

**THE PRACTICE OF ABC IN THE PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS:
CASE STUDY OF UGANDA**

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M.A. (POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH)

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CHAI PODHISITA, Ph.D.**ABSTRACT**

Uganda's response to the devastating HIV/AIDS epidemic has been acclaimed as a global role model in the fight against the epidemic; having reported a world record of the highest prevalence rate (30%) in 1990 and later reduced to 4.1% by 2004. In November 2004, the Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC) released a draft 'Abstinence and Be Faithful' (AB) policy to guide the implementation programs for 'Abstinence-only programs at the exception of condom promotion.

This study investigated the practice of ABC among Ugandan men to ascertain visibility of any of the three alongside social-demographic characteristics and how each one of these may relate with the status of HIV/AIDS prevalence in Uganda at any particular time. The demographic characteristics include age, marital status, place of residence, occupation, media exposure and education. The 2000 Uganda Demographic Health Survey data were used and the sample size of 1962 men aged between 15 and 59 was selected for the analysis.

The findings indicate that only 6% single youthful men of 15-24 years were abstaining by 2000 while 93.6% were sexually active. Abstinence is slightly higher among middle-aged single men. For instance among 35-44 years of age 18% were abstaining in the year 2000. The odds of practicing abstinence among the single men in the age group 35-44 years was 4.57 times more likely than the men in the age group 15-24 years. On the other hand, the practice of "Be faithful" was notably high at 82%. Sixteen percent of the men reported use of condom with a non-regular partner; implying that eighty four percent practiced unprotected sex with non-regular partners. The rural-based men were less likely to use condoms with a non-regular partner. Men who watch television were more likely to use condoms than any other media source. In general, condom use was very low yet the men were sexually active. The risk of HIV infection is certainly high unless measures are sought to relapse the potential risks of infections.

KEY WORDS: HIV/AIDS/ ABSTINENCE/ BE FAITHFUL/ CONDOM USE/ AGE/
RESIDENCE/ EDUCATION/ OCCUPATION/ MEDIA/ UGANDA

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