

The Effect of Economic Hardship on Antiretroviral Therapy among Patients with HIV/AIDS

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ABSTRACT The purpose of this study was to explore the relationship of economic hardship to individual's ability to seek antiretroviral medication among patients with HIV/AIDS in a resource-poor country. A total of 77 patients residing in five marginalized communities of South Eastern region of Nigeria participated in a study that tested three hypotheses. Results indicated, that an inverse relationship exist of poverty status, household poverty, and Poor standard of Living, to individual's ability to seek antiretroviral therapy among HIV/AIDS patients as predicted. Result suggests that economic hardship negates the ability of people living with HIV/AIDS One implication of our findings is that improvements in the continuity of care of patients with HIV/AIDS may be realized through further development of social assistance programs aimed at alleviating the poverty conditions leading to economic empowerment of patients with HIV/AIDS in resource poor countries to seek voluntary antiretroviral therapy. Socio-economic index of poverty were used to measure individuals' economic hardship.