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**ANALYSIS OF EARLY TEENAGE PREGNANCIES FOR HIV RATES AND OBSTETRIC COMPLICATION AT MPILO CENTRAL HOSPITAL,**

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**Introduction.** Teenage pregnancies are a growing global public health concern. Early adolescent (13-17 years old) pregnancies are particularly worrying as they involve issues of statutory rape as in most communities the age of consent is 16. There are also varying cultural practices that involve early child marriages. There are also varying cultural practices that involve early child marriages. The girl child loses out on education, has to navigate the risks of pregnancy, childbirth and child rearing from a very young age. In the literature reviews, there are no similar studies on the 13-17 age group but there studies on the 15-19 age group. Annually, teenagers give birth to millions of babies globally. Teenage pregnancies are associated with adverse perinatal outcomes. Adolescents going through pregnancy and childbirth may be vulnerable especially in low-resource settings.

**Materials and methods.** This was a retrospective descriptive cohort study carried out at Mpilo Central Hospital, a tertiary teaching referral government hospital in a low-resource setting in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Thirty (30) early teenager pregnant patients aged 13-17 years seen at the unit between January 1 to December 31 2016, were included in the study. Data were obtained from the registers in labour, antenatal/postnatal and neonatal wards.

**Results.** The incidence of early teenage pregnancies was 4.5%. 8.1% were HIV seropositive. Nearly three-quarters (73.3%) delivered vaginally a quarter (25.7%) by Caesarean Section (CS). The majority (80.4%) had no major obstetric complications. 14.9% developed severe preeclampsia and 2% had eclampsia. Maternal mortality was 0%. A vast majority (97.3%) of the babies were live births and 2.7% were stillbirths. 2.5% of the live births were early neonatal deaths (death within the first 7 days of life). The vast majority (94.6%) had a good 5-minute Apgar score of ≥7. 13.3% of the babies had birth weights of ≥500-2499g with the majority (84.7%) had normal birth weights of 2500-3999g.

**Conclusion.** The incidence of early teenage pregnancies was approximately 5%. The HIV seropositive rate was lower than the hospital unit and national rates. The majority had no major obstetric complications but the commonest complication was severe preeclampsia. Maternal mortality was 0% among the early teenage mothers during the period of the study. Most early teenage pregnancies were delivered by normal vaginal route with healthy infants.