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Socio-cultural Factors Responsible for Increasing Rate of HIV/AIDS in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria

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ABSTRACT Akwa Ibom State is rated second in terms of HIV/AIDS pandemic (with 8.1 seroprevalence rate) out of the 36 states in Nigeria! The authors carried out an intensive three month fieldwork in Uyo capital area and its surrounding villages of Itam, Itiam and Mbiabong Anyaya, using purposive and random sampling techniques. The findings show that the people's belief system and socio-cultural practices favour the contracting and spread of HIV/AIDS. The researchers' recommendations for mitigating the spread of the pandemic include massive awareness campaign about covert cultural practices that aid the spread, and opening up of more Voluntary and Counselling Testing Centers (VCCT).