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The Socio-Demographic Factors Associated with Condom Consensus among Adolescents in South Africa

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ABSTRACT

Background Evidence highlights that heterosexual condomless sex among adolescents aged 15 to 24 years is argued by the literature to be a contributor to the high HIV prevalence, STIs, and adolescent pregnancies. As South Africa seeks to reduce new HIV infections by approximately 80%, condom use is of paramount importance. This is due to the fact that condoms are a preventative method that can protect against HIV transmission, STIs and unwanted pregnancies. Previous studies have shown that mutual agreement about using a condom improves consistent condom use among sexual partners. This study therefore investigates the socio-demographic factors associated with condom consensus among adolescents in South Africa.

Methodology This is a cross-sectional study, conducted using secondary data from the South African National HIV Prevalence, HIV Incidence, Behavior and Communication Survey (SABSSM) collected from January to December 2017. The study sampled 2 995 adolescents aged 15 to 24 years in South Africa. The software STATA 14 has been used to manage and analyze data. Descriptive statistics were computed to describe the characteristics of the study population. Cross-tabulation and Pearson Chi2 test were computed to test for association between socio-demographic factors and condom consensus. In order to examine the relationship between socio-demographic factors and condom consensus, binary logistic regression was used.

Key Results The study found condom accessibility and frequency of condom use to be significantly associated with condom consensus. Findings show that condom consensus was 0.457 less likely for adolescents who reported that condoms were not easily accessible, compared to adolescent with easier access. Statistical significance for condom accessibility is p=0.031. Furthermore, the likelihood of condom consensus for frequency of condom use was more likely (AOR,1.931; CI, 1.185-3.145) for adolescents who reported using condoms almost every-time and less likely (AOR, 0.563, CI, 0.379-0.798) for adolescents who used condoms sometimes.

Main conclusion This study found association for condom accessibility and condom consensus, as well as for frequency of condom use and condom consensus. For other socio-demographic factors there was no statistical significance with condom consensus. This study suggests that

exposure of Social and Behavioral Change Communication programs needs to be increased among adolescents in South Africa. Central to reducing HIV infections, STIs, and adolescent pregnancy are programs that will influence behavior change among adolescents. At the core of such programs, there is a need for counselling on condom consensus and encouragement about not consuming alcohol before sexual intercourse. Additionally, these programs should make condom accessibility adolescent friendly, so as to encourage using condoms all the time as this is central to reducing new HIV infections, STIs, and adolescent pregnancy.

Key words: Condom consensus, HIV, STIs, adolescent pregnancy, alcohol consumption, condom accessibility, frequency of condom use, Health Belief Model.