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Sexual Health and Sexual risks among Young People in Informal Settlement of Metropolitan Lagos

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This study is on sexual health and sexual risks among young people in informal settlement of metropolitan Lagos. According to World Health Organization (WHO, 2012), Sexual health is a state of physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being related to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity. In Oladimeji et al, (2008), also corroborate sexual health as having different or several dimensions. Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.

The data used for the study were collected through questionnaires in which 226 participants were selected through convenience sampling. It was discovered that majority of the respondents were males, most of them were single, Christian religion outweigh other religions with (70%), majority of the respondents sample were unemployed, majority of them were forced during their first sexual intercourse. A good number of them contracted STI's before (87%) and were treated in the orthodox medical sector; (22%) of them have had abortion, for about two to three times before.

Factors, such as staying or living alone, living with friends, poor socioeconomic status of parents, single parenting style, peer group influence, going to night clubs and parents who encourages boyfriend and girlfriend relationship, were found to be influencing sexual health and sexual risks negatively, in the study areas.

It was recommended that, when considering sexual health and sexual risks among the youths, one must recognize the diversity of this population and the different ways sexual development are experienced and interpreted. The differences may include: Sex, Marital status, class and socioeconomic status, place of residence, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, level and manner of sexual experience, motivations for sexual activity and health status.