

# Initiating ART early; is there any progress?

## Experience and lessons from Zimbabwe's largest child cohort

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### Introduction

Over 50% of HIV infected infants will die before the age of 2 without ART but early initiation of ART can significantly reduce mortality (1). In Mpilo OI ART Clinic Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) was implemented in 2007, with turnaround times generally > 2 months. WHO guidelines recommending early initiation of ART for under 2's were adopted in 2010. Here we analyse changes in age at Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) initiation within the context of these practice and policy changes.

**Figure 2.** Number of children initiating ART at Mpilo OI ART clinic, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe and median age of those children. Data shown by year of ART initiation, 2004 - 2010.\* Data for 2011 is for January to November only.

**Figure 4.** Age distribution of children commencing ART at Mpilo OI ART clinic between 2004 and 2010.

### Literature cited

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