FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS AMONG YOUTHS IN UMGUZA DISTRICT, 2014

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Dissertation Submitted In Partial Fulfilment of the Masters in Public Health (Health Promotion) Degree, University of Zimbabwe

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April 2015
Declaration

This dissertation is the original work of Mzyce Busisiwe. It has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines for MPH [Health Promotion] dissertations in the University of Zimbabwe. It has not been submitted elsewhere for another degree at this or any other university.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank God for awarding me this opportunity to take part in this course.

I would also like to thank my family for their financial and emotional support rendered during this time. Uncle Ro, I am forever grateful for the accommodation and hospitality rendered during my times of study.

My sincere gratitude also goes to Dr Maradzika, Dr Marufu and Mr January for their academic support.

I dedicate this dissertation to my;

children Chisomo and Chimfya; husband Travin, grandfather who instilled value for education to many, my parents, my in-laws and all my relatives.
Factors associated with Sexually Transmitted Infections among youths in Umguza District, Matebeleland North Province

Author: Busisiwe Mzyece

Abstract

Background

Annually, the World reports five hundred million sexually transmitted infections (WHO 2010). Sexually transmitted infections if not treated early have serious consequences to the youth. These effects range from those which are irreversible such as contracting of HIV to those that have huge negative effects in the long run like infertility and genital ulcers. The study sought to investigate factors associated with Sexually Transmitted Infections among youths in Umguza district.

Methods:

An analytical cross sectional study was done in Ward 1 and Ward 8 of Umguza district. The social ecological model and health belief models were used to come up with the conceptual framework used in the study. Data were collected from 173 participants using self-administered questionnaires in both English and Ndebele.

Results:

Females who received gifts or money for sex were more likely to report a sexually transmitted infection (STI) episode (POR: 5.91, 95% CI 1.7-20). Youths who frequented night clubs were more likely to report having had an STI episode (POR: 3.26, 95% CI: 1.6-6.79). Youths who had multiple concurrent sexual partners were likely to report having had an STI (POR: 2.30, 95% CI : ( 1.05- 5.08).Those below the age of twenty were unlikely to report an STI episode (POR: 0.1297, CI: 0.06-0.273).
Conclusions:

Indulging in transactional sex, dropping out of school, being female and watching pornography were found to be associated with contracting sexually transmitted infections among youths in Umguza District. Therefore as preventive measures, youths should stay in school (spend more years in school) and should not watch pornography.

Key words:

Sexually transmitted infections, risk factors, pornography and staying in school and youths
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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANC</td>
<td>Antenatal Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART</td>
<td>Antiretroviral therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASRH</td>
<td>Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>Centre for Disease Control and Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBV</td>
<td>Hepatitis B Virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCV</td>
<td>Hepatitis C Virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immuno-deficiency Virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSV</td>
<td>Herpes Simplex Virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STI</td>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Infections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZDHS</td>
<td>Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZNFPC</td>
<td>Zimbabwe National family Planning Council</td>
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DEFINITION OF TERMS

Youths: young people of the ages of 15 to 24 (terms youth and young people used interchangeably in the study)

Ecology: it is the interaction between organisms and their environment