

HIV Prevention for Rural Youth in Edo State

Research Feedback to Communities

Where does our information come from?

- In 30 schools, questionnaires were completed by
 - All JSS students
 - 2-3 teachers in each school
- In 9 schools
 - Students participated in focus group discussions.
 - 2 - 3 teachers were interviewed.
- Brief ethnographies were done in 10 communities.

Is HIV/AIDS in our communities?

- Very few people know someone infected with HIV/AIDS
- Some communities feel safe from HIV
BUT
- You cannot tell if someone is infected
- There may be people infected in our communities.
- There are people infected in Edo State.

What is being done?

In JSS schools:

- All teachers feel it is important to teach about HIV
- Most teachers are teaching about HIV

BUT

- They need training and resources

What do JSS students know about HIV and AIDS?

Students' knowledge is poor.
They don't know enough to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS.

Girls know less than boys about HIV/AIDS.

What are the attitudes of JSS students?

- More than ¼ of students believe they are ready to engage in sex.
- Half say they would have sex with someone they liked.

Pressure to Engage in Sex

- Many youth feel pressured to have sex by friends, family, older community members, and gifts.
- Girls reported pressure more than boys.
- Some girls reported being forced to have sex.

Are JSS students engaging in sex?

- 50% of JSS boys and 38% of girls have already had sex
- Boys begin sex younger than girls
- Some boys are having sex with primary school girls
- Few boys and girls use condoms.

From the Ethnographies We Learned That

- Adults know that boys and girls are sexually active.

ALSO

- Many youth have multiple sex partners.
- Few boys and girls use condoms
 - supply and quality are poor: “condoms we get burst”.

These increase their risk of HIV infection.

In Our Communities

- People are aware of HIV/AIDS.

BUT

- They believe that you can get infected from
 - mosquito bites,
 - close breathing between infected and non-infected persons,
 - touching an infected person,
 - eating with an infected person.

These are incorrect beliefs.

During the ethnographies

- People demanded educational campaigns to improve knowledge and awareness of HIV and AIDS.
- Young people reported that they need role models and guidance from parents, teachers, and professionals on sexuality issues.

What next?

Between now and 2011

- Teachers in all JSS schools will be trained to deliver Family Life and HIV Education.
- Youth Corpers will be working with some communities to empower them in HIV prevention, especially HIV prevention for youth.