Knowledge, Behaviour, Perceptions and Attitudes of University of Ghana Students towards HIV/AIDS: What does Behavioural Surveillance Survey Tell us?

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Description:
This study assesses knowledge, attitudes and behaviour in respect of risk of HIV infection of students through behavioral surveillance survey. The study used the systematic sampling approach to select 375 students. Interviews and focus group discussions were conducted to solicit information from respondents. The study found out that the students engaged in pre-marital sex, although this was more common among the male than female students. Students did not use condoms consistently and were not likely to use condoms when the relationship was considered as stable because of trust. Students revealed that they were all at risk of infection; however, a significant number of them did not know their HIV status and were not ready to take the test for fear of stigmatization. There low level knowledge among female students of the different types of STI. The results suggest that there is need for an appropriate education program for students. Peer education clubs need to be established to provide education on condom management. In addition, edutainment-education through entertainment program on HIV/AIDS - needs to be an integral part of the university’s curriculum. More recreational centers need to be established to allow students to channel their energies towards sports.

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