

Perception of Teenage Pregnancy among Secondary School Students in Port Harcourt

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Introduction

- About 40% to 66% of teenagers in the USA are sexually active; often without contraception
- Teenage pregnancy is at high risk for infant & maternal morbidity & mortality.
- Significant psychosocial morbidity for the adolescent mother & father, and the child.
- Pregnancy is the most common cause of school drop-out for adolescent girls.
- Prevention should be the primary goal.
- Scanty data on teenage pregnancy & sexuality issues in Nigeria



Objective:

- To evaluate secondary school student's perception of teenage pregnancy in Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

● Methods:

- A cross-sectional study conducted among a convenient sample of secondary school students in Port Harcourt over one month from 1st to 20th May 2009.
- A structured self designed and self-administered anonymous, questionnaire was used to obtain info.
- Information sought included student's Bio-data, sexual activity if any, contraception use, and actions taken if pregnant occurred.

Results

Table I: Participation in sexual activity

SEXUAL ACTIVITY	YES	PERCENTAGE (%)
Sexually active	96	9.1%
Not sexually active	954	91.9%
TOTAL	1050	100%

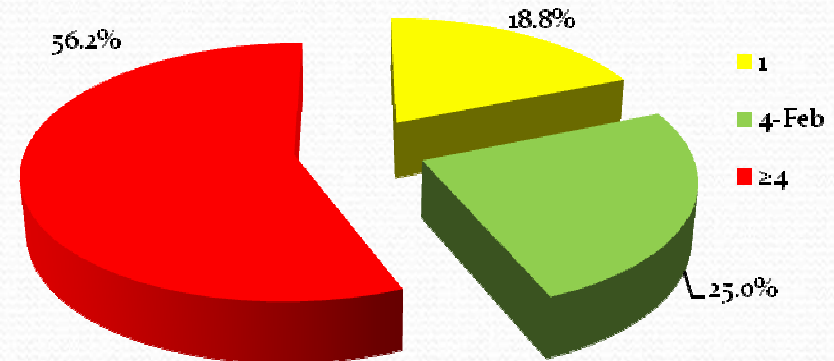


Figure 1: frequency of sexual activity

Table II: Use of contraception by sexually active students.

CONTRACEPTION USE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
YES	60	62.5%
NO	36	37.5%
TOTAL	96	100%

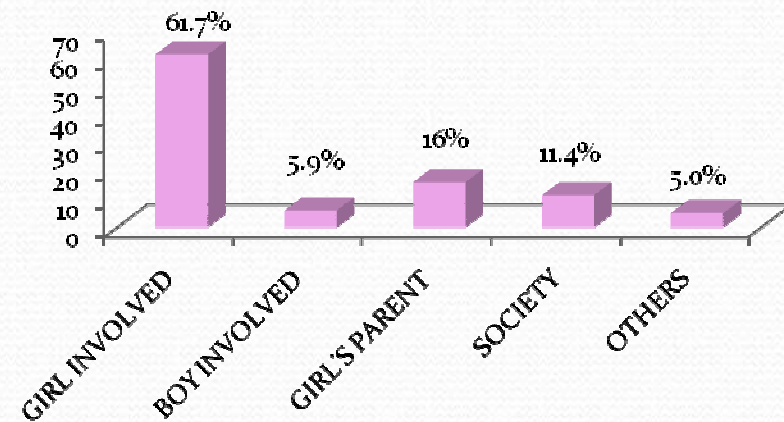


TABLE V: WHO SHOULD BE BLAMED FOR TEENAGE PREGNANCY PERCENTAGE (%)

Result cont.

Action taken	Frequency	Percentage (%)
By girls		
Inform Parents	329	58.3
Consult a doctor	128	22.7
Consult peers for advice	18	3.2
Abort the pregnancy	32	5.7
drop out of school & have the baby	57	10.1
total	564	100.0

Action taken	Frequency	Percentage (%)
By boys		
Inform Parent	236	48.6
Deny it	70	14.4
consult peers for advice	40	8.2
Opt for abortion	36	7.4
Don't know	104	21.4
Total	486	100.0

Conclusions

- Secondary school students had poor understanding of teenage pregnancy and contraception issues.
- Most will inform parents should a pregnancy occur
- Ten percent of girls prefer to drop out of school if pregnant.
- Urgent need to address adolescents' contraception and pregnancy related issues via sexuality education in schools.