

# Factors Associated with High Risk Sexual Behaviors Among Youth In Rwanda: A

## Behavioral Surveillance Survey

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Worldwide, about 40% of HIV infections occur among young people aged 15 to 24. Risk factors for HIV infection in youth include early sexual debut, having multiple sexual partners, engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse, engaging in sex with older partners and consumption of alcohol and illicit drugs. Worrisome trends in HIV transmission in certain young high-risk groups, especially in urban areas. As part of the Rwanda Behavioral Surveillance Survey (BSS), we assessed factors associated with high risk sexual behaviors among youth in Rwanda where a cross-sectional integrated behavioral survey in 15-to-24-year-old Rwandans who had never married and were not cohabitating was conducted using a Questionnaires collecting information on demographic characteristics and sexual and reproductive history among others. The analysis of factors associated with the risk sexual behaviours among youth who had reported having sex in the last 12 months shows that by comparing male to female, the gender was associated with the following risk behaviours: early sexual debut(Odds Ratio(OR): 2.4 and Confidence Interval(CI) 95%:1.4 - 4.0) , having paid sex (OR: 1.629 and CI 95% :1.049 - 2.530), inconsistent condom use(OR:1.873 and CI 95%:1.278 - 2.745) and having ever had forced sex (OR: 0.152 and CI 95%:0.0777 - 0.298).Comparing age group between 20-24 to 15-19 findings show that it was associated with early sexual debut ( OR :4.2 and CI 95%:2.5 - 7.1). Comparing other categories of education to none education level the results show that secondary level ( OR: 3.236 and CI 95%:1.416 - 7.396) and high education (OR: 7.117and CI 95%: 2.167 - 23.38) are associated with consistent condom use. Comparing youth located in urban area (OR: 2.262 and CI 95%:1.372 - 3.730) to youth located in rural area (OR : 0.323 and CI 95%:0.141 - 0.738) the residence is associated with consistent condom use and had been forced to have sex. Comparing the categories of the province to Kigali north is associated with commercial sex ( OR : 2.512 CI 95%:1.214 - 5.199),Western province ( OR: 0.251 and CI 95%:0.0819 - 0.767 ) and Southern Province ( OR:0.319 and CI 95%:0.119 - 0.857) are associated with had been forced to have sex.

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