

Title of Abstract: Factors Predicting Attitude of First Year University Students Towards STI and HIV in Ogun State, Nigeria *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 89

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Abstract:

Background: Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and Human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune-deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) are global problems and currently over 100 million STIs occur each year in people within the 15-24 age bracket. Young people between ages 15 and 24 also account for more than fifty (50) percent of all HIV infections throughout the world.

Methods: A survey research questionnaire made up of three trajectories including sexual behavior scale, attitude towards STI/HIV/AIDS scale and knowledge of STI/HIV/AIDS scale was used in this study (n= 226, mean=18.3years). The study made use of frequency counts, percentage and regression analysis. The SPSS software was used to analyze the data.

Results: The study indicates a fairly high knowledge level of STI/HIV (89.4%) with more males (87%) and younger participants (88%) possessing good knowledge of STI/HIV. Majority of the participants are sexually active (63.3%) and of this are more males (61.3%) and younger participants (60%). Findings show that age ($\beta = 0.025$; $t = 0.04$; $p > 0.05$) of the three predictor variables was not a predictor of attitude towards STI/ HIV. However, knowledge of STI/HIV ($\beta = 0.459$; $t = 5.032$; $p < 0.05$) and sexual behaviour ($\beta = 0.341$; $t = 4.278$; $p < 0.05$) were strong predictors of attitude towards STI/HIV.

Conclusion: This study shows the need for strong advocacy, enlightenment and community mobilization for improved awareness of STI/HIV. Local, community and religious leaders, including youth leaders should be incorporated into the drive to increase awareness and knowledge of STI/HIV/AIDS among young people in Nigeria.

Keywords: STI/HIV knowledge and attitude, sexual behavior, students