

Abstracts

P03 - Adolescent sexual health

P03.01 AGE OF FRIENDS AND NORMS ABOUT SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR ARE ASSOCIATED WITH HIV AND HSV-2 STATUS AMONGST YOUNG SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN IN THE HPTN 068 STUDY

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Introduction Friends can be an important influence on HIV and sexual health via connexions to sexual partners, influential sexual behaviour norms, or provision of social support. In this study from rural South Africa, we examined associations between the characteristics of young women's friendships and their risk of Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2 (HSV-2) and HIV infection.

Methods In 2011–2012, we tested 2325 13–20 year-old young women participating in the HPTN 068 study baseline for HIV and HSV-2 and we collected descriptions of 5 friendships. We used logistic regression to analyse associations between HIV and HSV-2 and generated friendship net summary measures of the 5 friends' socio-demographic characteristics and the number of friends perceived to have had sex. We excluded those HIV positive and reporting never having had sex from the HIV analyses, as likely perinatal infections ($n = 37$).

Results Adjusted for participant and friendship net socio-demographic characteristics, each additional friend at least one year older than the participant was associated with raised odds of HIV (adjusted Odds Ratio = 1.45, 95% Confidence Interval 1.09–1.93, $p = 0.014$) and HSV-2 (aOR = 1.45, 95% CI 1.22–1.73, $p < 0.001$). Each additional friend perceived to have ever had sex also raised the odds of HIV (aOR = 1.32, 95% CI 1.04–1.68, $p = 0.020$) and HSV-2 (aOR = 1.21, 95% CI 1.06–1.38, $p = 0.005$).

Conclusion We found evidence that the ages of young women's friends and her perceptions of their sexual behaviour increase her risk for HSV-2 and HIV infection. While further longitudinal research would assist in disentangling causal relationships, the extent to which policies or programmes influence age-mixing and young people's normative environments, for example in school classes and youth groups, should be examined.

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P03.02 STI AND HIV KNOWLEDGE, PREVALENCE AND RELATED BEHAVIOUR AMONG YOUNG FEMALE TRADERS IN AN URBAN SLUM IN LAGOS NIGERIA

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Background Globally, sexually transmitted infections are responsible for a high burden of morbidity and mortality and the complications of improperly managed infections are felt years after the event. It has also been linked to development of cancers. In sub-Saharan Africa, poverty, gender inequality and unemployment puts young females at risk. This study was carried out to assess STI and HIV knowledge, prevalence and related behaviour among young female traders in Mushin community Lagos, Nigeria

Methods A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted using interviewer-administered questionnaires among female trader's 15–24 years of age who sell wares in garages in an urban slum. Sample size of 290 was calculated. Simple random sampling was used to select divisions of garages. Data was analysed using Epi info version7, association was established using chi square at $p < 0.05$.

Results The mean age for the females was 21 ± 2.39 . Majority were single (63.8%), had at least a secondary school education (82.8%) and had heard of STIs. The main source of information was friends/family (41.9%) and media (41.2%). Approximately half of the respondents had good knowledge regarding transmission, prevention, symptoms and types of STI. 13.8% reported symptoms of STI in the six months preceding the study mainly itching, discharge and painful urination. Most practiced self-medication (85.0%) and did not use condoms while having symptoms (80.0%). Less than 40% had been tested for HIV, mainly to know their status. Among sexually active traders 32.4% tested with their main partner and 44.9% know the HIV status of their sexual partners. Married traders ($p = 0.002$), older females (0.009) and those with at least a secondary school education ($p < 0.000$) were more likely to have been tested for HIV.

Conclusion Young female traders in this study had poor knowledge, high prevalence of STI and engage in risky behaviour.

P03.03 SEROPREVALENCE OF CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS (CT) IN AMERICAN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS – IMPLICATIONS FOR VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

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Background CT remains the most prevalent sexually transmitted infection in developed and developing countries. Prevention of infection is an ideal application for a vaccine program. Similar to the HPV vaccine, the timing of immunisation for a future CT vaccine should optimally precede sexual debut. However, there are limited epidemiologic studies of CT infection in an unselected paediatric and adolescent population since universal screening and treatment of pregnant women was implemented in the US in 1993.