

ABSTRACT

Factors That Influence Risky Behaviour Among Teens at the Albena Lake-Hodge Comprehensive School in Anguilla

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This study sought to examine the factors that influence risky sexual behaviour and the extent of these influences on secondary school students in Anguilla. It further sought to gain a perspective on what programmes might be implemented to assist adolescents in making informed choices regarding their sexual health. Data were collected through a questionnaire completed by 96 students aged 13 to 17 years from Anguilla's only secondary school. Among the findings were that: 1) of the 37 participants who indicated that they were sexually active, 4 had engaged in sexual intercourse by age 11, but by the age of 15, all were sexually active; 2) 4 of the respondents were forced to do so; 3) 30 of the participants reported that they had never used condoms; 4) money, the quest for love, and the desire to be part of the crowd were the reasons given for engaging in sexual intercourse; and 5) 19 percent of the sexually active students reported having taken alcohol prior to sexual intercourse, while 3 percent reported having used drugs.

Keywords: Secondary school students; Risk factors; Sexual behavior; Albena Lake-Hodge Comprehensive School; Anguilla