



**ATTITUDES OF YOUTHS FROM 14 TO 19 YEARS
TOWARDS CONDOM USE AT BOTLOKWA, LIMPOPO
PROVINCE**

by

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are transmitted when infected semen or vaginal fluid comes into contact with mucosal surfaces. Condoms block the discharge of semen or protect the male urethra against exposure to vaginal secretions. Thus, condoms provide a greater level of protection against STIs. The main purpose of this study was to explore the attitudes of teenagers towards condom use at Botlokwa, located in the Limpopo Province, by analyzing the responses given by the youths from the age of 14 to 19 years to a questionnaire. The study was conducted at Botlokwa, a clinical area of the Capricorn district of Limpopo Province.

Methods: A quantitative approach was adopted using a descriptive design. Random sampling which included youths from the ages 14 to 19 years was used and data collection was done using questionnaires. Data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 18.0.

Results: The major inferences drawn from this study included non-availability of condoms which led youths not to use condoms during sexual intercourse. A positive attitude towards condom use was observed among the youth respondents.

Conclusion: The feedback from the youths is an indication that lack of knowledge on the effectiveness of female condoms led to non-use of condoms. Non-availability of condoms and coerced sex also contribute to non-use of condoms at Botlokwa, Capricorn district of Limpopo Province. Youths were willing to use condoms during sex. Positive attitude towards condom use were found.

Keywords: Youth, condom, attitude, sexually transmitted infection, health belief model.