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ABSTRACT

HIV and AIDS is a serious public health issue in New Zealand. As with other communities, Black Africans may be exposed to HIV. There is a need to explore ways of reducing HIV exposure to this community. This study sought to generate information that could help in addressing the associated risk. Currently, such information is sparse in New Zealand scholarly work.

Black African parents who settled in New Zealand face challenges when communicating HIV and sexual health messages to young family members. This is because, in many African communities, it is taboo for parents to discuss sexual matters with their teenage children. It is the responsibility of extended family members, aunts, and uncles. However, advancements in other information sources have challenged the relevance and place for uncles and aunts in the mentoring of young people around sexual topics in the Black African Diaspora. The researcher used secondary data sources and explored how parents are bridging this gap in their families.

The main findings from the present study showed that the dynamics in many African family structures have changed as a result of migration and settlement in New Zealand. There have been changes in values which have seen more young people taking up the host culture while a majority of the parents have retained their culture. The perception among some African community members that New Zealand is a low-risk country in terms of HIV transmission has contributed to complacency as regards adopting safer sexual behaviour. Parents are reluctant to have, and avoid, direct communication about sex with their children. Culture and religion have a strong influence on the Black African community beliefs around sex education. Sexual topics are still considered sensitive. African migrants bring strengths and resilience to New Zealand.

The recommendations from this research include the need for HIV and AIDS Health Promoters to explore ways of increasing their relationship with religious leaders and further research into ways to develop the skills and confidence of parents around sex education.
ABBREVIATIONS

**ABD** African Black Diaspora

**MSM** Men who have sex with Men

**ECDC** Centre for European Disease Control

**NZAF** New Zealand Aids Foundation

**MELAA** Middle Eastern, Latin American and African

**HRC** Health Research Council

**HIV** Human Immune Virus

**AIDS** Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

**NZ** New Zealand

**KAP** Knowledge Attitudes and Practices

**UNAIDS** United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS

**UK** United Kingdom

**CDC** Centre for Disease Control

**ACB** African Caribbean and Black

**SSA** Sub-Saharan Africa

**US** United States

**USA** United States of America

**IRCA** Immigration Reform Control ACT
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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Abstract..................................................................................................................................i
 Abbreviations........................................................................................................................ii
 Acknowledgments ........................................................................................................... iii
 List of Tables ........................................................................................................................v

**CHAPTER ONE**

Introduction.........................................................................................................................1
 Research questions............................................................................................................2
 Objectives............................................................................................................................2
 Study justification .............................................................................................................3
 Research focus ..................................................................................................................4
 Background........................................................................................................................5

**CHAPTER TWO**

Literature Review ................................................................................................................9
 Impact of migration on African families........................................................................9
 African family structures, roles and responsibilities...................................................11
 Culture and intergenerational conflict.........................................................................16
 African culture, youth love, relationships and sex....................................................18
 Contemporary sources of information for African adolescents................................21
 Religion..............................................................................................................................23
 Conclusion.........................................................................................................................27

**CHAPTER THREE**

Methodology.......................................................................................................................29
 African community leaders’ involvement.................................................................31
 Data-collection phases.................................................................................................31
 Ethical considerations....................................................................................................32
 Participants’ consent.......................................................................................................32
 Limitations of the research..........................................................................................33
CHAPTER FOUR
Findings.................................................................................................................................35

Domain 1: The impact of migration on African family structures and communication patterns on matters of sexuality within the Black African community..........................40
Influence of religion on sexual communication..................................................................40
Family stressors....................................................................................................................45
Impact on culture..................................................................................................................51
African community strengths and resilience......................................................................54

Domain 2: Perceptions of HIV risk in the Black African community...............................58

Domain 3: The attitudes of African parents towards responsibility for sex education to their children in the absence of traditional extended family educators in New Zealand.................................................................68
Religious and cultural barriers.........................................................................................70
Summary..............................................................................................................................73

CHAPTER FIVE
Discussion..............................................................................................................................75

CHAPTER SIX
Conclusions and recommendations....................................................................................92

REFERENCES.......................................................................................................................96

APPENDIX A: Ethics approval letter.................................................................................102

List of Tables
Table 1: Focus group participants’ country of origin...............................................................38
Table 2: Focus group participants by location.......................................................................39

List of Figures
Figure 1: Findings report framework...................................................................................36