

KNOWLEDGE OF AIDS, HEPATITIS C, AND SAFE INJECTION PRACTICES

The 2003 EIDHS collected information on women's awareness of AIDS and hepatitis C and the channels through which they most recently received information on these diseases. Questions were also asked about safe injection practices in order to gauge the impact of recent campaigns to increase awareness of these issues.

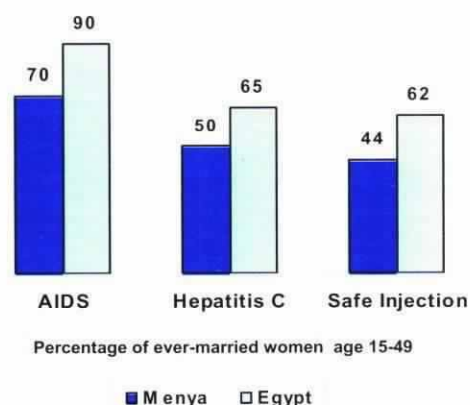
ARE WOMEN IN MENYA AWARE OF AIDS AND HEPATITIS C?

AIDS (Tables 9.1-9.2)

The level of awareness of AIDS is significantly lower in Menya Governorate than in Egypt as a whole; 7 in 10 women in Menya say they have heard about AIDS compared to 9 in 10 women in the country as a whole. Television is the most recent source of information for most women in Menya.

Around two-thirds of the women in Menya governorate who know about AIDS are able to name a way in which the HIV virus that causes AIDS can be transmitted. The most commonly mentioned mode of transmission is a blood transfusion (68 percent). The second most frequently cited mode of transmission is heterosexual sex (49 percent). Around one-third mention homosexual sex (34 percent) while slightly more than a quarter of the women (28 percent) mention unclean needles as a transmission route for AIDS. Somewhat more than 10 percent believe that AIDS can be contracted through casual physical or other contact with infected persons.

Women in Menya are less knowledgeable about AIDS, hepatitis C, and safe injection practices than women in Egypt as a whole.



HEPATITIS C (Tables 9.3-9.4)

Half of the women in Menya say they are aware of hepatitis C. As was the case with AIDS, the level of awareness of hepatitis C is much lower among women in the governorate than among women in Egypt as a whole (65 percent). Television is the principal source of information for women who know about hepatitis C.

With regard to transmission modes, 43 percent of women in Menya who know about hepatitis C are able to name a mode of transmission. Blood transfusion is the most commonly cited mode (63 percent), followed by unclean needles (29 percent). Around a quarter of the women also mention casual physical or other contact with an infected person as a means of transmission.

WHAT DO WOMEN IN MENYA KNOW ABOUT SAFE INJECTION PRACTICES? (Tables 9.5 9.6)

In order to assess the extent to which efforts to inform Egyptians about safe injection practices are succeeding, EIDHS respondents were asked if they had heard anything in the six-month period before the survey about how to be sure an injection is given safely. Somewhat more than two-fifths of ever-married women in Menya have heard something about safe injection practices compared to around three-fifths of women in Egypt as a whole. Medical providers (45 percent) are the most common source of information about safe injections for women in Menya, followed closely by television (42 percent).

With respect to safe injection practices, women are most likely to say that they have heard that the syringe and needle should come from a sealed packet; 87 percent mention this practice. One-third have heard that needles or syringes should not be shared while 6 percent have heard that needles should be boiled or otherwise sterilized before they are used again.