Demographic Factors, Stigma and Psychological Dysfunctions among People Living with HIV/AIDS: A Path Analysis

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ABSTRACT This study investigated the association between age and duration of diagnosis with psychological dysfunctions, and HIV/AIDS stigma among PLWHA in Limpopo Province of South Africa. Cross-sectional design with purposive sampling method was used to select study participants (n = 300, mean age = 31, standard deviation = 8.2, female = 57.1%). HIV/AIDS stigma scale was used to determine stigma while GHQ-28 was used to determine psychological dysfunctions. Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) and the Pearson Moment Correlation Coefficient were used to analyse data. Results indicated that age has a negative but significant predictive effect on enacted HIV/AIDS stigma (β = -126, p<.05). Enacted HIV/AIDS stigma had a significant predictive effect on psychological dysfunctions (β = .198, p<.01). Study findings demonstrate that enacted HIV/AIDS stigma decreases with increased age, psychological dysfunctions increased with increase in age.