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Predictors of Multiple Sexual Partners Among Youth Aged 15 to 24 in Gambia

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Purpose: This study aimed to assess factors that predict multiple sexual partnerships (MSPs) and its prevalence among youths aged 15–24 years in The Gambia.

Design: A secondary data derived from The Gambia Demographic and Health Survey 2013 (DHS) was analyzed.

Methods: A secondary data derived from The Gambia Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2013 was used to analyze the data. A total sample of 1,709 of whom, 1410 were males aged 15 – 24 years. Stratified sampling technique was used in the original survey, 281 enumeration areas (EAs) and 25 households in every EAs. Males and females aged 15 to 24, who had MSPs or not, and only 2013 Gambia DHS data were included in this study. Permission granted by the Service Provision Assessment (SPA) data from the DHS Program. The Chi-square test and logistic regression were performed to analysis the data and SAS version 9.4 was used for analysis.

Results: Having MSPs was significant among females (17.39%), youth with secondary or high educational level (14.26%), who were from the richest households (15.11%), lived in urban areas (13.14%), Kanifing region (19.64%), being a Jola/Karoninka tribe (33.65%) and from the Christian religion (60.0%). The multivariate logistic regression shows that the prevalence of MSP was most likely high among youth who had ever been tested for HIV (AOR =2.56). Compared to females, males were 58% less likely to report MSP (AOR =0.42) and youth with no education were 72% less likely to report MSP. Overall, those whose religion were Islam (AOR =0.12) were 88% less likely to have MSP while 89% of youth that do not use condom during last sex (AOR =0.11) were less likely to have MSPs.

Conclusion: Having MSPs was predicted to increase the risk of STIs among youth. The need to strengthen continuing health education programs on predictors of MSPs is paramount.

Title:

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Keywords:

Multiple sexual partners, Sexually transmitted infections and Youth

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Abstract Summary:

In order to mitigate the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS that affects many young men and women especially among countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, having multiple sexual partners (MSPs) is one of the key factors that has been predicted to contribute to it's spread.

Content Outline:

Introduction

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) continues to be a major global concern.

World wide, over 1 million STIs are acquired every day, an estimated 357 million new infections.

STIs as part of the widespread infectious diseases have caused a great socioeconomic burden on families and communities and global leading cause of morbidity and mortality.

Despite the decline in some areas, STIs including HIV continue to seek public health attentions where, countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) carries the major burden.

The epidemic of sexually transmitted infections including HIV has not been uncommon in most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa including The Gambia.

Having multiple sexual partners (MSPs) risks sexually transmitted infections especially among adolescence and youth. It has been estimated that 110 million prevalent STIs were registered of which,

20% of infections (22.1 million) occurred among women and men aged 15 to 24 years. Further, in 2013, nearly 50% (9.7 million) of the estimated 19.7 million total incident infections occurred among women and men aged 15 to 24 years, indicating that STIs are disproportionately acquired by adolescents and young adults as vulnerable groups.

Body

Purpose

This study aimed to assess factors that predict multiple sexual partnerships (MSPs) and its prevalence among youths aged 15–24 years in The Gambia.

Methods

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A sample of 1,709 of whom, 1410 were males aged 15 – 24 years. Stratified sampling technique used in the original survey, 281 enumeration areas (EAs) and 25 households in every EAs. Males and females aged 15 to 24, who had MSPs or not, and only 2013 Gambia DHS data were included in this study. Permission granted by the Service Provision Assessment (SPA) data from the DHS Program. The Chi-square test and logistic regression were performed to analysis the data and SAS version 9.4 was used for analysis.

Results

Having MSPs was significant among females (17.39%), youth with secondary or high educational level (14.26%), who were from the richest households (15.11%), lived in urban areas (13.14%), Kanifing region (19.64%), being a Jola/Karoninka tribe (33.65%) and from the Christian religion (60.0%).

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Overall, those whose religion were Islam (AOR =0.12) were 88% less likely to have MSP while 89% of youth that do not use condom during last sex (AOR =0.11) were less likely to have MSPs.

Conclusion

Having MSPs was predicted to increase the risk of STIs among youth. The need to strengthen continuing health education programs on predictors of MSPs is paramount.

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Author Summary: Twelve years experience as a professional registered nurse-midwife and i first served as a registered nurse in 2006 when i newly graduated as a state registered nurse (SRN). I worked as a general nurse at Soma major health centre found in the rural Gambia prior to my diploma. I progressed through the educational ladder to diploma, masters, and to doctoral student level.