

Feeding practices for infants born to mothers living with and without HIV residing in Tshwane, South Africa



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Introduction

Mothers living with HIV and on life-long antiretroviral therapy should exclusively breastfeed for the first six months of life and continue to breastfeed with addition to complementary feeding until 24 months¹⁻². Lack of knowledge and fear of breastfeeding is high despite the nutritional benefits of breastfeeding³⁻⁵.

Objective

To describe the feeding practices of infants who are HIV exposed uninfected (HEU) and unexposed uninfected (HUU) in Tshwane, South Africa.

Methods

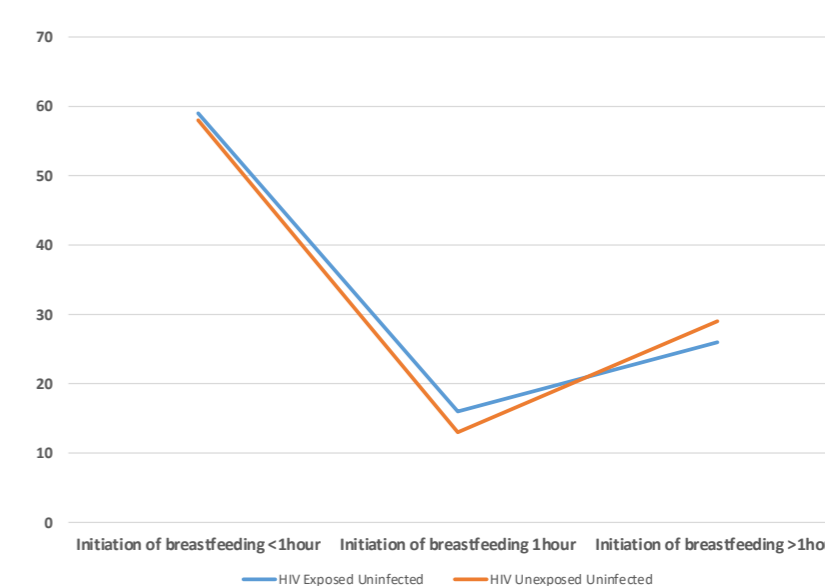
This sub-study forms part of the Siyakhula study, a descriptive prospective cohort study where data collection started from November 2018 and ongoing at the Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital. For this sub-study, a cross sectional design was deployed where the World Health Organization infant feeding questionnaire was used to assess the feeding practices of 215 mother-infant pairs. Mann-Whitney and Pearson's Chi-square tests were performed using SPSS.

Results

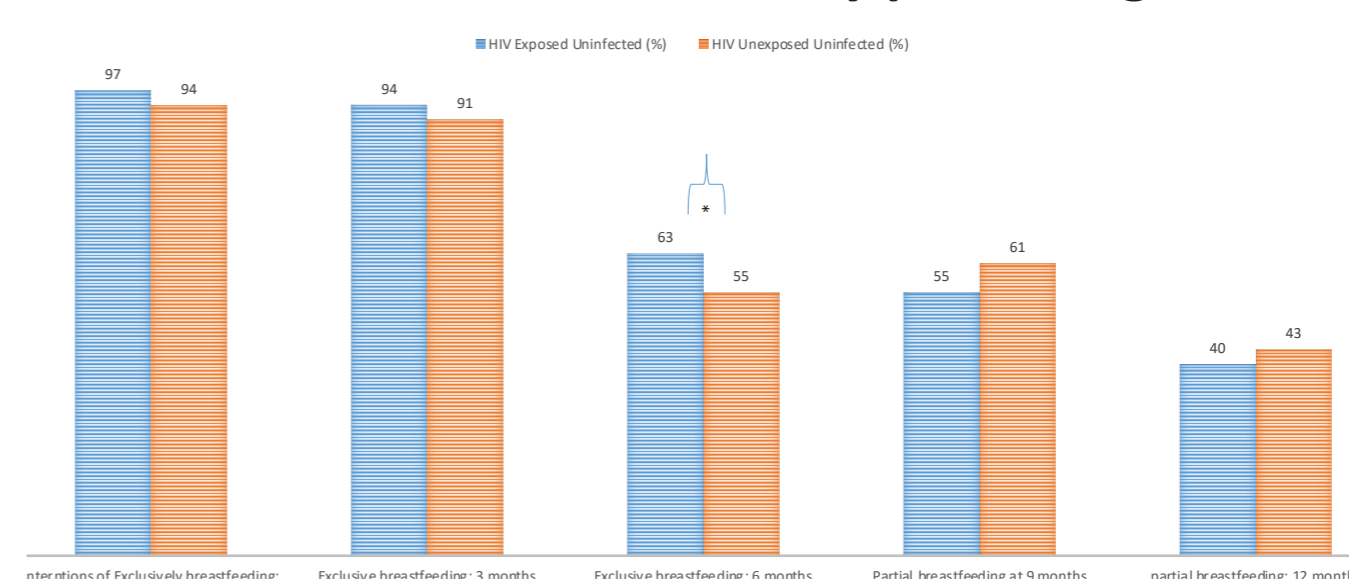
Conclusion

Infants were introduced to solids foods much earlier than recommended. Understanding of breastfeeding terms, training of healthcare professionals and mothers is needed to increase breastfeeding rates in South Africa.

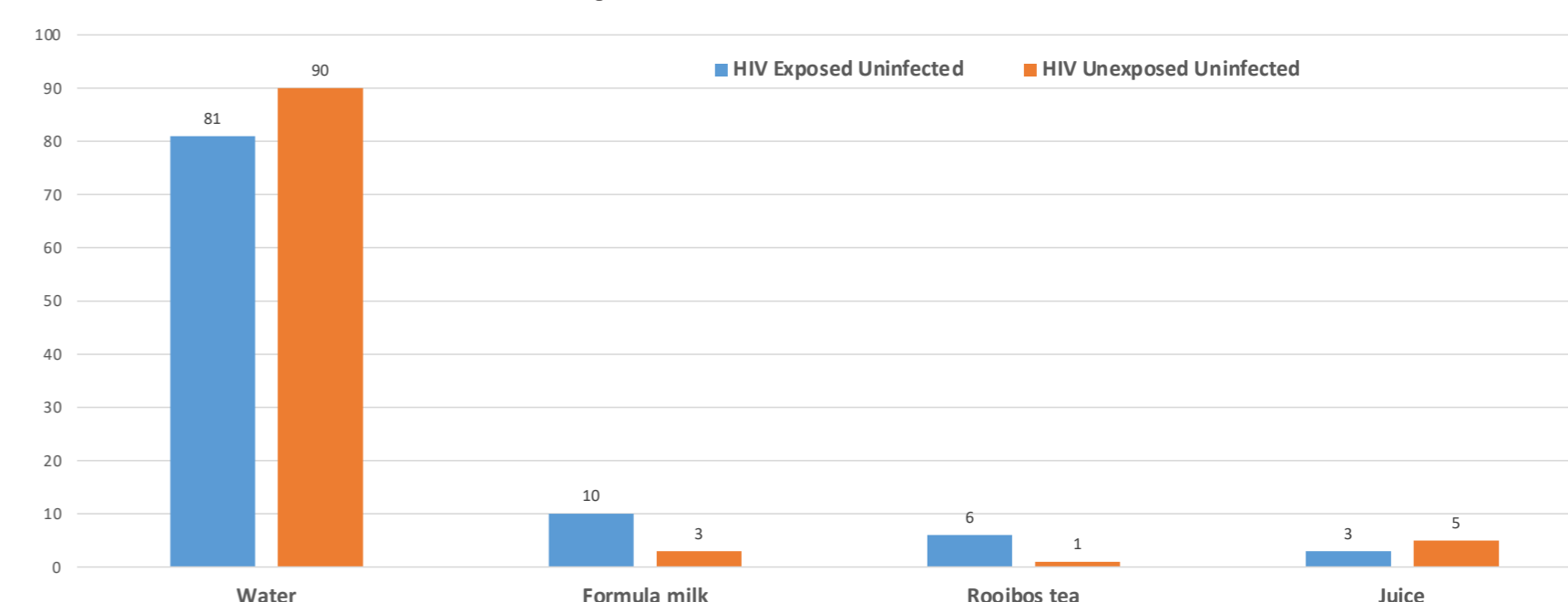
Breastfeeding initiation by time



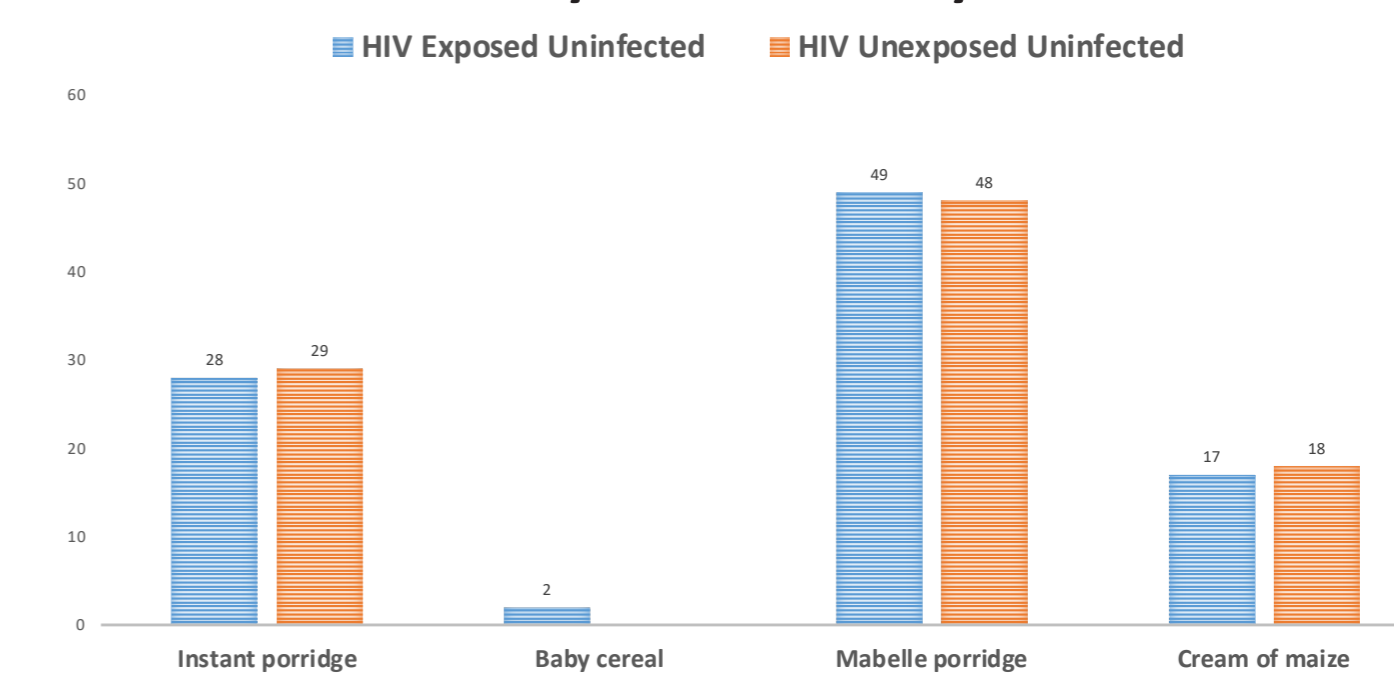
Breastfeeding practices of mothers for HEU vs HUU infants by percentage



Liquids first introduced



Food firstly introduced by mothers



References

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