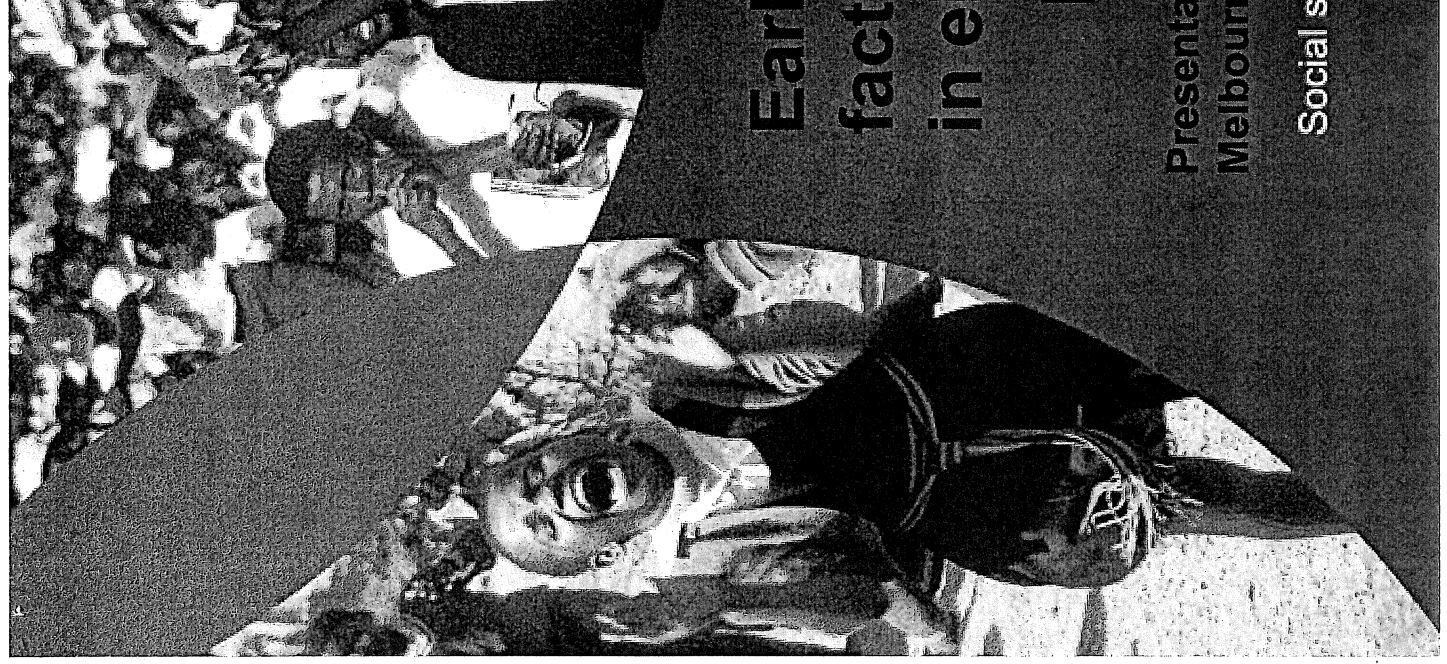


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Early sexual debut.ppt

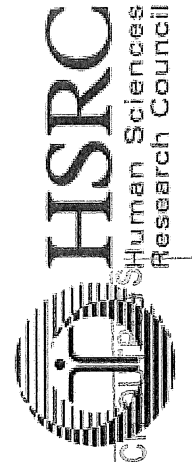


Early sexual debut and associated factors among in-school adolescents in eight African countries

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Presentation: ICCAP
Melbourne

Social science that makes a difference



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Background

- Young age at first sexual intercourse is thought to increase the risk of acquiring HIV infection
- is more likely to report sexual risk behaviours and
- may be particularly prone to other risky behaviours later in life

Early sexual debut, prevalence

- Sexual activity initiation <15 yrs in Eastern and Southern Africa 17% female 14% for males, West and Middle Africa 21% females 12% males
- Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) in 30 mostly high-income countries, 15 year olds
- 27% had had sex

Early sexual debut, risk factors

- living with other than two biological parents, being less monitored by parents,
- having more advanced physical maturity and more involvement in dating behaviour,
- having more permissive attitudes toward sex,
- alcohol use, delinquency, school problems and (for girls) depressive symptoms

Method

- Secondary analysis of existing data from the Global School-Based Health Survey (GSHS) from eight African countries
- Details and data of the GSHS can be accessed at <http://www.who.int/chp/gshs/methodology/en/index.html>
- Students, primarily 13-15 years
- Representative sample of country

Sample, 15 year-olds only

Country (year of study)	Total
N	
1. Botswana (2005)	694
2. Kenya (2003)	1001
3. Namibia (2004)	1482
4. Senegal (2005)	869
5. Swaziland (2004)	2831
6. Uganda (2003)	938
7. Zambia (2004)	552
8. Zimbabwe (2003)	1703
Total	10070

Early sexual debut by country

Country	Sex below 15: all
	%
1. Botswana (2005)	18.1
2. Kenya (2003)	32.0
3. Namibia (2004)	31.3
4. Senegal (2005)	24.4
5. Swaziland (2004)	11.2
6. Uganda (2003)	23.5
7. Zambia (2004)	37.0
8. Zimbabwe (2003)	12.6

Sexual behaviour, 15 year-olds

	All %	Male %	Female %
Ever had sex	33.0	45.0	20.4
Age first sex			
≤11	11.8	17.1	6.3
12	5.5	8.1	2.8
13	3.9	5.8	2.1
14	6.1	7.2	4.6
15	7.2	8.0	6.4
Two or more sex partners	16.3	23.1	8.3
Sex in past 12 months	14.6	20.4	8.4
Condom use at last sex	54.6	54.7	54.5

Multivariate regression analyses: early sexual debut

- Boys
- -currently smoking
- -truancy
- Girls
- -lower education,
- -ever drunk,
- -having no close friends and
- -poor parental connectedness

Discussion: prevalence of early sexual debut 15 year-olds

High rates of early sexual debut:

27.3% had experienced sexual debut before age 15 (38.1% among boys and 15.8% among girls) school children from eight African countries

In Eastern/Southern Africa [DHS, population survey] 17% females and 14% males

33% sexual debut at age 15 in this study also higher than 27% found in nationally representative samples of 15 year olds in school classrooms in 30 mostly high-income countries in 2005/6

Discussion: HIV risk

- 16.3% of the 15-year-old school children reported to have had two or more sexual partners during their lifetime,
- among the sexually active slightly more than half (54.6%) reported condom use at last sex.
- Considering the high HIV prevalence in most of the study countries, condom use was low. In comparison, 65% reported using condoms at last intercourse in 30 mostly high-income countries

Discussion: correlates early sexual debut

- correlates of early sexual intercourse included in concordance with other studies:
- alcohol, tobacco and drug use,
- school factors (truancy),
- parental or guardian factors (lack of parental or guardian connectedness and supervision),
- sedentary leisure behaviour,
- unintentional injuries and violence (having been in a physical fight and seriously injured), and
- for girls poor mental health and lower socio-economic status (lower education and economic status)

Conclusion

- High prevalence of early sexual debut among 15 year-olds in eight African countries.
- Risk factors identified were consistent with Problem Behaviour Theory in which early onset of adolescent sexual behaviour is shared with other problem behaviours.
- Prevention programmes should broaden sexual health promotion including problem behaviour such as substance use and mental distress for boys and girls in the preteen years, before sexual debut.

Study limitations

- The GSHS only enrolls adolescents who are in school.
- The analysis was restricted to a single age group, not the full range.
- The self-report of sexual behaviour [underreported], especially females.
- Measured different concepts such as mental distress variables with single items.
- A number of risk factors associated with early sexual debut found in other studies such as school status, physical maturity, involvement in dating behavior, attitudes toward sex, delinquency, school problems, parent factors and characteristics of the sexual partner were not assessed and should be assessed in future studies.

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