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**AN ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS:
A THEORETICAL INVESTIGATION**

A Thesis
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ABSTRACT

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This thesis will present a theoretical framework of sexual behavior choices which is grounded in the theory of rational behavior and indifference curve (IC) analysis. It will begin with an in depth review of countries' current HIV/AIDS Strategic Plans and their impact on individuals' risky sexual behaviors and by extension on the growth of the HIV epidemic.

The literature review will also focus on the various models developed by previous researchers to explain and predict an individual's behavior as it relates to HIV/AIDS.

The theoretical analysis concludes that an individual's decision to engage in risky sexual encounters may indeed be deemed rational and in the face of the HIV/AIDS epidemic being rationally driven. The thesis will then explore the role of economic policy in responding to the epidemic.

Keywords: indifference curves; constraint lines; rational behavior; risky sexual behavior; HIV/AIDS.