Introduction

- Peer Mentors support expecting women who are HIV positive during their antenatal and postnatal visits, entering data on a mastercard.
- UNICEF South Africa hired enumerators to digitize the data.

Objective of the Study

To merge, clean and analyze the database of 300+ women’s mastercards, with the objective to create research publication investigating linkages between antenatal practices and postnatal Mother to Child Transmission of HIV.

Methods

- Microsoft excel analysis
- Cleaning based on logical cross referencing
- Analysis using excel tabulations
- Presentation of graphics based on analyses

Results

- There were large amounts of fields with missing or no data, especially in the postnatal stages.
- There were several entries with faulty entries, due to lack of data entry standardization.
- Creating summary totals and tabulations, the data was not logically consistent. E.g. more entries showed positive results of HIV testing than the number of tests conducted in the first place.
- Overall, the data was not fit to be used for research publications.
- Nonetheless, the analysis was useful to “open eyes” regarding data quality.
- Recommendation was to move from printed mastercards to digital forms, where data entry standardization and logical cross checks can be implemented to improve data quality.

Discussion

- A database on a program is only as good as the implementation of the program itself.
- Even with good implementation, data collection is a science with its own best practices.

Questions

- Was the missing data reflective of poor implementation, or just poor documentation?

Conclusion

- UNICEF South Africa will support digitization of mastercards.

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