

ABSTRACT**A Survey of the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Residential Students at the University of the West Indies Concerning Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome**

Blossom Anglin-Brown

To determine the knowledge, attitudes and practices of University Students as it relates to AIDS, a survey using a self-administered questionnaire was conducted at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. Ninety students from the halls of residence were interviewed. There were 41 females and 49 males. Their ages ranged from 18-39 years, The mean age being 22.5 ± 4.7 years.

Their knowledge of AIDS was adequate and compared favourably with the national KAP study, on average 84-92% of respondents had a correct knowledge of issues concerning methods of transmission and prevention. Forty-nine per cent (35/72) of respondents indicated condom use at their last sex act with most recent partner. When evaluated, 61.2% of females demonstrated a change of behaviour ($p < 0.05$) while only 38.8% of males fitted into this category. Males were significantly more likely to report condom use (always) during sexual intercourse, $p < 0.05$. Forty-two per cent of students (37/89) felt they were at risk of getting HIV infection.

These figures suggest that young people have still not accepted that a change in sexual behaviour is mandatory if the AIDS epidemic is to be controlled. It also appears that the females in this age group are willing to effect change, and by extrapolation should be empowered to facilitate this process and even be the initiators of this change.

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES v

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS vi

CHAPTER ONE vii

 INTRODUCTION 1

 Aim 1

 Objective 11

CHAPTER TWO 11

 MATERIAL AND METHODS 12

 Introduction 12

 Sampling 12

 Collection of Data 13

CHAPTER THREE 14

 RESULTS 14

 Demographic factors 14

 Knowledge of HIV/AIDS 16

 Risk perceptions about HIV/AIDS 14

 Attitudes towards condom use 18

 Attitudes to fear of contagion 19

 Practice (sexual practice and drug use practice) 20

 Perceptions of behavioural change 21

 Knowledge, attitudes and practices among individuals with previous experience 21