

THE NETWORK: TOWARDS UNITY
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THE NETWORK
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"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
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SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

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| Title | Initial Reactions and Experiences of Men Following Heterosexual Intimate Partners Disclosure of HIV Seropositive Status: A Qualitative Study |
| Type | Oral Presentation <i>Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment</i> |
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| Co-Authors | |
| Country | Ghana |
| Abstract N^o | TUFH8 |

Content

HIV/AIDS is a global problem and the infection rates in some countries are very high including Ghana. The perpetuation of violence against intimate partners following disclosure of HIV positive status is a public and social problem. Little focus has been given to the immediate experiences and reactions of men who perpetrate violence following the disclosure of their HIV positive partners' statuses. We explore the immediate experiences and reactions of men following the disclosure of intimate partners' HIV seropositive status as a risk for perpetration of IPV in Ghana. Methods: We conducted exploratory qualitative research involving male partners of HIV positive women. A semi-structured interview guide developed according to the objectives was used to collect data. Interpretive phenomenological analysis (IPA) approach was used to collect and analyse data from a purposive sample of eighteen men whose partners had recently disclosed their seropositive HIV status. Data collection and analysis were undertaken simultaneously. Results: The findings of this study revealed five main themes: Emotional and psychological experiences and reactions; sexual experiences and reactions; social experiences and reactions; spiritual experiences and reactions; and the meaning of experiences and reactions. Conclusion: Male intimate partners go through varying experiences when their female partners disclose to them that they are HIV positive. Health professionals should be equipped with skills in counselling in order to help HIV positive women and their partners following seropositive HIV status disclosure.