

ABSTRACT

Adolescents and Their Sexual Behaviour: A Study to Investigate the Factors That Influence the Sexual Behaviour of Fourth Grade Students Attending Secondary Schools in Paramaribo, Suriname

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This descriptive study sought to investigate factors influencing the sexual behaviour and knowledge of HIV of fourth grade students from two secondary schools in Paramaribo, Suriname. It further sought to investigate the factors influencing their sexual behaviour. Data were collected through a questionnaire administered to 122 students. Among the findings were that: 1) 97 percent of the students knew what HIV was, 2) 44 percent did not consistently use a condom, 3) 75 percent believed that they could not be infected by HIV/AIDS, 4) almost 80 percent were sexually active and 73 percent had a boyfriend/girlfriend, and 5) 57 percent were 17 years or younger when they became sexually active.

Keywords: Adolescents; Sexual behavior; Knowledge level; HIV/AIDS; Student attitudes; Secondary school students; Suriname