

# ABSTRACT

TOPIC: KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES REGARDING  
SYPHILIS AND GONORRHEA AMONG FOURTH FORM SECONDARY  
SCHOOL STUDENTS IN KINGSTON - JAMAICA

**PEGGY P. DZAKPASU-LAWRENCE**

The study was conducted among 195 fourth form students between the ages 13 and 17 years old in four secondary schools, one all girls, one all boys and two coed, in Kingston.

The study was designed to investigate the differences in knowledge, sexual attitudes and practices between two groups of fourth form high school students, one of which had acquired specific formal health education and the other which had not done so and also based on their socialization in schools coed vs. segregated schools.

Regarding syphilis 7.2% of the participants had never heard about the disease and 4.1% had never heard about gonorrhoea.

Based on health education status, regarding knowledge there was no significant difference between the two groups (  $t=1.72$ ,  $p<0.087$ ,  $df=192$ ). Regarding attitudes, t-test was statistically significant (  $t=3.47$ ,  $p=0.000646$ ,  $df=192$  ).

Attitudes of students based on their socialization in schools, coed vs. single sex, t-test was statistically significant ( $t=2.92$ ,  $p=0.003889$ ,  $df=192$ ).

Regarding sex, of 189 respondents, 51.9% had had sex and 48.1% had not, 75.5% are males and 24.5% females. Of all the respondents that had had sex, 38.8% said they used condoms always, 43.9% used condoms sometimes and 17.3% had never used a condom.

Regarding safe sexual practices, there was a significant statistical difference between the two groups of students based on health education status and based on socialization in school.

Sexual practices of respondents based on health education status, chi-squared was significant (chi-squared = 60.43,  $p<0.0000001$ ,  $df=2$ ), based on socialization in schools chi-squared was significant, (chi-squared = 90.997,  $p<0.0000001$ ,  $df=6$ ).

There was a strong statistically significant association between health education, socialization in schools and safe sexual practices.