

Factors Influencing Adolescent Sexual Activity in Nigeria: Analysis of the 1990 Demographic and Health Survey

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This study examines factors influencing adolescent sexual activity in Nigeria using data collected on 1,678 adolescents aged 15 to 19 interviewed for the Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey of 1990. Sexual activity was measured as whether an adolescent had sexual intercourse in the month prior to the time of survey and whether that activity was protected or not. Age, source of contraceptive information, knowledge and attitudes toward the use of contraceptives were significantly associated with sexual intercourse in the multivariate analysis. The same variables, except age, were significant when use of contraception was treated as the dependent variable. Policy recommendations include increasing IEC for parents, teachers and adolescents aimed at correcting and improving information acquired by adolescents, and the provision of Family Planning clinics to counsel and offer other services to adolescents.