

## ABSTRACT

### **Perceptions of Young Jamaicans Aged 14-19 Years Related to HIV/AIDS Testing**

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This study sought to examine Jamaican adolescents' perceptions regarding HIV/AIDS testing. Data were collected through questionnaires completed by 46 participants, as well as through focus group discussions with 105 adolescents. Among the findings were that: 1) participants were quite emphatic that their parents/guardians should be their primary source of information on matters of sex and relationships, including subjects such as HIV/AIDS and testing; 2) many of them were interested in testing but were afraid of the possible results and thus preferred to remain uninformed about their status for as long as possible; and 3) stigma and discrimination played significant roles in their unwillingness to know their sero-status.

**Keywords:** Adolescent attitudes; Perceptions; Medical evaluation; HIV/AIDS; Jamaica