

**Title:**

Effects of Sociocultural Factors on Infant Feeding With Black African Immigrant Mothers Living With HIV

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**Session Title:**

Factors Affecting the Care of Patients With HIV

**Slot:**

I 17: Monday, 30 October 2017: 3:45 PM-4:30 PM

**Scheduled Time:**

3:45 PM

**Keywords:**

Black mothers, HIV and Infant feeding

**References:**

Public Health Agency of Canada. Population- specific HIV/AIDS status report: Women. 2014. Available at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/aids-sida/publication/ps-pd/womenfemmes/es-sommaire-eng.php>

WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, & UNAIDS. Guideline updates on HIV and infant feeding: The duration of breastfeeding and support from health services to improve feeding practices among mothers living with HIV. 2016. Available at: <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/246260/1/9789241549707-eng.pdf>

Health Canada. Nutrition for healthy term infants: Recommendations from birth to six months. A joint statement of Health Canada, Canadian Paediatric Society, Dietitians of Canada, and Breastfeeding Committee for Canada. 2015. Available at: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/infant-nourisson/recom/index-eng.php>

**Abstract Summary:**

US and Canadian Black African Immigrant mothers are disproportionately affected by HIV compared with mothers of other races. It is recommended to exclusively formula feed their infants. However, infant feeding practices are significantly influenced by culture. This literature review examines socio-cultural determinants of infant feeding choices with HIV mothers.

**Learning Activity:**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE
The learner will be able to identify cultural behaviors influencing of infant feeding choices of mothers of African descent living with HIV in the US and Canada.	Cultural behaviors identified from the literature review influencing infant feeding choices of HIV positive women of African descent will be presented
The learner will have an understanding of the importance of socio-cultural factors to infant	The learners will be presented four main conclusions providing the learner the

feeding choices among African women living with HIV.

information for the importance of understanding the socio-cultural factors.

**Abstract Text:**

**Title: Effects of Socio-Cultural Factors on Infant Feeding with Black African Immigrant Mothers living with HIV**

**Background:** in Canada and the US, African immigrant women represent the largest segment of the population living with HIV. These women have disproportionately high rates of MTCT and HIV-exposed infants (48%). HIV prevention guidelines in Canada, US, and other high-income countries strongly recommend that mothers living with HIV avoid breastfeeding their infants. Women in these countries are considered to have access to *acceptable, feasible, affordable, sustainable and safe (AFASS) feeding alternatives*, therefore mothers living with HIV are strongly advised to exclusively formula feed regardless of ARV use and plasma viral load. In contrast, *breastfeeding is strongly promoted as the “normal and unequalled method of feeding infants.”* This creates a paradox for women living with HIV, particularly those coming from countries and cultures where breastfeeding is an expectation of all new mothers, and where formula feeding implies illness.

**Objective:** The purpose of this review was to explore empirical studies between 2001 and 2016 that report the socio-cultural factors influencing infant feeding choices and practices among African women from HIV endemic countries.

**Method:** Using the PEN-3 cultural model as a guide, a search of the literature identified articles that reported on cultural factors influencing infant feeding choices or practices among women of African descent living with HIV. CINAHL, Global Health, HealthSTAR, PubMed, and Sociological Abstracts databases were searched using the keywords: “HIV”, “HIV and infant feeding”, “infant feeding practices”, “influence of breastfeeding duration”, “(WHO) infant feeding guidelines”, “developing countries”, “low-income countries”, and “Africa” to identify relevant literature. Included studies examined or reported on socio-cultural factors influencing infant feeding choices and practices, among women of African descent living with HIV in developed and developing countries.

**Results:** A total of 51 studies (qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods designs) published in the English language were reviewed. Four socio-cultural determinants of infant feeding choices and practices were identified: Individual maternal factors, family and community influences, health system support, and socio-economic and socio-demographic factors.

**Discussion:** This review represents the first use of Airhihenbuwa’s PEN-3 cultural model to assess how socio-cultural factors influence infant feeding choices among mothers living with HIV from African countries. Children born to immigrant women from HIV-endemic countries represent the largest group of HIV-exposed infants in Canada (48.3%) and the US (50%). Understanding the socio-cultural determinants of **infant feeding choices and practices among these women** is critical to support development, delivery and uptake of prevention initiatives that will enable HIV-free survival for their infants.

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