

## ABSTRACT

Bushenyi district in south western Uganda is among the districts facing the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence in the whole country, HIV/AIDS patients in Bushenyi district only 20% of them practice family planning. This study was conducted to document the current family planning use, awareness of HIV/AIDS patients about FP use, and to identify the underlying factors of underutilization of FP services. OBJECTIVE: the study aimed to identify the factors contributing to the underutilization of FP services by PLWHA in Bushenyi District, Uganda. METHODS: a cross-sectional study with both Quantitative and qualitative techniques were used. Structured questionnaires were administered to 249 respondents at five ART sites. In-depth interviews were conducted from each of these sites. Univariate analysis was done to find out the proportion of the patients practicing FP. Bivariate analysis was done to assess the effect of individual factors on FP use or Non-use. Logistic regression was then used to adjust for the effect of potential confounding variables and to make multivariate analysis on different significant factors. RESULTS: current utilization of FP was 41.8%. Level of awareness about FP services was 91.2%. logistic regression resulted that, it was 4 times more likely for respondents that reported approval of spouse to use FP [95% CI 1.290 – 6.464: P=0.002] than those who reported no spouse approval and 3 times more likely for participants who had access to FP to use FP services [95% CI 1.038 – 5.548: P=0.041] than those had no access to FP services. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The study has documented a high level of awareness about FP services but low use of family planning methods other than condom among PLWHIV in Bushenyi district, spouse position and access of FP services were associated factors with underutilization of FP services. The study recommended for FP programs to adopt approaches that improve method specific knowledge, Integrate between HIV/AIDS services and FP services and target the spouses in order to promote FP use in the district in line with the national objectives for scale up of FP services.