

HIV RISK BEHAVIOURS AMONG TEACHERS IN UGANDA

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It is commonly suggested that teachers are more likely to engage in high-risk sexual behaviour compared to the rest of the adult population. Yet teachers could be a major vehicle for imparting knowledge and skills of avoiding and/or coping with the pandemic. This study set out to establish HIV risk behaviours among teachers in Uganda. This was a cross sectional assessment among primary and secondary school teachers in central Uganda between October and November 2011. A total of 183 teachers were interviewed using a structured questionnaire. HIV risk behaviour was defined as either having 2+ sexual partners, having sex with a partner of unknown status without using a condom, engagement in transactional/sex for favours or alcohol use before sex in the last three months preceding the survey. All data analysis was performed using SPSS version 17.0 and EPI Info Version 3.5.1. Forty five per cent of teachers reported having 2+ sexual partners in the last three months. Of these, 24% acknowledged having used a condom at their last sexual encounter while 9.8% knew their partners' HIV status. Young teachers were more likely to have 2+ sexual partners and to engage in sex with partners of unknown HIV status compared to those above 30 years (OR=2.6, 95% CI 1.31-5.34), (OR=2.47, 95% CI 1.10-5.59). Primary school teachers were less likely to engage in sex with partners of unknown HIV status and less likely to have given or received gifts, money or other favours in exchange for sex (OR=0.43, 95% CI 0.19-0.97), (OR=0.24, 95% CI 0.09-0.58). Young teachers are more likely to engage in HIV risk behaviours than old teachers, suggesting a need to promote individual risk perception, condom use and reduction in sexual partners.

Key words: Teachers, HIV risk behaviour, HIV