000 - 35% (10-70%)**
- **Rate 1997 – 29%**
- **Seroconversion in negative preg 10.5% by end of second year (Zvitambo)**
- **50-60 000 babies HIV infected annually**

Infant Feeding

- **Policy : HIV positive women counselled on options. Exclusive breast feeding for 6 months.**
- **Proportion breast feeding by one year 98%**
- **Exclusive breast feeding at 3 months 16%**

PMTCT Pilot Project

- **3 urban clinics (10 000 ANC/year)**
- **Core Interventions**
 - **Voluntary Counselling & Testing with Eliza**
 - **Safe obstetrical practices**
 - **Short Course AZT**
 - **Infant Feeding Counselling**

Survey findings

- **188 HIV positive mothers interviewed by counsellors**
- **Disclosure to partner – 35.7%**
- **Mean age baby at interview – 7 months (<1 – 20)**

Knowledge of BM Transmission

- **Risk of transmission via BM = 88%**
- **Can one reduce BMT = 52% no
and 44% say yes**
- **Methods of reducing BMT**
 - **Avoidance BM = 33%**
 - **Boiling BM = 36 %**
 - **Exclusive Bm = 18.5%**
 - **Do not know = 10%**
 - **Early cessation = 1%**
 - **ARVS = 1%**

Infant feeding patterns

- **Breast Feeding** = 84%
- **Formula feeding** = 16%
- **Expressed BM** = 5%
- **Home prepared milk** = 1%

Exclusive Breast Feeding

- **At 1 week** **84%**
- **By 1 month** **75%**
- **By 3 months** **40%**
- **By 6 months** **nil**

Factors Influencing decisions

- **Mother's decision = 70%**
- **Preferred method of feeding if money not an issue:**
 - **59 % choose formula**
 - **39% breast milk**

Cultural/Societal beliefs if not breast feeding

Suspect HIV infection - 30%

Stolen baby - 16%

Immorality - 13%

Witch craft - 5%

**Others , medical reasons, work, etc
etc**

Summary of findings

- **Awareness of BM transmission is high**
- **Mothers can be decision makers**
- **Economic factors- barriers**
- **Stigma & cultural beliefs – barriers**

Challenges

- **Making Breast feeding safe – the way to go**
- **HIV negative mothers still at risk**

Main Challenge

- **Will a test based intervention in a high seroprevalence area have a significant public health impact on reducing paediatric AIDS ?**

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