

Title:

Gender Difference in Youth Sexual Relationships in Botswana

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Session Title:

Scientific Posters Session 2

Keywords:

Adolescents, Botswana and Gender difference

References:

Booth, A. L. and P. Nolen. 2012. "Gender Differences in Risk Behaviour: Does Nurture Matter?" *Economic Journal*, 122(558), F56-F78. Booth, A. and P. Nolen. 2012. "Choosing to Compete: How Different Are Girls and Boys?" *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 81(2), 542-55.

Abstract Summary:

The purpose of this poster presentation is to share information with other researchers about my research findings. I want to get feedback from my peers before I submit the manuscript for publication. Also it will be an opportunity to network with other scholars who are interested in my research.

Learning Activity:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE	TIME ALLOTTED	TEACHING/LEARNING METHOD
The learner will be able to understand the aims and methods of the study.	The study aimed at examining gender difference among respondents in Living As Safer Teens (LAST) survey in Botswana.	2-5min	Poster presentation
The learner will be able appreciate the findings of the study	The findings indicate that both genders reported that they discussed sexual issues with their friends because culturally sexual issues are not openly discussed with children. They both participate in social parties that may expose them to HIV. Although both genders rarely used condoms, in most cases males are usually the ones who make decision	10 min	Poster presentation

	on whether or not to use a condom.		
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Abstract Text:

Background: HIV in Botswana disproportionately affects women more than men. Research suggests that women's vulnerability to HIV could be linked to poor negotiations skills towards issues of sexuality, for men it could be linked to substance abuse, affecting their sexual behavior. In Botswana, HIV prevalence is low among adolescents.

Aim and Objectives: The study aimed at examining gender difference among respondents in Living As Safer Teens (LAST) survey in Botswana. The objectives were to identify which gender is commonly engaged in sexually behavior and to describe commonly used substances that could have an effect on sexual behavior and that may predispose adolescents at risk of contracting HIV.

Design and Method: The study used a qualitative design that interviewed 13 – 18 school-going adolescents in Gaborone, Botswana. The respondents were individually audiotaped. Adolescents were recruited from schools. Ethical consideration was observed throughout the study.

Results: 40 participants took part in the study, 20 male and 20 female. The findings indicated that some children live alone without parental guidance. The results indicated that both genders prefer to communication with their mothers on sexual matters. In most instances both genders indicated that they discussed sexual issues with their friends because culturally sexual issues are not openly discussed with children. Although both genders rarely used condoms, in most cases males are usually the ones who make decision on whether or not to use a condom. Interestingly, both genders engage in multiple concurrent partners and generational relationships but females commonly engaged in these types of relationships.

Discussion and Limitations: There was no gender difference on perceptions of sexual behavior; and the findings are similar to other studies in Africa which studies in Africa (Achal, 2011, Jewkes, 2010). Cultural influence relating to discussion of sexuality was common in both genders and mothers were preferred as good communicators.