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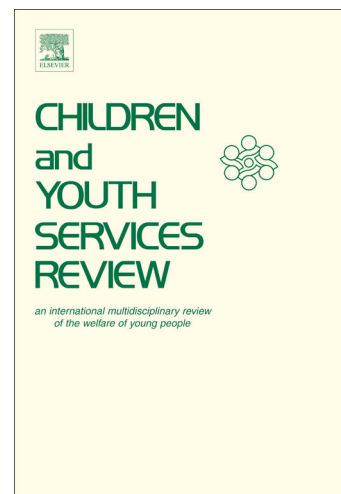
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Understanding Adolescents Living with HIV in Accra, Ghana

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Highlights

Globally, adolescents continue to be unduly affected by HIV.

Adolescents living with HIV are vulnerable due to a myriad factors.

Adolescents living with HIV are reluctant to disclose their HIV status.

Adolescents living with HIV experience stigma.

Adolescents living with HIV have conflicting views about clinic attendance and antiretroviral therapy.

Psychosocial interventions and financial assistance are suggested for adolescents living with HIV and their families.

Abstract

This study explored the experiences of adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV) in Accra, Ghana. A descriptive study design with qualitative data collection and analysis methods were used. Thirty participants were purposively selected and data were collected through face-to-face in-depth interviews using a semi-structured interview guide. The interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed, and analyzed to identify emerging themes that addressed objectives of the study. The findings indicated that adolescents became aware of their HIV through family and non-family members, but were reluctant to disclose their HIV status to others due to varied reasons. Furthermore, it was found that the adolescents experienced stigma and also had conflicting views about clinic attendance and the antiretroviral therapy (ART). Evidence

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