

4238528 PRRH/M :MAJOR: POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH; M.A.(POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH)

KEY WORDS HIV/AIDS/ MULTIPLE SEXUAL PARTNERS/ CONDOM/ STD/ AGE/ GENDER/ MARITAL STATUS/ EDUCATION/ OCCUPATION.

PERRY MWANGALA: RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AND HIV INFECTION IN ZAMBIA: A Multivariate Analysis of Socio-Demographic Predictors. THESIS ADVISORS: MASAKI MATSUMURA, Ph.D., RAMON C. SEVILLA, Ph.D. 64 P. ISBN-974-664-600-1

In Zambia, about 300 people get infected daily with HIV/AIDS. On the one hand, such as having multiple sexual partners, unprotected sex and STDs exacerbate the epidemic. On the other hand, limited resources available for HIV/AIDS programming are mainly targeted at conventional risky groups instead of the general population. Since the epidemic has already reached a generalized stage, targeting the general population would yield noticeable results if relatively more risky groups were identified.

This study investigated variation to risk of HIV infection in the general population to uncover relatively more risky groups according to socio-demographic characteristics. HIV infection is operationalized and measured by having multiple sexual partners not using condoms and having an STD. Socio-demographic characteristics include age, gender, marital status, education and occupation. The 1996 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey data was used; thus the total sample size was 9870 males and females aged between 15 and 59 years. The study compared and contrasted these respondents delineated according to their socio-demographic characteristics in terms of their responses to having intercourse with concurrent multiple sexual partners, having unprotected sex and having an STD.

The findings indicated that married males with primary level education in domestic or service type of work are the most likely to have multiple sexual partners. Unmarried males in either domestic/service or managerial/clerical type of work are the least likely to use condoms. Unmarried and uneducated females in agricultural or manual type of work, are the most likely to report an STD. Overall, unmarried males in either domestic/service or managerial/clerical type of work have the highest risk of HIV infection. HIV/AIDS preventive efforts, which focus on partner reduction should thus target married males with primary education and in domestic/service work, while those promoting condom use should reach unmarried males in either domestic/service or managerial/clerical type of work. STD prevention and management interventions should be directed at unmarried and uneducated females in agriculture/manual type of work. The study demonstrates that socio-demographic characteristics can help uncover categories of people in the general population who may have a profound effect on the direction of the epidemic in the case of a generalized type of epidemic, especially where resources for HIV/AIDS programming are limited.