**HIV SUPPORT IN THE UK: People Living With Aids: Experiences and evaluations of support for depression**

**Research Intern: Harriet Anyangokolo**

**Supervisor: Professor Corinna Squire**

**School: Humanities & Social Sciences**

**Research Area: Psychological Studies/ Sociology**

---

**METHODOLOGY**

The current study is part of a wider study which investigates people living with HIV's account of their support requirements and use. The project involved semi structured interviews with around 50 participants in this interview round, looking at forms of support used – medical and social, the voluntary sector, family and friendship networks, media, and faith communities – and how they were valued.

The audio interviews were transcribed, content analysed, and valued coded.

**INTRODUCTION**

The current study is part of a wider study which investigates people living with HIV’s account of their support requirements and use. The project involved semi structured interviews with around 50 participants in this interview round, looking at forms of support used – medical and social, the voluntary sector, family and friendship networks, media, and faith communities – and how they were valued.

The audio interviews were transcribed, content analysed, and valued coded.

**AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

The overall aim of the longitudinal study to which I contributed is to investigate people with HIV’s accounts of support requirements and use. Participants’ accounts of HIV support for depression is the main theme of this report, representing a specific sub-analysis that I performed during the internship.

The objective of this specific subanalysis is to search for specific features that may enhance or reduce current voluntary and statutory support’s effectiveness for the social well-being of the population group in relation particularly, here, to depression.

**CONCLUSION**

The findings of the current study suggest that social support is necessary in shifting burden among people living with HIV/AIDS and therefore it is an effective tool for modifying the negative effects of depression and reducing subjective complaints.

There are a number of support services both voluntary and statutory that support depressed people living with AIDS. These services provide counselling services and cognitive-behavioural therapies as well as training people to better live with diagnosis. However, these services were reported by participants in this study often to be hard to access, rationed, and in limited type and with many, reductions occurring over the past few years in peer support services.

**REFERENCES**