SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR OF ADOLESCENTS IN THE ERA OF HIV IN BOTSWANA

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to examine sexual behaviour of adolescents with emphasis on examining factors that are likely to affect consistent condom use at a time when the country is ailing from an HIV/AIDS epidemic. This study was aimed at adolescents as they are at a transitional stage from childhood to adulthood which is associated with sexual experimentation and high risk exposures to STD/HIV infections due to the risky behaviours they indulge into.

The study was derived from the secondary data from quantitative research of Botswana AIDS Impact Survey (BAIS III) 2008. Among 1,334 sampled adolescents of 15-24 years old, the results illustrated that most of them consistently used condoms with their partner/partners during the last 12 months of the survey. However, consistent condom use was more prevalent in male adolescents than female adolescents. The results further revealed that when age of adolescents increased, consistent condom use declined and that currently married/ever married adolescents were less likely to consistently use condoms. Furthermore, sexual abuse and condom access affected consistent condom use by adolescents and female adolescents were more affected than male adolescents.

Based on these findings, it can be seen that there is need for life skills training provisions, information program development and participatory learning activities to empower the targeted groups on sexual and reproductive health rights and safe sex. There is also need to reinforce and promote gender based youth friendly services and advocate for strengthening of the legal fraternity in terms of handling domestic violence and abuse cases.

KEY WORDS: SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR/ADOLESCENTS/CONSISTENT CONDOM USE/HIV-AIDS/BOTSWANA

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