

ABSTRACT

Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice (KAP) Study of Family Planning Practices among Jamaican Males aged 15-34 years in Selected Urban Communities in the Corporate Area

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In Jamaica, as elsewhere in both the developed and developing world, adolescent pregnancy presents a serious social dilemma. Before reaching the age of 20 years, 40% of Jamaican women have been pregnant at least once, and more than 80% of adolescent pregnancies are unplanned. Sexual activity begins at an early age for many Jamaicans. Among young people aged 15-19 who were surveyed in the 1997 Reproductive Health Survey, 38% of females and 64% of males reported having had sexual intercourse.

This Study seeks to examine the knowledge, attitudes and practices of males, aged 15-34 with regard to family planning. Three urban settings were chosen, viz. August Town, Mona Heights and Elletson Flats. The sites were chosen for their proximity to each other, also so as to determine whether socio-demographic status contributed to beliefs and practices.

A total of 129 persons were interviewed over a four-week period. The respondents were categorized into two age groups 15-24 and 25-34 years.

The majority of men had their first sexual experience between age 10 and 16 years of age. 84.5% of the 129 respondents did not use a condom during their first sexual experience. Of the respondents between 25-34 years, 72.1% had more than three children, while 36 or 27.9% had 1 or 2 children.

Male responsibility towards family planning in this Study was not high, but it was evident in all areas that respondents were practicing some form of family planning. However there was a significantly lower level of responsibility demonstrated by the respondents in the age group 15-24 years old.