

Knowledge of STD/AIDS Among Nigerian Youths Not-in-School and Their Risk Reduction Behaviour

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ABSTRACT This study investigated the knowledge and awareness of STDs/AIDS among Nigerian youths not-in-school and their risk reduction behaviour. Two hundred and fifty youths operating around Mushin and Idumota areas of Lagos State were surveyed. Results indicated that majority of the youths knew that STDs and AIDS are contacted through sexual contact. However, a significant proportion still hold the views that the transmission of STDs and AIDS could be due to witches/wizard or an act of God or supernatural causes. Though most of the youths believe that condoms can prevent STDs and AIDS, but just one-third had ever used them. The youths believe that avoidance of sex with prostitutes and reduction of number of sexual partners will safe them from contacting STDs or AIDS. The results suggest that the adverse social and economic factors associated with perpetuation on a cycle of poverty which push many of these youths out of school should be attacked. It equally suggests that the youths not-in-school require a well organised and specifically targeted educational programmes.

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