

® A STUDY OF THE KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF
HOMOSEXUALITY AND ASSOCIATED HIV/AIDS RISK AMONG
UNDERGRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA,
NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT.

a) BACKGROUND.

Amidst the rising trend of same-sex marriages in the western world and the overwhelming human rights, moral and legal issues exhumed by the recent illegalization of homosexuality by the Nigerian government, it became imperative to survey the actual prevalence of homosexuality in Nigeria especially, among young persons. Most crucial to our consideration is the dreaded health risk associated with the practice especially, HIV/AIDS. This cross-sectional, community-based, descriptive study was conducted among undergraduates of the University of Lagos, Akoka, Nigeria to explore their knowledge, attitude and practice of homosexuality and the associated HIV/AIDS risk. Information obtained are very vital to justify or in-validate anti-gay policies as well as in the restructuring of HIV prevention strategies to include the minority [¶]GLBT population in sub-Saharan Africa.

b) METHODS AND FINDINGS.

A multistage random sampling design was used in which two faculty/college were randomly selected. A department was randomly selected from each faculty/college and two classes were randomly selected from each of the departments. Respondents were chosen from each class using the table of random numbers.

Of the 207 respondents, 76.4% were young persons aged 19 -25 years and 82.1% knew what homosexuality means. A lot of these youths (88.4%) believed homosexuality is practiced in Nigeria, 48.8% agreed that it is practiced in their university campus but, only 18.3% knew an undergraduate who practiced homosexuality.

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¶ GLBT means Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transsexuals.

Overwhelming 91.8% said homosexuality should never be allowed in society suggestive of strong antigay tendency among these young persons. However, 34.8% of respondents said they were sexually active but, only 2.9% agreed to having a same sex partner. Surprisingly, 91.3% of the respondents have a good knowledge of the HIV/AIDS risk associated with homosexuality. It's worthwhile to note here that condom use prevalence among the study population was found to be just 19.3%.

c) CONCLUSION.

Homosexual practice in the light of the reality of the study findings is still a masked feature that determines the overall outcome of integrated ¹HIV/AIDS and ²RH services that must be scaled up to meet the ³MDGs target for 2015. The 4.8% bisexual and 0.5% exclusively homosexuals practice in the study population paints a shadow that further elaborate studies will be required to ascertain national prevalence figures. Most importantly, strategies to mitigate the multiple impact of HIV infection, treatment cost and care burden amongst young people in sub-Sahara Africa must begin to consider the contribution pulled by this vulnerable and neglected social network to the ravaging pandemic.

¹ Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency syndrome

² Reproductive Health

³ Millennium Development Goals