

## **Perceived Risk Behaviours Related to Teenage Pregnancy among University Students in Limpopo Province, South Africa**

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**ABSTRACT** Teenage pregnancy can be used as one of the indicators of high risk sexual behaviour. This study determined the prevalence and explored the perceived risk behaviour related to teenage pregnancy among university students. A qualitative cross sectional descriptive design was adopted. A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect data from a stratified randomly selected sample of 281 female students registered in the university. Descriptive analysis was done. The results showed a prevalence of 28.1% and most (62.6%) were above 20 years. Levels 1(22.2%) and 2 (34.7%) were mostly affected. Majority of the students had a high knowledge on the risk of unprotected sex regarding pregnancy (82.5%), Human immunodeficiency virus transmission (84.2%). Despite the high knowledge, risk behaviours identified were: low regular condoms use (43.4%), having multiple sexual partners (30.9%), and non-use contraceptives (50.5%). Other risk behaviours related to illicit sex were going to disco or parties (43.5%) and alcohol (28.5%). The factors reported to be influencing indulgence in sex were: loved by the boyfriend (45.9), prove fertility (22.4), keeping the boyfriend (43.4%) and boyfriend asked for the baby(32.7%). Strategies to prevent teenage pregnancy should include development of participatory programmes that will promote change of behaviour and social responsibility.