

**Utilization of HIV VCT services and associated factors, among soldiers
in Tanzania people's defense forces in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

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Voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) has been shown by researchers to reduce high risk behavior, prevent HIV transmission and make HIV prevention more cost effective by providing clients with appropriate linkages to care, treatment and support services. However, the VCT services have not been met with encouraging uptake, both in the general population and in the militaries. Very little is known about the level of utilization of VCT services among soldiers in TPDF. Objective: the study aimed at exploring the rate of utilization of VCT Services and associated factors among soldiers in the Tanzania Peoples' Defense Forces in Dar-es- Salaam area. Methods: An analytical cross-sectional study using quantitative methods was conducted in the TPDF camps in Dar-es Salaam area in June - July 2006 to explore factors associated with VCT services utilization among soldiers in TPDF. A total of 390 soldiers of different ranks, randomly sampled (from Infantry, Navy and Air defense) were interviewed.