

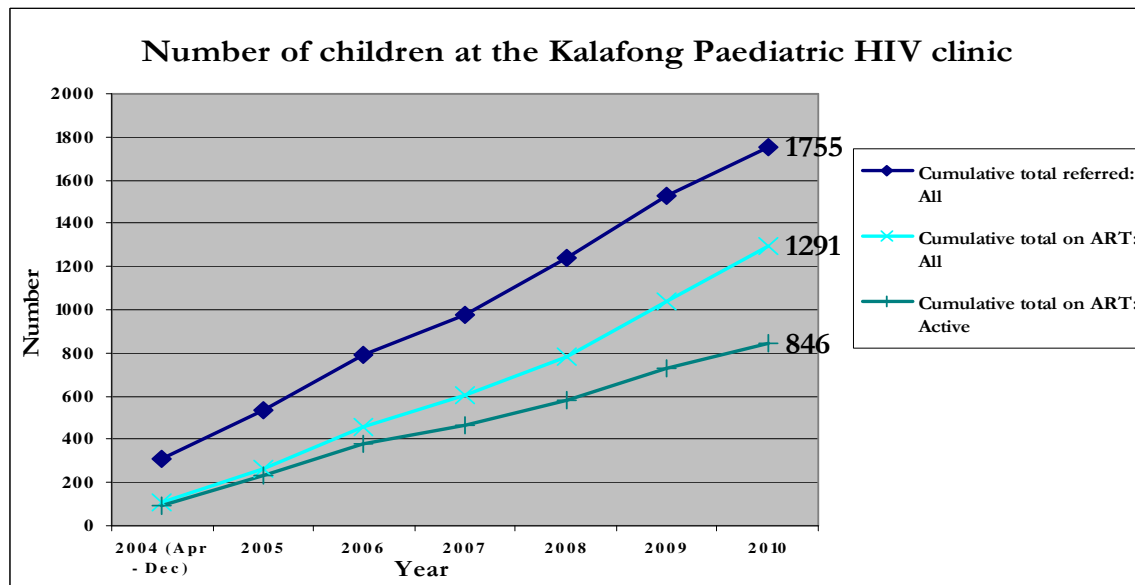
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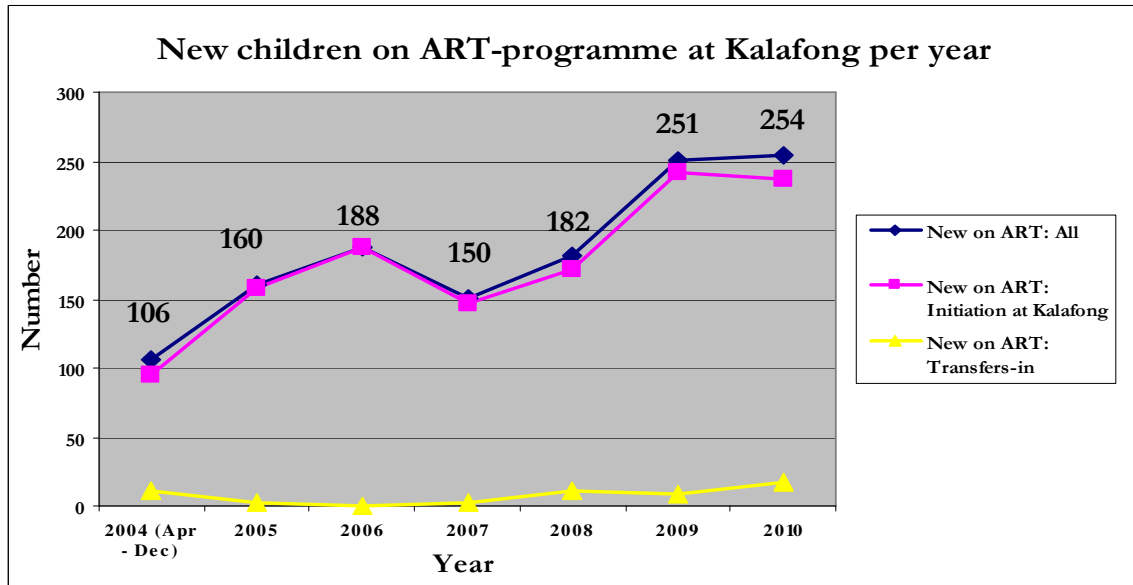
## Paediatric HIV services, Kalafong hospital Report for the year 2010

The Kalafong Paediatric HIV service is proud to be able to report on a good year 2010. The work in the HIV clinic is made possible by Kalafong hospital and the HAST programme of the Department of Health, the Paediatric Infectious Diseases Unit and the Department of Paediatrics of the University of Pretoria and the Foundation for Professional Development (FPD). And of course by the staff members who tirelessly work to render services to the many children and their families who are in need of care.

The influx of new patients to the Paediatric HIV clinic at Kalafong hospital remains high. From April 2004, the start antiretroviral therapy (ART) roll-out, until the end of the year 2010, 1291 children were enrolled on the ART programme, with 1238 (95.9%) initiated at Kalafong itself, and with only few referrals on ART from other treatment centres. At the end of 2010, the clinic was caring for 846 active children on ART.

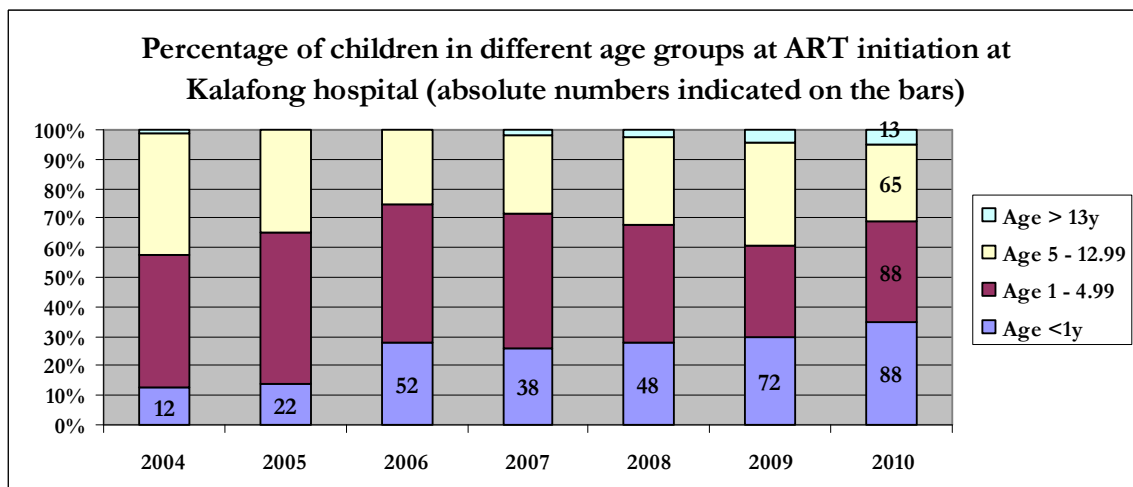


The number of new patients referred for further management was 231 children, and 254 children were newly enrolled on the hospital's ART programme during the year 2010.

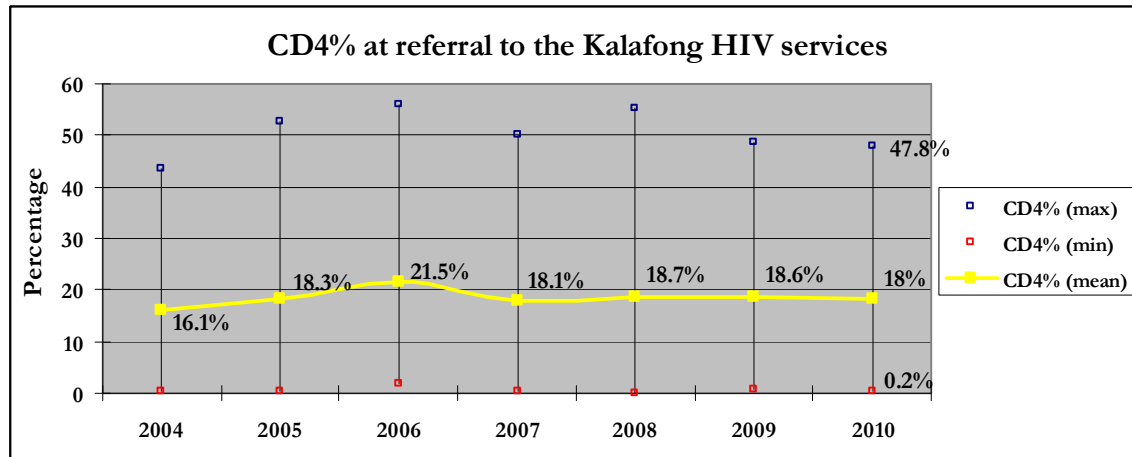


Patients transferred-in on ART are still a minor part of the work in the clinic, while on the other hand 63 children were transferred-out on ART to other facilities. Other ART discharges from the clinic included 19 deaths and 55 lost-to-follow-ups.

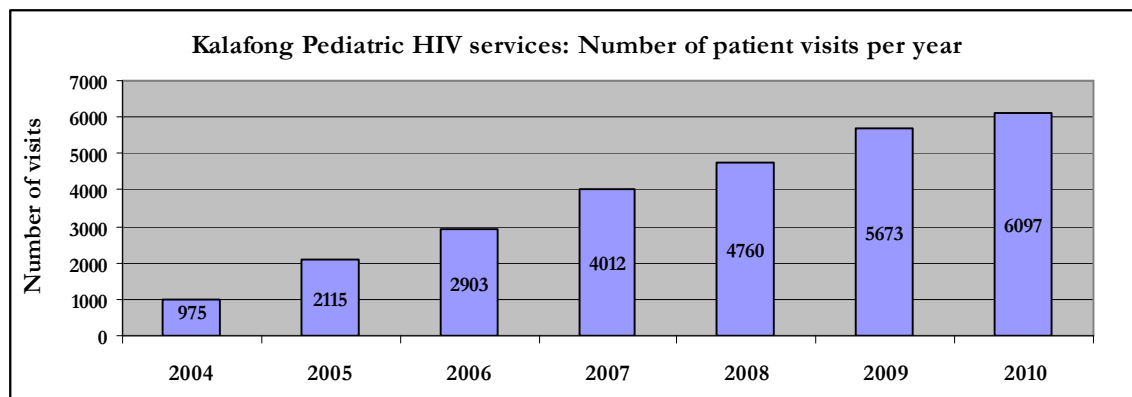
Of the children initiated on ART, 37% were below one year of age, while another 37% was older than 1 year, but below 5 years of age. A further 27% were older than 5 years but below 13 years, while 6% were adolescents above 13 years. ART initiation in infants below one year of age has steadily increased over the past few years, both in absolute numbers and in percentage of the whole. This is an encouraging sign, as it indicates that more infants are being diagnosed and referred at an earlier stage. It also reflects the updated national ART guidelines, which changed during 2010 to ART-initiation for all children diagnosed below one year of age. On the other hand, the number of children referred and initiated on ART in their adolescent years has also increased, indicating the need for teenagers-friendly services.



A major concern remains the degree of illness in the children presenting for care at the ART clinic. The mean CD4% was 18% at referral, which has not increased significantly over the past few years. Very ill children, even with CD4% as low as 0.2%, continue to be referred for care. In terms of clinical staging, 72% of children had moderate to severe disease progression (WHO stages 3 & 4) at presentation.




Due to the fact that ART is life-long treatment, the number of patient visits continuously grow as more patients are being added to the treatment programme. 6097 patient visits were recorded during the year. Data management in the clinic is greatly enhanced through the use of an Access Database in the clinic.



Dr Ute Feucht, clinical head of Kalafong's Paediatric HIV Unit, has since 2009 been serving as a member of the Tshwane Mayoral AIDS Council (TMAC). The purpose of TMAC is to provide a strategic vision to the HIV/AIDS response in the City of Tshwane and develop coordinated and innovative solutions which are implemented by respective sector working groups. (See TMAC website [www.foundation.co.za/index.php/TMAC/tmac.html](http://www.foundation.co.za/index.php/TMAC/tmac.html))


One of the TMAC programmes is to ensure access to HIV-services for HIV-infected children in Tshwane (the "Hide and Seek" project). Late diagnosis of HIV infection of children was identified as a major obstacle for children to access the available care. The "Hide and Seek" project is in line with the impetus of the Department of Health to increase HIV-testing and access to care for all HIV-infected people in the country, with a special focus on providing care for children.



**Hide & Seek:  
Purpose of project**

**Early diagnosis and access to care  
For HIV-infected children  
In the City of Tshwane**

Dr Ute Feucht  
for the Hide and Seek project team



The Paediatric HIV clinic at Kalafong, through the University of Pretoria, functions as a host organisation for the FPD PEPFAR Fellowship Programme, and our current Fellow, ms Dolly Sekwakwa, is working on the TMAC Hide and Seek programme.

The clinic further is doing research on the outcomes of HIV-infected children. One focus area is the neurological development of the children.

The year came to a close with a children's party hosted by the HIV clinic staff members, which was made possible by various generous donors. All the happy faces at the party reminded all of us that indeed the work is not in vain. Furthermore we had a Christmas party for the staff members, reminding us all, that none of us could do this work on their own.

Dr Ute Feucht  
Paediatrician / Clinical Manager  
Kalafong Paediatric ART clinic

