

**INMATES' PERCEPTION OF THE FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO HUMAN
IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS TRANSMISSION IN THOHOYANDOU CORRECTIONAL
SERVICES IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

BY

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated inmates' perception of the factors contributing to human immunodeficiency virus transmission in Thohoyandou Correctional Services in Limpopo Province. The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome epidemic presents a challenge globally, especially in the correctional services communities. The study used the qualitative design. Purposive sampling method was used to select participants for the study. Data collection was through focus group and six focus group discussions were carried out to collect data from the inmates. Data analysis was done using Tesch's method. Findings pertaining to the research showed that nearly half of the respondents stated that that Correctional Centres' overcrowding facilitated the transmission and spread of HIV. Based on the findings, the study recommended that infected inmates should have access to qualified HIV and AIDS primary health care personnel. Support should be extended from health care workers, multi-disciplinary teams and officials, to family members, to start coping and dealing with the trauma early enough once the inmate is released.