

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



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# Declaration

This dissertation is the original work of Mzyece 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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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*

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***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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# ABBREVIATIONS

ANC	Antenatal Care
ART	Antiretroviral therapy
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health
CDC	Centre for Disease Control and Prevention
HBV	Hepatitis B Virus
HCV	Hepatitis C Virus
HIV	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
HSV	Herpes Simplex Virus
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
ZDHS	Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey
ZNFPC	Zimbabwe National family Planning Council

# 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