

## **Knowledge and Attitudes of Youth in Relation to Provider Initiated Counselling and Testing at the Primary Health Care Services of the Capricorn District, Limpopo Province**

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**ABSTRACT** The aim of the study was to assess the knowledge and determine attitudes of youth about Provider Initiated Human Immunodeficiency Virus counselling and testing) at the Primary Health Care services of the Limpopo Province, South Africa. The target population was the youth between the ages of 16 and 35 years. The sampling method was non-probability and purposive, while data were gathered by using a structured questionnaire. The data analysis was summarised by means of descriptive statistics. Validity and reliability were ensured by undertaking a literature review; developing and pre-testing the questionnaire. Ethical considerations were adhered to. The consent for participation from participants who were between 16 and 17 years was obtained from parents or guardians. Results indicated 90 percent youth demonstrated sufficient knowledge and awareness of the availability and the value of Provider Initiated Human Immunodeficiency Virus counselling and testing services; however 50 percent had negative attitudes on the utilization of the services because they felt compelled as they were not given opportunity for making choices. The establishment of interventions for HIV prevention, namely Youth-friendly HIV Counselling and Testing services and strengthening the quality post-test counselling at Primary Health Care facilities were made.