

ABSTRACT

Knowledge/Awareness, Feelings and Practice among women of childbearing Age [15-44years] about STD/HIV, Condom Use and Prevention in the Waterford Community in St, Catherine, Jamaica.

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In this thesis, a small cross sectional community survey was conducted among women in the childbearing age group [15-44 years], in an area in Jamaica that showed high prevalence for STDs visits [which includes HIV] among women. This knowledge/awareness, feelings and practice study about STD/HIV and condom use was carried out in order to see what associations could be made in order to plan appropriate programs that may be more culturally acceptable. Analysis of the data is based on both qualitative and quantitative measure [which includes Likert type scale, chi-square and Odds Ratio].

High prevalence may be due to the antenatal, postnatal and family planning service offered in the area also some curative service including STD care. Findings also show that knowledge level about HIV and the commoner STDs was fair to excellent, also knowledge about transmission, sign and symptoms of STD/HIV was good except for a few who had poor knowledge. Good knowledge was related to previous pregnancy. 27.3% of 251 respondents feel their partners use the condom when they tell them to; a risky practice, and only 29.8% feel their partners feel that they should use the condom with every sex act.

Recommendation is for replication of the study in other communities for comparison to be made with view to generalization and policy influence.