

Nigeria

HIV/AIDS Service Provision Assessment

USAID is currently funding health systems strengthening through the Health Systems 20/20 project. Initiatives such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and organizations like UNAIDS call on Health Systems 20/20's technical experts to design and implement essential HIV/AIDS policies, track HIV/AIDS resource needs and use, analyze human resources requirements, and foster multi-sectoral stakeholder involvement to scale up quality HIV/AIDS programs.

This brief highlights key findings from a recent HIV/AIDS Service Provision Assessment (SPA) in Nigeria, conducted by Health Systems 20/20 in collaboration with NACA and NASCP. Nigeria continues to be challenged by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The adult prevalence of HIV was estimated at 4.4% in 2005, with over 3 million infected. Evidence-based data on the availability of HIV/AIDS-related services in Nigerian health facilities are needed to effectively increase access to care and achieve

the MDG target of reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS. A sample of 200 public and 100 faith-based facilities was selected for the survey. Data were collected and analyzed on the availability of basic and advanced HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care and support services, as well laboratory and pharmacy support, staff training, and management and quality assurance practices. To view the full report go to: www.healthsystems2020.com

ACCESS TO AND DISTRIBUTION OF HIV/AIDS SERVICES

The provision of essential services at all levels of a health system is one key element of access to health care. The Nigeria HIV/AIDS Service Provision Assessment found that 77% of facilities offer HIV counseling and testing. However, less than two-fifths of all facilities offer prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services (39%), while less than one in six offer antiretroviral therapy (ART) services (16%). A little under half of the facilities surveyed provide tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis and/or treatment (48%). Of significant concern is the limited availability of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for health workers.

The SPA showed there are substantial disparities in service provision according to the level of a facility, its managing authority, and location. Higher-level and federally-managed facilities are most likely to provide basic and advanced services, while service provision at the primary level, in rural areas, and in Local Government Authority (LGA) facilities is substantially lower.

For example, rural facilities are 75% less likely to provide ART and half as likely to provide PMTCT as urban facilities.



AVAILABILITY OF HIV/AIDS DRUGS AND LABORATORY SERVICES

The assessment found that approximately two-thirds of health facilities have laboratories and 69% have pharmacies. While most laboratories (89%) provide HIV testing, few have the capacity to measure CD4 counts (20%), viral load (2%), or conduct liver function tests (28%), and only 28% of laboratories had the necessary supplies and equipment to analyze sputum smears for diagnosis of tuberculosis. Availability of HIV/AIDS drugs is critical for the success of facilities offering ART. Despite providing the bulk of ART services, most secondary facilities did not have essential first-line ARV drugs (such as AZT, EFV, 3TC, NVP, and D4T) in stock on the day of the survey (Figure 1). Similarly, less than one-third of all pharmacies had the first-line tuberculosis drugs - ethambutol, isoniazid, pyrazinamide, or rifampin - in stock on the day of the interview.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE WAY FORWARD

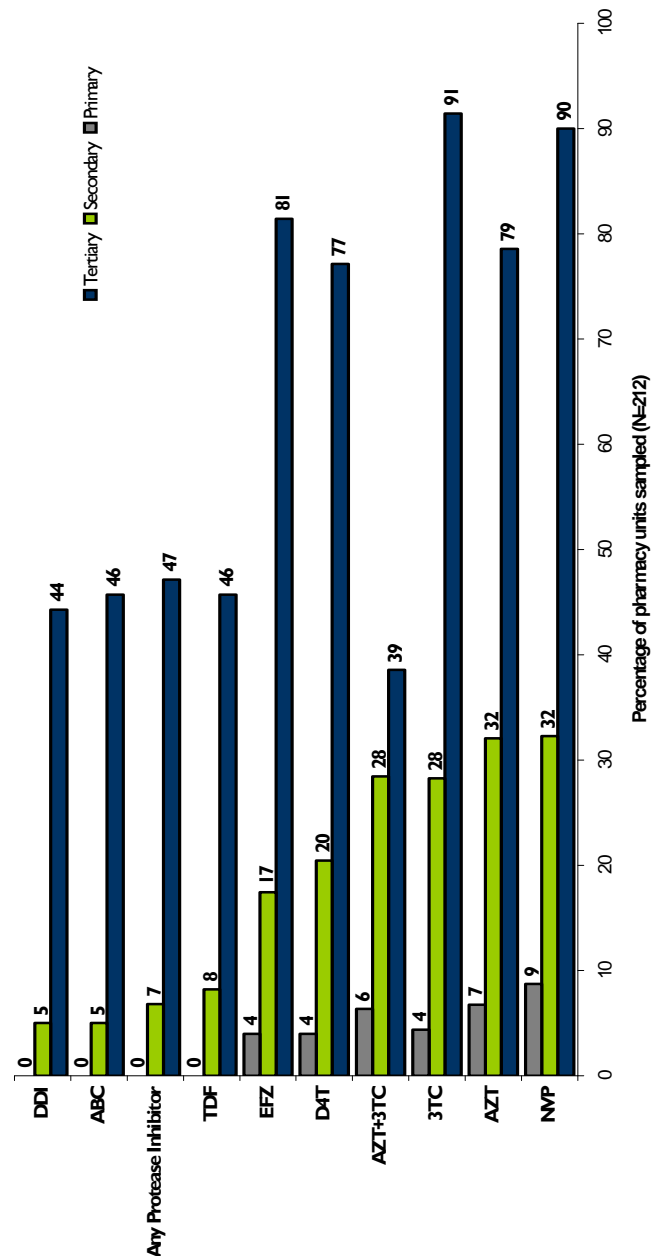
Nigeria has actively sought to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic through a broad-based and multisectoral response. Results of the HIV/AIDS Service Provision Assessment suggest that additional targeted efforts should be made in the following areas, among others:

1. Expand the provision of ART, PMTCT, and TB services, especially in primary-level and LGA-managed facilities that are more accessible to rural populations.
2. Increase the availability of HIV/AIDS and TB drugs at health facilities.
3. Increase access to laboratory services, especially at the primary level.

CONTACT

The information in this brief was taken from the following report available under www.healthsystems2020.org: Amanyeiwe, Ugo, Laurel Hatt, Aneesa Arur, Amy Taye, Mona Mehta-Steffen, Maria Claudia De Valdenebro, Kayode Ogungbemi, and Gilbert Kombe. June 2008. *Nigeria HIV/AIDS Service Provision Assessment 2008*. Bethesda, MD: Health Systems 20/20 project, Abt Associates Inc.

FIGURE 1. PERCENTAGE OF PHARMACY UNITS WITH KEY ARV DRUGS IN STOCK ON THE DAY OF THE SURVEY, BY LEVEL OF FACILITY



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Abt Associates Inc. leads a team of partners that includes: | Aga Khan Foundation | BearingPoint | Bitrán y Asociados | BRAC University | Broad Branch Associates | Forum One Communications | RTI International | Training Resources Group | Tulane University School of Public Health

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