Lessons learned from a review of interventions for adolescent and young key populations in Asia Pacific and opportunities for programming

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Description:
BACKGROUND: Over a third of new HIV infections globally are among 15-24 year-olds and over 20% among adolescents aged 10-19 years in Asia Pacific. The review was initiated to identify interventions in the region with demonstrated or potential impact for adolescent and young key populations (YKP) looking at the role of individual and structural factors in accessibility and delivery. The review is a component of a more comprehensive review undertaken by UNICEF and partners in the region. METHODS: This was a desk review of over 1000 articles, and 37 were selected. Journal articles in PubMed, Cochrane Library, Cochrane DARE, EMBASE, PsycINFO, CINAHL, and Web of Science databases were searched for HIV intervention-related information for adolescent and YKP. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: Findings showed that except for low levels of risk perception, most individual decisions regarding safe behavior and testing uptake were mediated by structural factors. Critical enablers such as design and delivery of services, peer education, and condom policies were associated with the uptake of high-impact interventions. Synergistic development interventions such as sexuality education, rights-based enforcement of antitrafficking laws, and addressing violence and abuse could increase safer behaviors. CONCLUSIONS: Although structural factors play a key role in access and uptake of HIV prevention services for adolescent and YKP, further qualitative research is needed to understand and mitigate the drivers of vulnerability and constructed perceptions of risk.

Links:
Lessons learned from a review of interventions for adolescent and young key populations in Asia Pacific [1]

Themes:
HIV and education [2]