# CHAPTER FOUR

# 4.0 RESULTS

## 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a comprehensive analysis of the findings of this study. It presents an overview of the sociodemographic and professional characteristics of the healthcare practitioners who participated in the study, and presents findings on their knowledge and practices related to HIV/AIDS management. Finally, it presents a qualitative analysis of the insights shared by healthcare practitioners during an in-depth interview.

## 4.2 Sociodemographic Characteristics

Table 1 presents the sociodemographic characteristics of healthcare professionals involved in this study. The mean age was 30 ± 5.86 years, with majority (42.7%) within the age range of 25-30 years, followed by those aged 31-40 years (34.1%). There were more females (70.5%) than males (29.5%), with more than half (56.3%) being single and most (42.1%) being married. Almost all (99.3%) of the respondents had attained tertiary level of education. Majority (91.7%) were Christians with few (5.3%) Muslims and others (0.7%) being none-religious.

Table 1: Sociodemographic Characteristics of Healthcare Practitioners

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Frequency**  **(N = 302)** | **Total**  **(%)** |
| **Age** | **30 ± 5.86** |  |
| 18-24 years | 34 | 11.3 |
| 25-30 years | 129 | 42.7 |
| 31-40 years | 103 | 34.1 |
| 41-50 years | 11 | 3.6 |
| 51-60 years | 1 | 0.3 |
| **Gender** |  |  |
| Female | 213 | 70.5 |
| Male | 89 | 29.5 |
| **Marital Status** |  |  |
| Divorced/Separated | 5 | 1.7 |
| Married | 127 | 42.1 |
| Single | 170 | 56.3 |
| **Level of Education** |  |  |
| Secondary | 1 | 0.3 |
| Tertiary | 300 | 99.3 |
| **Religious Affiliation** |  |  |
| African Traditional Religion | 2 | 0.7 |
| Christianity | 277 | 91.7 |
| Islam | 16 | 5.3 |
| None religious | 2 | 0.7 |

## 4.3 Professional Characteristics

Table 2 presents the professional experience of healthcare professionals involved in this study. The most predominant professional background was nursing officer/midwife officer (22.2%), followed by doctor/nurse/midwife specialist (19.9%) and registered general nurse (19.2%). Most (35.8%) had worked for a period of 1-3 years, followed by those who had worked for more than 6 years (26.2%). Majority (69.2%) of them worked in the ward with few (6.3%) working at the specialist clinic and one (0.3%) working at the antiretroviral clinic. More than half (54.6%) had not received any formal training on HIV/AIDS and same numbers as had had experience with PLHIV (47.7%), had had no such experience.

Table 2: Professional Characteristics of Healthcare Practitioners

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | | **Frequency**  **(N = 302)** | **Total**  **(%)** | |
| **Professional Background** |  | |  |
| Community Health Nurse | 2 | | 0.7 |
| Community Health Nurse | 1 | | 0.3 |
| Doctor/Nurse/Midwife Specialist | 60 | | 19.9 |
| Enrolled Nurse | 29 | | 9.6 |
| House Officer | 12 | | 4.0 |
| Laboratory Scientist | 19 | | 6.3 |
| Medical Officer | 3 | | 1.0 |
| Nursing Officer/Midwife Officer | 67 | | 22.2 |
| Pharmacist | 17 | | 5.6 |
| Physician Assistant | 13 | | 4.3 |
| registered General Nurse | 1 | | 0.3 |
| Registered General Nurse | 58 | | 19.2 |
| Registered General Nurse/Midwife | 16 | | 5.3 |
| **Years of Experience** | |  |  | |
| < 1 year | | 50 | 16.6 | |
| 1 - 3 years | | 108 | 35.8 | |
| 4 - 6 years | | 65 | 21.5 | |
| > 6 years | | 79 | 26.2 | |
| **Department of Work** | |  |  | |
| Out-Patient Department | | 28 | 9.3 | |
| Emergency Unit | | 39 | 12.9 | |
| Specialist Clinic | | 6 | 2.0 | |
| Laboratory | | 19 | 6.3 | |
| Ward | | 209 | 69.2 | |
| Antiretroviral clinic | | 1 | 0.3 | |
| **Formal Training on HIV/AIDS Management** | |  |  | |
| Yes | | 132 | 43.7 | |
| No | | 165 | 54.6 | |
| **Experience with PLHIV** | |  |  | |
| Yes | | 144 | 47.7 | |
| No | | 144 | 47.7 | |

## 4.4 Knowledge on HIV/AIDS Management

As presented in Table 3, the mean knowledge score was 52.63 ± 6.58 with scores ranging from 19 to 71. This suggests a moderate level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS management among healthcare practitioners at the Bono Regional Hospital, with some variation among individuals.

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics for Knowledge Scores among Healthcare Practitioners

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Statistic** | **Value** |
| Valid Responses (N) | 251 |
| Missing Responses | 52 |
| Mean | 52.63 |
| Standard Deviation | 6.58 |
| Minimum Score | 19.00 |
| Maximum Score | 71.00 |

***Knowledge scores were computed based on responses to 15 Likert-scale items related to HIV/AIDS management guidelines.***

## 4.5 Practice of HIV/AIDS Management

Table 4 shows the mean practice score among healthcare practitioners are Bono Regional Hospital being 55.66 ± 6.30, within a range of 31 to 75. This is indicative of a relatively high adherence to HIV/AIDS management practices, with some variability across respondents.

Table 4: Descriptive Statistics for Practice Scores among Healthcare Practitioners

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Statistic** | **Value** |
| Valid Responses (N) | 274 |
| Missing Responses | 29 |
| Mean | 55.66 |
| Standard Deviation | 6.30 |
| Minimum Score | 31.00 |
| Maximum Score | 75.00 |

***Practice scores were computed based on responses to 15 Likert-scale items related to HIV/AIDS management guidelines.***

## 4.6 Factors Associated with Knowledge on HIV/AIDS Management

Respondents’ total knowledge scores were categorized into three levels based on the total possible score: poor knowledge (scores ≤ 25), moderate knowledge (scores 26–50), and good knowledge (scores > 50), for ease of interpretation. Consequently, a Chi-square test of independence was conducted to examine the relationship between healthcare practitioners’ knowledge level on HIV/AIDS management and their sociodemographic characteristics. The results are displayed in Table 5. A statistically significant association was found between gender and knowledge levels, χ² (2, N = 251) = 6.73, p = 0.035, and between religious affiliation and knowledge levels, χ² (6, N = 247) = 18.91, p = 0.004. No significant association was found between knowledge levels and age, χ² (10, N = 251) = 3.56, p = 0.965; marital status, χ² (4, N = 251) = 4.82, p = 0.307; and educational level, χ² (2, N = 251) = 1.68, p = 0.432.

Table 5: Cross-tabulation of Sociodemographic Characteristics and Knowledge Levels

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristic** | **Poor Knowledge** | **Moderate Knowledge** | **Good Knowledge** | **Total** |
| **Age** |  |  |  |  |
| 18-24 years | 0 | 11 | 16 | 27 |
| 25-30 | 1 | 37 | 65 | 103 |
| 31-40 | 0 | 33 | 58 | 91 |
| 41-50 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| 51-60 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| **Gender** |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 0 | 37 | 38 | 75 |
| Female | 1 | 57 | 118 | 176 |
| **Marital Status** |  |  |  |  |
| Single | 1 | 55 | 76 | 132 |
| Married | 0 | 36 | 78 | 114 |
| Divorced/Separated | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| **Educational Level** |  |  |  |  |
| Secondary | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Tertiary | 1 | 93 | 156 | 250 |
| **Religious Affiliation** |  |  |  |  |
| Christianity | 0 | 88 | 143 | 231 |
| Islam | 1 | 4 | 8 | 13 |
| African Traditional Religion | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| None Religious | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

Again, a Chi-square test of independence was conducted to examine the relationship between healthcare practitioners’ knowledge level on HIV/AIDS management and their professional characteristics. The results are displayed in Table 6.

Table 7 displays a Chi-square tests summary for knowledge levels and sociodemographic and professional characteristics of respondents.

Table 6: Chi-Square Tests Summary for Knowledge Levels and Respondents' Characteristics

| **Variable** | **χ²** | **df** | ***p*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age | 3.56 | 10 | 0.965 |
| Gender | 6.73 | 2 | 0.035\* |
| Marital Status | 4.82 | 4 | 0.307 |
| Educational Level | 1.68 | 2 | 0.432 |
| Religious Affiliation | 18.91 | 6 | 0.004\*\* |
| Professional Background |  |  |  |
| Years of Experience |  |  |  |
| Department of Work |  |  |  |
| Formal Training on HIV/AIDS Management |  |  |  |
| Experience with PLHIV |  |  |  |

**p *< .05 is statistically significant, denoted by \* and \*\*.***

## 4.7 Factors Associated with Practice of HIV/AIDS Management

Respondents’ total practice scores were categorized into three levels based on the total possible score: poor practice (scores ≤ 25), moderate practice (scores 26–50), and good practice (scores > 50), for ease of interpretation. Consequently, a Chi-square test of independence was conducted to examine the relationship between healthcare practitioners’ practice level on HIV/AIDS management and their sociodemographic characteristics. The results are displayed in Table 8. There was no statistically significant association was found between knowledge levels and age, χ² (5, N = 251) = 2.63, p = 0.756; gender, χ² (1, N = 251) = 0.92, p = 0.756; marital status, χ² (2, N = 251) = 0.88, p = 0.645; educational level, χ² (1, N = 251) = 0.19, p = 0.661; and religious affiliation having a marginally non-significant association, χ² (3, N = 251) = 6.97, p = 0.073.

Table 7: Cross-tabulation of Sociodemographic Characteristics and Practice Levels

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristic** | **Poor Practice** | **Moderate Practice** | **Good Practice** | **Total** |
| **Age** |  |  |  |  |
| 18-24 years | 0 | 4 | 28 | 32 |
| 25-30 | 0 | 21 | 97 | 118 |
| 31-40 | 0 | 12 | 80 | 92 |
| 41-50 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 11 |
| 51-60 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| **Gender** |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 0 | 0 | 16 | 67 |
| Female | 0 | 0 | 28 | 163 |
| **Marital Status** |  |  |  |  |
| Single | 0 | 27 | 125 | 152 |
| Married | 0 | 16 | 101 | 117 |
| Divorced/Separated | 0 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| **Educational Level** |  |  |  |  |
| Secondary | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Tertiary | 0 | 44 | 229 | 273 |
| **Religious Affiliation** |  |  |  |  |
| Christianity | 0 | 37 | 214 | 251 |
| Islam | 0 | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| African Traditional Religion | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| None Religious | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

Again, a Chi-square test of independence was conducted to examine the relationship between healthcare practitioners’ practice level on HIV/AIDS management and their professional characteristics. The results are displayed in Table 9.

Table 10 displays a Chi-square tests summary for practice levels and sociodemographic and professional characteristics of respondents.

Table 8: Chi-Square Tests Summary for Practice Levels and Respondents' Characteristics

| **Variable** | **χ²** | **df** | ***p*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age | 2.63 | 5 | 0.756 |
| Gender | 0.92 | 1 | 0.339 |
| Marital Status | 0.88 | 2 | 0.645 |
| Educational Level | 0.19 | 1 | 0.661 |
| Religious Affiliation | 6.97 | 3 | 0.073 |
| Professional Background |  |  |  |
| Years of Experience |  |  |  |
| Department of Work |  |  |  |
| Formal Training on HIV/AIDS Management |  |  |  |
| Experience with PLHIV |  |  |  |

**p *< .05 is statistically significant***

# CHAPTER FIVE

# 5.0 DISCUSSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

## 5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents

## 5.2 Discussion

Results

## 5.3 Recommendations

Recommendations

## 5.4 Conclusion

In conclusion