

Condom use among adolescents in Burkina Faso in the era of HIV/AIDS

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Background

Many researches on adolescent behaviors have been carried out, including alcohol, drug use, and unsafe sexual practice (e.g. Biglan et al., 1990; Newcom & Bentler, 1988; Santelli et al., 2000). They have shown that environmental, family, and individual factors are associated with a range of adolescent risky behaviors. With regard to unsafe sexual practice, it is now well known that HIV/STDs are spread through sex without condoms. “Any number of other factors may influence who has sex with whom and whether they use condoms, but the act that spreads the virus, in the overwhelming majority of cases, is an act of unprotected sex” (Measure evaluation bulletin, n°2, 2001). Using a unique set of data collected in 2004 from nationally-representative survey of adolescents, this study aims to examine adolescent risky and protective sexual behavior by measuring risky sex (multipartnerships, non-marital, non-cohabiting partnerships) and condom use among adolescents in Burkina Faso, using new approaches and indicators recommended by the UNAIDS/Measure Evaluation.

Data and methods

Data come from the Burkina National Adolescents Survey carried out in 2004. It's a nationally-representative household-based survey of 5,955 adolescents of 12-19 year olds. The 2004 survey is part of a larger, five-year study of adolescent sexual and reproductive health issues called *Protecting the Next Generation: Understanding HIV Risk Among Youth* (PNG). The project, which is being carried out in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi and Uganda, seeks to contribute to the global fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic among adolescents by raising awareness of young people's sexual and reproductive health needs with regard to HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unwanted pregnancy; communicating new knowledge to a broader audience, including policymakers, healthcare providers and the media, in each country, regionally and internationally; and stimulating the development of improved policies and programs that serve young people. Descriptive and multivariate analysis has been used.

Preliminary findings:

Descriptive findings show that for 4 in 10 females of 15-19 years old who have never experienced intercourse, the underlying reason is that they want to wait until marriage. No more than 3 in 10 females and 4 in 10 males of those who have ever heard about male condom have ever seen a formal condom demonstration. Less than 3 in 10 females adolescents feel very confident in getting a male partner to wear a condom while the same proportion of males adolescents feel very confident in knowing how to wear a condom. Social-psychological reasons (being embarrassed, shy) are the most common barriers to getting male condom among sexually-experienced adolescents.

Table 1: Profile of sexual behavior and condom use at last sex among adolescents who had sex in last 12 months by age and sex, Burkina Faso, National Survey of Adolescents, 2004

Characteristic	Female			Male		
	12-14 (N=22)	15-19 (N=679)	Total (N=701)	12-14 (N=53)	15-19 (N=412)	Total (N=465)
1 partner in last 12 months, used condom	--	24,4	24,5	22,6	37,1	35,5
1 partner in last 12 months, no condom	--	70,1	70,0	54,7	39,6	41,3
2+ partners in last 12 months, used condom	--	2,1	2,1	0,0	14,1	12,5
2+ partners in last 12 months, no condom	--	3,4	3,3	22,6	9,2	10,8
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

A logistic regression approach was used to estimate the relationship between adolescent's condom use and their social and demographic characteristics (Table 2). Three separate models have been fitted: Model 1 which contains adolescent's demographic characteristics (schooling, religion, residence...) without any controls; model 2 where adolescent's knowledge, attitudes and practices are taken into account and finally, model 3 where household's characteristics have been added. All of the three models show that the odds of condom use increased with years of schooling ($p < .01$). Residence (urban/rural) is a significant predictor of condom use, with condom use in big cities being 5 times the level of rural areas ($p < .01$). Media access, religion, knowing someone who is HIV positive did not have a statistically significant effect on condom use.

Findings are expected to enlighten policymakers and program managers on the adolescent sexual and reproductive health challenges in Burkina.

Table 2: Multivariate odds ratio from 3 logistic regression models of the effects of selected characteristics on condom use among adolescents in Burkina.

Characteristic	Odds ratio		
	I	II	III
Sex			
Male	(MR)	(MR)	(MR)
Female	0,837(ns)	0,997(ns)	1,090(ns)
Residence			
Rural	(MR)	(MR)	(MR)
Medium cities	2,731***	1,833**	1,976**
Big cities	4,827***	3,261***	2,672**
Instruction			
None	(MR)	(MR)	(MR)
Primary school	1,879***	1,677**	1,596**
Secondary school and more	5,194***	3,497***	3,285***
Age			
12 – 14 years	(MR)	(MR)	(MR)
15 – 19 years	2,289**	1,318(ns)	1,308(ns)
Religion			
Muslem	(MR)	(MR)	(MR)
Catholic	0,999(ns)	0,967(ns)	1,123(ns)
Protestant	0,967(ns)	0,808(ns)	0,892(ns)
Others	0,790(ns)	1,018(ns)	1,025(ns)
Knowledge of the ways of HIV transmission			
None		(MR)	(MR)
One way in 4 ways		0,178(ns)	0,217(ns)
Two in 4		0,450(ns)	0,511(ns)
Three in 4		0,178(ns)	0,208(ns)
Four in 4		0,408(ns)	0,474(ns)
Have done the AIDS test			
No		(MR)	(MR)
Yes		1,821(ns)	1,350(ns)
Know someone who is HIV positive			
No		(MR)	(MR)
Yes		1,132(ns)	1,158(ns)
Age at first sex			
< 15 years		(MR)	(MR)
15 years		1,214(ns)	1,241(ns)
16 years		1,242(ns)	1,235(ns)
17 years and more		1,716**	1,711**
Condom use=sign of no trust			
Agree		(MR)	(MR)
Desagree		1,415*	1,386*
Buying or asking a condom is embarrassing			
Agree		(MR)	(MR)
Desagree		1,751***	1,907***
Mother's level of Instruction			
None			(MR)
Primary school			0,612(ns)
Secondary school or more			5,514(ns)
Father's level of Instruction			
None			(MR)
Primary school			1,195(ns)
Secondary school or more			0,608(ns)

*** significant at 1%; ** significant at 5%; * significant at 10% ; (ns) non significant ; (MR) Modality of reference

