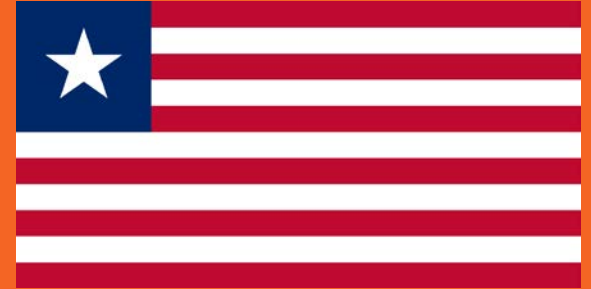


---

# Assessing Barriers to Retention in HIV Care in Monrovia, Liberia Interprofessional Educational Project

Summer 2017



University of Maryland, Baltimore  
School of Nursing & School of Social Work

Presented by: Molly Crothers, Geneen Godsey, Allison Pugay

---



# Background

## UMB's first partnership with Liberia

- Mother Patern College of Health Sciences



### Liberia:

- HIV rate: overall rate: 1.5%  
Urban rates: 2.5% to 2.9%  
Rural rates: 0.8%
- 42.6% adult literacy
- GNI per capita: \$720 PPP

### Baltimore:

- HIV rate: 1,245 - 4,699 per 100,000 (1.2% - 4.7%)
- 50% hold high school or college degree
- GNI \$57,000 PPP

### Key populations for both locations:

- MSM, minorities, IVDU, prisoners, and sex workers



---

## Purpose

- **Assess patients' and facilitators' perceptions of barriers to retention in care for persons living with HIV through focus group discussions and interviews.**
- Observe and understand the Liberian healthcare system

## Methods

- Interviews & Focus Groups
  - Home visits**
  - Peer support group**
- Observational studies:
  - Hospital and school assessments**

### Sample Hospital Assessment Questions:

- What specialty / HIV services are offered?
  - number of patient rooms, beds
  - Are there seats for waiting clients?
  - number of clinicians
  - amount of hours worked
  - where do patients get their medications?
-





---

# Objective Findings

## Hospital assessments:

- 1-3 HIV counselors
- Wait time up to 6 hours
- Some open 3x/week only
- Medication source on or off site

## Charity Home

- Care for chronically ill patients
- Off-site medication source
- Free, but limited capacity

## Catholic Church Peer Support group

- Mental health program
- Met once / month
- Sense of community
- Food ration attendance reward

## NACP Director interview

- Leading HIV care provider

## Cenacolo Community

- Pediatric HIV care

## Home Visits

- Litter: broken glass, old needles
- Neglected road conditions
- Lack of clean water



---

## Subjective Findings

- Cultural stigma against HIV
  - Need for continued health awareness teaching
  - Economic obstacles:
    - cost of care
    - short-staffed
    - limited (imported) resources
-



# Activities by UMB Students

- MPCHS peer support group - “Tree of Hope”
- Charity Home HIV education presentations
- Health club game & cards for Charity home



---

# Recommendation for future UMB trips to Liberia

- Continued study abroad opportunities with expanding assessment
- Global classrooms with nursing and social work students
- Training programs for nurses in Liberia





---

# Impact on Professional Career

We learned...

- Multicultural communication
- Schedule flexibility
- Problem-solving skills
- Interprofessional collaboration
- Necessity of multiple disciplines for comprehensive patient care

