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**Sexual Behaviour among the North-West University
(Mafikeng Campus) Students**

Faculty of Human and Social Sciences

Population Research and Training Unit

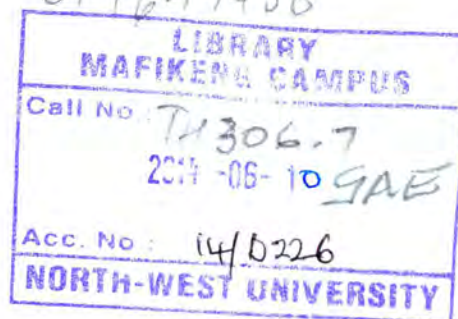
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**Mini-Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Social Sciences at the Mafikeng Campus of the North-
West University**

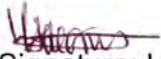
Supervisor: Prof A. J. Mturi

February 2014



DECLARATION

I Lucia M. Gaearewe hereby declare that this dissertation is my own work and that it has never been submitted for assessment to another University or for another qualification.



Signature: Lucia M. Gaearewe

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my late Father Michael Gaearewe.

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First of all, I would like to thank God for granting me the strength and courage during the course of this work. I would also like to thank my supervisor, Professor Akim J. Mturi, for his guidance, constructive criticism, and patience throughout this work.

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To my mother, words cannot express how much I appreciate the love, support and understanding you have had for me all these years. I say, “I’m grateful and may God bless you”. To my siblings, “I say thank you for the support you have given me all these years”. I would also like to thank Itumeleng Bosilong for his love and support.

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of the study was to examine sexual behaviour among students at North-West University (Mafikeng Campus). A high incidence of unplanned pregnancies and STIs among university students is indicative of engaging in various forms of sexual behaviour. Data was collected from registered students in North-West University (Mafikeng Campus) in 2013. A total of 531 questionnaires were completed. The study found that 89.3% of the students had had sexual intercourse. Almost all the male (93.4%) and about 85.4% of the female students participating in the study had had sexual intercourse experiences.

More than half (57.5%) of the male and about 33% of the female students had their first sexual intercourse before the age of 17 years old. A little more than two thirds (63.9%) of the students used condoms at the last sexual intercourse, with about 54.5% of the female and 45.5% of the males using condoms at last sexual contact. More than half (54.8%) of the students had had sexual intercourse with another person while still in a relationship. The binary logistic models show that female students were less likely: to have had sex before the age of 17, to use condoms and have sexual intercourse with another person while in a relationship. This study provides empirical evidence which suggest that there is a need to strengthen interventions targeting University students, to enable them to make informed choices about their sexual behaviour.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

University students, as a population of young adults, are reportedly at higher risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and unwanted pregnancies. Sexual behaviour in this study refers to engaging in various forms of sexual activities such as first intercourse at an early age, having multiple sexual partners, use/non use of condoms, type of sexual partners and sexual intercourse with strangers. The higher levels of sexual experimentation and unsafe sexual practices among young adults exposes them more to STIs and unwanted pregnancies than the general public (Moser et al., 2007). Sub-Saharan Africa remains the hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the younger population constitutes a high risk group in many African countries.

The interpretation of love has come to mean that young people will engage in sexual intercourse before marriage (Baron & Byrne, 1991). The pressing issue here is that early age at first sexual intercourse exposes young people to all forms of sexual behaviour which might not be safe. These sexual behaviours include: non use of condoms, multiple sexual relationships and sexual intercourse with strangers, to name a few. It could be argued that the earlier one starts engaging in sexual activities, the longer the period of exposure to unsafe sexual behaviour. This could lead to devastating health, social and economic consequences.

Promiscuous sexual behaviour among young people may result in dropping out of school and becoming potential victims of intergenerational poverty. With regard to health, heightened risks of unsafe abortion may occur due to unintended

pregnancies. Another health implication is the exposure to the risk of HIV infection. Although HIV prevalence among young women (15–24 years) continues to show a significant decline (UNAIDS, 2007), the number of people newly infected is still very high. In 2007, an estimated 1.7 million people in the sub-Saharan region were newly infected with HIV (UNAIDS, 2009). Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unintended pregnancies have been increasing worldwide; these have become the most important health issues for adolescents and young adults (Hoque et al., 2012).

Numerous studies show that more men engage in unsafe sexual behaviour than women (Hunter, 2005 & Zuma et al., 2010). In addition, it has consistently been shown that men are more likely to believe that sex is acceptable when a couple is only casually dating than women. On the other hand, women are more likely to indicate that sexual intercourse is only appropriate in a relationship where there is some degree of commitment, affection, and /or love (Roche & Ramsbey, 1993).

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Even though the current generation of students receive more sex education compared to previous generations, they continue to be known to engage in various forms of sexual behaviour (Cross & Morgan, 2003). University students are at a stage in their lives that is characterised by searching, discovering and experimenting, which includes sexual experimentation (Moser et al., 2007). For example, there are a large number of university students who become pregnant every year, an indication that condom use among students is very limited. According to a study conducted by Kaufman et al. (2001), 30– 40% of 19 year old girls in South Africa have given birth at least once. On the report compiled by The Department of Basic Education (2013)

a total number of learners who fell pregnant on ordinary schools in 2010 were 36702 in South Africa. This can partly be explained by the fact that young people engage in sexual experimentation earlier than before, while at the same time, dangerously combining alcohol with sex (Cross & Morgan, 2003).

Unfortunately, young people are in the same group that are not yet in stable relationships, consequently they are prone to engage in opportunistic sexual encounters and other unsafe sexual behaviours (Kabir et al., 2004). These behaviours include multiple sexual partners, unprotected sexual intercourse with unknown persons and inconsistent use of condoms. A study conducted among South African youth concluded that at least 50% of young people are sexually active by the age of 16. At the same time 50 to 60% of sexually active youth reported that they never used condoms (Hoque, 2011). It was also demonstrated that about 27% of men had had multiple sexual partners in the previous 12 months (Simbayi & Phil, 2009). Another study conducted among female undergraduate students in Kwa-Zulu Natal found that about one in ten of respondents reported multiple sexual partners with a median of two (range, 2–4) sexual partners during the previous 12 months (Hoque, 2011).

Approximately 75% of students engage in sexual relations at least once during their time in college (England et al., 2007). Many others get involved in multiple sexual partnerships, which can expose them to greater risk of contracting STIs. The male dominance in sexual relationships has become a cause for great concern because men tend to initiate sexual relations and the use of protection. The implications of

this are that if a man does not initiate the use of protection, the woman may not suggest use of protection.

On a global scale, sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancies have posed a major public health concern to both researchers and policy makers, because of their devastating impact on young people (UNAIDS, 2007). A high incidence of unplanned pregnancies and STIs among university students is indicative of the various forms of sexual behaviour they engage in. Cross & Morgan (2003) found that by the age of 14 - 15, many students have had sexual intercourse, which implies that students enter the university with pre-established sexual behaviours.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study seeks to investigate sexual behaviour among students in the North-West University (Mafikeng Campus). Specifically, the study seeks:

- To investigate factors influencing age at first intercourse;
- To examine different types of sexual partners among students;
- To examine use of condoms among students; and
- To assess the extent of having multiple sexual partners among students.

1.4 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

A large number of University students engage in various forms of sexual behaviour, which can potentially expose them to the risk of contracting STIs, including HIV and

unplanned pregnancies. The role of sexual behaviour in undermining the health status and well-being (such as getting infected with STIs and dropping out of school) of young people has been recognised. Southern Africa is the hardest hit region by HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS, 2007). Young people constitute the most infected age bracket. In response, organisations have created specific strategies to cultivate safe sex practices among young people. However, because there is limited scientific research that explores the nature of young people's sexual behaviour in South Africa, especially among university students, the theoretical foundation for these programmes are also limited in tackling sexual behaviour among university students

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study is important in a number of ways that includes contributing to a better understanding of various forms of sexual behaviour among university students and, to a large extent, young people. This study can help the peer educators and the university authorities at large, to better understand the factors that influence the sexual behaviour of students in the North-West University (Mafikeng campus) and recommend preventative measures. The information can also be used to encourage safer sex and help prevent unwanted pregnancies and STIs. The University Management needs empirical information on how to develop and implement policies on health education and promotion, particularly targeting consequences of STIs and HIV at the same time, minimise risk.

This research may contribute to the development of these theoretical foundations and perhaps improve the efficiency of programmes aimed at improving sexual behaviour among young people, especially on University campuses.

1.6 HYPOTHESES

- Males are more likely to initiate sexual intercourse earlier in life than females
- Males are more likely to use condoms than females
- Students originally from urban areas are more likely to have multiple sexual partners than students originally from rural areas.

1.7 OUTLINE OF THE STUDY

The dissertation is organised into five chapters as follows:

Chapter One: Includes the introduction, problem statement, objectives, hypothesis, limitations of the study and outline of the study.

Chapter Two: Reviews relevant literature on various studies related to the topic in question.

Chapter Three: Outlines the data and methods used in this study, which include methods of data collection, methods of analysis and ethical consideration.

Chapter Four: Presents the findings of the study.

Chapter Five: Presents the summary, conclusion and recommendations of the study.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

The association between sexual behaviour in this study taking account of age at first intercourse, condom use and multiple relationships with socio-demographic characteristics is discussed below. A discussion of these behaviours is important because age at first sexual intercourse experience is an important indicator of sexual behaviour, because it marks the onset of exposure to infections (Gregson et al., 2002). Multiple sexual partnerships play a critical role in the spread of HIV and this can also increase the rate at which infections can spread through a population (Morris & Kretschmar, 1997). Condom use is also one of the most effective preventative measures of the spread of STIs and HIV among sexually active people.

2.1 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AGE AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

The initiation of sexual intercourse is a milestone in the physical and psychological development of men and women in all societies. This is both in terms of the timing of this occasion and the context within which it occurs. It can have immediate and long term consequences for both men and women. There are possible serious health and social consequences for women who begin to have intercourse while very young or out of wedlock. The consequences are more significant if they become pregnant and have either an unplanned birth or in some settings, an unsafe abortion (Singh et al., 2000). Sexual initiation at a young age is more likely to expose individuals to risky sexual behaviours and the possibility of sexually transmitted diseases (Yode & LeGrand, 2012). For instance, Harrison et al. (2005) found that young men with early sexual debut were 10 times more likely to have had multiple partners.

Findings show that overall levels of condom use at first sexual intercourse is low. For example Rahamefy et al. (2008) found that only 59% of students used a condom at their debut sexual intercourse. Condom use at first sexual intercourse was much higher among female students (68%) compared to male students (50%). Condom use at first sexual encounter was much lower for people who initiated sexual activities before the age of 15 and highest among people who initiated sex activities between the ages of 20-24 (Rahamefy et al., 2008).

Kopele & Shumba (2011) found that young men reporting sexual debut before the age of 15 were more likely not to have used condoms at their first sexual encounter. Another study in Tanzania showed that young people who had their first sexual relation before the age 13 were less likely to have used condoms the last time they had sex than young people who had their first sexual debut above the age of 13 (Harrison et al., 2005). Low incidence of condom use among those who become sexually active early, possibly reflects their inadequate knowledge and misconceptions about human reproduction and their immaturity in handling coital activity (Lugoe et al., 1996). The youngest adolescents have limited knowledge and inadequate information about sexual activities and reproductive health issues. Their access to modern contraception methods is limited and they do not have the capacity needed to negotiate safe sex (Yode & LeGrand, 2012).

Research shows that multiple sexual partnerships are the most prevalent in the high risk age cohort between 18 and 25 years (Kelly, 2001). Multiple relationships have been found to be the main cause of sexually transmitted infections including, HIV from one partner to many other people within the same circle unknowingly (Simbayi

& Phil, 2009). Young people were found to be the most prevalent in having multiple sexual relationships. For example, Simbayi & Phil (2009) found that young men reported more multiple sexual partnerships than older men. Nearly half of the male participants aged between 15-19 years had had more than one partner in the previous year. Among the male participants aged between 15-49, having more than one sexual partner in the previous year increased from 9.4% in 2002 to 19.3% in 2008, while among females, the increase was from 1.6% to 3.7% (Phaswana-Mafuya, 2008).

2.2 ASSOCIATION BETWEEN GENDER AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

There is a huge gender disparity when it comes to sexual behaviour. Men are known to initiate sexual intercourse much earlier than females. For instance in a study among students in Mexico, age at first sexual intercourse among male students was at 13.6 (SD 1.9) and 14.3 (SD 2.2) years among female students respectively (Tapia-Aguirre et al., 2004). Another study undertaken in Ethiopia on high school going learners found that the median age at first sexual intercourse was 17 (16.54±1.9) and 18 (17.5±1.4) years for males and females, respectively (Abebe & Mitikie, 2009).

Moreover, young boys and girls often have different goals and expectations with regard to sexual relationships (O'Sullivan et al., 2006). It is a norm for boys to experience early sexual interactions. They are also likely to seek out a first sexual relationship to affirm their manhood to peers as well as to satisfy their curiosity. Girls may, instead, feel stronger social and family pressures to delay their first sexual encounter (O'Sullivan et al., 2006), and place greater emphasis on sexual relations

that occur within a stable relationship. When both partners are young and inexperienced, pronounced gender roles and poor communication may increase the chances of engaging in unsafe sex (Juarez & LeGrand, 2005).

Furthermore, while boys seem to be eager and in a hurry to experiment with sex, girls may take a longer time to arrive at a decision on whether or not to have sex, the potential sexual partner and the context (Olapegba et al., 2013). This probably increases the likelihood that they will settle for options that favour safe sexual practice. The implication is that the time lapse needed to make choices on sexual matters, may predispose females into developing a favourable attitude towards responsible sexual behaviours (Olapegba et al., 2013). In comparison to boys, girls are more prone to endure the consequences of early age first sexual encounter, because they are the ones who have to drop out of school if there is a pregnancy, which could then result in risky abortion and potential HIV infection.

Condom promotion is one of the primary preventative methods towards unwanted pregnancies and combating the spread of HIV (UNAIDS, 2010). In most cases, men hold greater power in deciding on whether to use condoms or not. This is because they are the ones who have to wear the condoms as male condoms are more common and easily accessible around the globe. In a study conducted in Kenya, it was clear that most women engaged in high risk sexual behaviour mainly because of the perceived threats to their social and economic survival, as well as a lack of power in sexual decision making (Bauni & Jarabi, 2000). Culturally gender-based roles, economic and social inequalities, and age disparities between partners, combine to create a situation of unequal gender power relations within sexual

relationships. This, in turn, reduces women's ability to negotiate whether intercourse will take place and if condoms will be used or not (Bauni & Jarabi, 2000).

Lower condom use by females is the result of deeply-fixed, culturally-sanctioned sexual behavioural norms reflecting gender inequality that allows only men to decide when, where and how to have sex and in particular, when or with whom to use condoms (Matseke, 2012). Simbayi & Phil (2009) found that among the youth between 15 to 24 years, condom use was higher among young men (84.8%) compared to young women (74.0%) in South Africa. Rahamefy et al. (2008) found that the students at Madagascar University also revealed a high proportion of male respondents (63.4%) who had used a condom 12 months prior to the study compared to female respondents (53.2%). The low use of condom among women confirms the fear of negotiating the use of condoms with their partners.

Multiple sexual relationships have become a norm among the youth. Mapfumo et al. (2001) found that students in Zimbabwe perceived multiple relationships as part of the university life. However, men and women engaged in these relationships for different reasons. For instance, male students engaged in sexual relations to boost their ego while female students did so for financial reasons. There is consistent evidence that men engage in multiple sexual relationships more often than women. Hoque (2011) found that more than half (55.3%) of the sexually active undergraduate male students had multiple sexual partners in the past 12 months and had a median of four (range 2-8) sexual partners.

Another study conducted in Kwa-Zulu Natal, found that more than half (57%) of sexually active men also reported having at least one other partner during the period

of the survey, compared with only 9% of women (Harrison et al., 2008). The survey revealed that women were more than twice as likely to report having only one partner in the past three years (89% versus 43%) than men. Three in ten (34%) men reported having three or more partners in the past three years, compared to less than one percent of women. Another study conducted among South African youth found that male youths were 8 times more likely to have multiple sexual partners than female youths (Zuma et al., 2010).

Prevailing gender roles and gender power dynamics are central to understanding the dynamics of partnership formation and young people's decisions to have intercourse and to use protection. In societies characterised by traditional male dominance, men tend to take the lead in initiating sex and deciding on whether to use protection or not (O'Sullivan et al., 2006).

2.3 ASSOCIATION BETWEEN PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND AGE AT FIRST INTERCOURSE

Kirby (1999) found that adolescents who are most likely to take sexual risks live in communities that endure extreme poverty, elevated unemployment rates and low educational levels. These are all characteristics of rural and slum settings. Young men in rural South Africa with early sexual experiences exhibit a constellation of risk factors for HIV infection and also later sexual risk (Harrison et al., 2005). Youth in rural areas are prone to risky behaviours, mostly because the general knowledge of sexuality among youth in rural areas is low. This is in addition to the considerable emphasis placed on men being firmly in control of sexual interactions with women (Jewkes & Wood, 2001). The expectations that men are ever ready and interested in

sexual conduct with any woman who gives them the opportunity imply that they are unlikely to decline a woman's sexual advances, even if the sexual activity is unsafe (O'Sullivan et al., 2006).

A study undertaken on adolescents in Mali found that young women in urban areas reported having their first sexual intercourse approximately two years later than those in rural areas (medians of 17.9 and 15.7 years) respectively. There was little difference in age at first sexual intercourse between urban and rural males (17.4 and 16.8 years) respectively (Gueye et al., 2001).

The place of residence (urban or rural area) is a significant predictor of use of condoms, with those in urban areas being more than twice as likely to use condoms than those in rural areas (Guiella & Madise, 2007). Rural or urban differences in condom use can be explained by a combination of factors. Access to condoms in rural areas is less compared to urban areas, which is the case for most developing countries. In Burkina Faso, it was reported that it may be more difficult for a rural adolescent to buy a condom than an urban adolescent (Guiella & Madise, 2007).

In most rural areas, there are limited places where adolescents can buy condoms. At the same time, adolescents may dread getting condoms from these places, for fear of the news spreading to others in the village, compared to urban areas. Guiella & Madise (2007) found that rural adolescents aged between 12-14 years were significantly more likely to agree that it is embarrassing to buy or ask for condoms than their urban counterparts. Previous studies have shown that for many people, especially adolescents and women, a trip to town is often their only opportunity to

obtain condoms or other contraceptive methods. This is despite the existence of similar community-based services.

Young South African men are not discouraged from demonstrating their masculinity through sexual experimentation and pursuit of multiple sexual partners, compared to young women (Hunter, 2005). Zuma et al. (2010) found that in South Africa, significantly more men than women reported having multiple sexual partners (49% and 25.2%) respectively and urban men were significantly more likely to report having multiple sexual partners than men in rural areas.

Harrison et al. (2008) found that rural young people had widespread sexual and romantic networks which were sustained by high levels of mobility and frequent movement in and out of the rural areas. These relationships, conducted over time and distance, form the basis for overlapping or concurrent partnering patterns.

2.4 FAMILY STRUCTURE AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

Families are some of the most powerful socialising influences on the sexual attitudes and behaviours of young people (Miller, 2002). It has consistently been shown that young people, who are residing with both biological parents, are more likely to delay sexual debut. If they are sexually active, they are more likely to practice safer sex than young people of other household settings. For example, young people residing with two biological parents at age 14 are less likely to have had sexual intercourse when compared to adolescents residing in other family structures (Moore, 2001). Young people living in all other family structures were at least 30% more likely to be sexually active. Adolescents living with a single parent or a non-biological guardian

have been found to be at greater risk of engaging in risky sexual behaviour (Miller, 2002).

Moore (2001) also revealed that respondents in his study, who had initiated sexual intercourse, were less likely to be living with both biological parents (49% versus 69% respectively). The study further concluded that all other family types were associated with increased chances of sexual debut, when compared to households with both biological parents. For instance, it was found that the probability of sexual debut was greater (90%) for teenagers in re-married step families and greater (66%) for those in never married single mother families. Both never married and martially-disrupted single-parent households were also related to higher odds of early sexual debut. A study conducted among young people in Burkina Faso between the ages of 14 to 19, who did not live with their parents, showed that they were less likely to have more than one sex partner in the previous 12 months and less likely to use condoms at first sex (Singh et al.,2000).

Another study revealed that adolescents from no-parent/other households were most likely to be sexually active, followed by adolescents living with a single parent (Sturgeon, 2008). When compared to those living with both biological parents, those living in all other family structure types were at least 30% more likely to be sexually active (Moore, 2001). It can be argued that family involvement to some degree is related to age of sexual debut. Those who indicated more family involvement reported first sexual experience at older ages.

2.5 EDUCATION AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

Young people with a higher level of education are more likely to make informed decisions regarding their sexual behaviour and are also more able to negotiate safer sex, than young people with a lower level of education. Kaufman et al. (2004) suggested that schools have ample latitude to promote the knowledge, understanding, and skills to enable young people to make responsible decisions about their sexual behaviour. In addition, it was found that school attendance was significantly associated with later sexual debut among both men and women (McGrath et al., 2009). Indeed, the probability of using condoms increased with years of schooling. Adolescents who achieved a secondary school and higher education were three times more likely to use condoms compared to those without any education (Guiella & Madise, 2007).

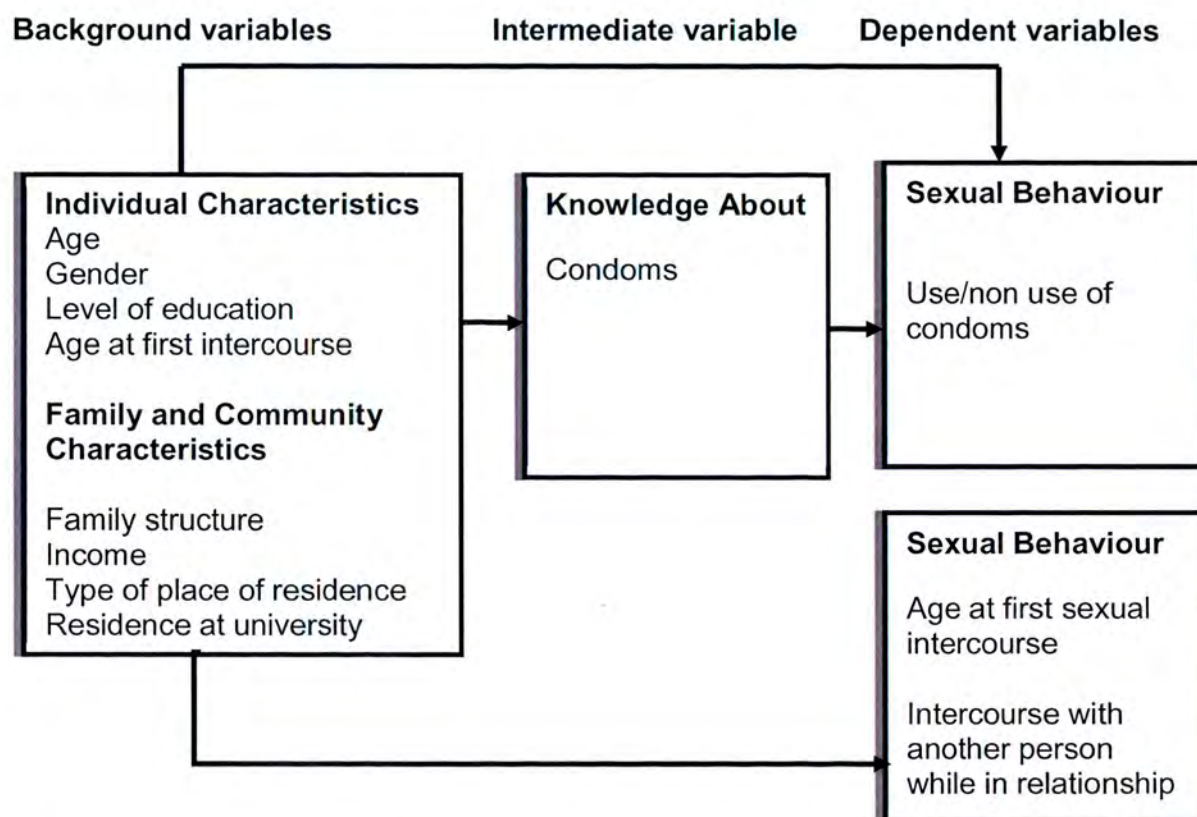
2.6 THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework assumes that the background factors operate through intermediate factors to influence sexual behaviour. These intermediate factors may be socio-demographic (such as sexual initiation, marital status, the level of education and work status) or psychosocial (for example access to information, knowledge, attitudes and beliefs).

This study conceptualises that sexual behaviour is influenced by individual characteristics; family and community characteristics; and knowledge about condom use. From figure one the age of a student can influence knowledge about condoms and thus influence sexual behaviour (use or non-use of condom). Gender is also

associated with knowledge about condoms, which can influence condom use at last intercourse or intercourse with another person while in a relationship.

Figure 1: The conceptual framework showing the relationship between socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge about condoms and sexual behaviour



Source: Revised version of Djamba (1997) framework.

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY AND DATA

This chapter highlights the following: the study site, sampling and methodology; the outline of the questionnaire; data processing, capturing, cleaning, analysis and lastly the ethical consideration.

3.1 STUDY SITE

This study was conducted on the Mafikeng Campus of the North West University, situated in Mafikeng, the capital city of the North West province of South Africa. Previously, the North West University (Mafikeng Campus) was known as the University of Bophuthatswana and subsequently University of North West. In 2004 the university merged with two other universities; Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education now NWU (Potchefstroom Campus) and Sebokeng campus of Vista University now NWU (Vaal Campus). Student registration at NWU (Mafikeng campus) for the year 2013 was 10197.

Undergraduate students at the Mafikeng campus constitute 85% of the student population and 15% being postgraduate students. A large number of students enrolling in this university are black (97%) and the remaining 3% include coloured, Asians and whites. The female students at the campus constitute 59% with 41% male students. The Campus has five faculties namely; Faculty of Human and Social Science; Faculty of Agriculture, Science and Technology; Faculty of Commerce; Faculty of Education and Faculty of Law.

3.2 HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAMMES

The North West University has HIV/AIDS Coordinating office. The office has 40 peer educators of which 8 are allocated to each faculty. The main job of the peer educators is to provide information about HIV/AIDS to students, create awareness and discuss perceptions and myths about HIV/AIDS. The peer educators interact with students on Thursdays and Fridays. The interactions take place in focus group discussions, one on one sessions with a peer educator or by addressing a mass of students

3.3 SAMPLING AND STRATEGY

This study is a cross sectional study. All registered students, both post graduate and undergraduate formed the sampling frame. Data was collected using clustered sampling. Students were clustered according to their respective faculties. A target for each faculty was 100 students, this was to avoid over/under representation. In addition the students were grouped into four as follows; first, second, third year and post graduate. For each year group a target of 25 students was set. Students in each faculty were randomly selected and assigned questionnaires. However, some of the targets were not met for a number of reasons that include: some faculties had students who were more willing to participate than other faculties' a data collection took place during exam time which made it difficult to get students. A total of 531 students completed the questionnaire. Out of this, 257 were male students and 274 were female students. Classes from different faculties were targeted to collect data. The researcher negotiated with lecturers to have the last 15 to 20 minutes of lecture time with students. Questionnaires were distributed and completed within the 20 minutes and immediately returned to the researcher.

A total of 531 students completed the questionnaires. In addition, 57 of the respondents had never had sexual intercourse; these respondents were dropped at later stages of the analysis, resulting in a sample of 474. The mean age of students is 21.61 (SD 2.849). The majority of the students (98.3%) were single, while less than two percent (1.7%) were married.

3.4 ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

The nature and purpose of the study was explained to the participants. Informed consent was obtained from the students. They were informed that they had the choice to withdraw from the study. Confidentiality was assured to participants at all times. Participants were not to identify themselves in any way on the questionnaire. For example participants were not required to write their names on the questionnaire. Ethical clearance was obtained from the North West University (Mafikeng Campus) Ethics committee.

3.5 INSTRUMENT

A structured questionnaire consisting of close-ended questions was used in this study. The questionnaire consisted of 53 questions and was in English. It included questions on socio-demographic characteristics, sexual debut, recent sexual activities and relationships. It was also designed to be self-administered. The questionnaire was piloted to identify possible mistakes and gaps using a sample of 12 students. Appropriate adjustments and corrections were made from information drawn from the pilot. The questionnaire used to collect data in this study is detailed in the Appendix.

3.6 VARIABLES

There are three dependent variables in this study, namely; age at first intercourse, condom use at last intercourse and intercourse with another person while in a relationship with someone considered to be a boy/girlfriend. Independent variables are as follows: age, gender, place of residence, level of education, biological parents alive (currently), person they last had sexual encounter with, the age group of person they last had a sexual encounter with, the use of condom at first intercourse, and income of the main guardian.

3.7 DATA PROCESSING

The first stage of the analysis was to re-code some of the variables into categories that will make sense when analysed as follows:

- The original data set age was a continuous variable and was grouped into three age categories which are 18 to 19, 20 to 24 and 25 and above. Age at first intercourse was also a continuous variable which was grouped into two categories of below 17, and 17 and above.
- Year of study; honours and masters students were grouped together to form a post graduate category, while other categories from first to fourth year were left as they were. For level of education at first intercourse, the working group was combined with other. The thinking behind the category of working (group?) is that some people were in the labour force before entering higher education institution. The category of other included students who had their

first intercourse during their gap year and not working. Primary, secondary and high school categories were left as they were.

- Residence at university; reside within campus residence was left as it was because it had more cases than other categories; reside at home with a guardian and stay with a guardian were merged together; Renting a room, stay with a boy/girlfriend and other were also merged together.
- Person last had sexual intercourse with; husband/wife was combined with cohabiting partner, boy/girlfriend category was left alone, while casual friend was also left alone as a category. Commercial sex work and other were merged together. Age group of the person last had sexual encounter with the original categories were: 17 to 24, 25 to 31, 32 to 39 and 40+, the category of 32 to 39 was merged with 40+ to make it 32+. Whether parents were currently alive was re-coded into yes if both of them are alive, yes my mother is alive, yes my father is alive, none of them are alive and don't know. My father is alive, none of them are alive and don't know were merged together to form other.
- Condom use at last intercourse; the outcomes were coded as 0 for respondents who said no to using a condom at last intercourse and 1 for respondents who said yes they had used condoms at last intercourse.

3.8 DATA CLEANING

The data was cleaned for inconsistencies with reference to the questionnaire. Data cleaning, in this case was verified to ensure that the data values were correct or conform to some set of rules. For example, gender of students was expected to have only two values (1 or 2), thus if a case had "3" it was cross checked with the questionnaire to make the necessary corrections. Basically this was done to identify invalid character and numeric data values. In addition, this study was more focused on people who had had sexual intercourse prior to conducting the survey. In this light, those who indicated that they had never had sexual intercourse were deleted from the multivariate analysis.

3.9 DATA CAPTURING AND ANALYSIS

SPSS version 21 was used to capture and analyse data. Univariate analysis in a form of frequency distribution was the first stage of analysis which was used to summarise the characteristics of the respondents. Bivariate analysis was also used to examine the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variables. Multivariate analysis was used to evaluate the importance of each of the predictors in explaining the dependent variable when controlling for other factors. The logistic regression was used because the dependent variables were all dichotomous.

3.10 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

There was a possibility that respondents may have not provided correct information given the sensitive nature of the topic. It was also possible that some students skipped some questions due to memory lapse. Female students, especially first year

students, were more reluctant to answer questions on their sexual behaviour. On the other hand, male students were more open and were likely to exaggerate about their sexual life to impress the researcher. These issues may create bias to the data collected.

CHAPTER 4: ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

This chapter presents the findings of this study. The first part of this chapter outlines the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents and it is presented in the form of tables and graphs. It also assesses the relationship between the socio-demographic characteristics and sexual behaviour. The second part of this chapter examines the influence of the background characteristics on sexual behaviour using multivariate analysis.

Table 1 shows that 75% of the students who participated in the study were between the ages of 20 to 24 and only 9.6% were 25 years and above. This could be explained by the fact that many students enter university at the ages of 18 and 19 and finish their first degrees around the ages of 23 and 24. From 2009 to 2013 the proportion of female students enrolled into the North-West University (Mafikeng Campus) has been higher than male students. The percentage differences have been 34% and 66% respectively over the years. This to a degree is reflected in the sample of this study, where 51.6% of the students were female students and 48.4% were male students. About 63% of the students indicated that both their biological parents were still alive; 21.1% of the students indicated that only their mother was still alive. The other category (15.6%) comprised of respondents whose parents were both dead or only the mother was dead. Table 1 shows that the majority (66.3%) of the students reside on campus. A higher proportion (38.4%) of the students was in the faculty of commerce. In terms of employment status of guardians, 67.4% of the students indicated that their main guardians had a job.

Table 1: Frequency distribution by socio-demographic variables

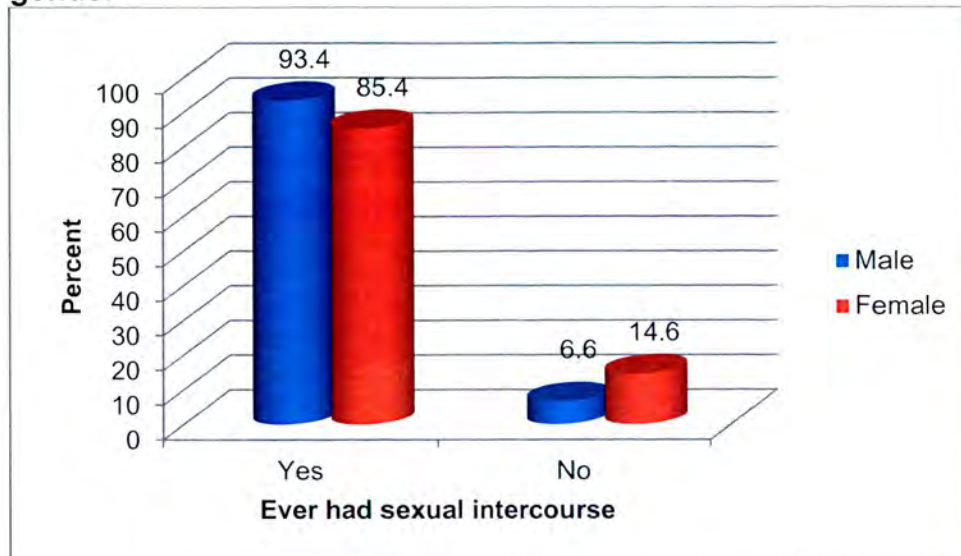
Variable	Frequency	Percent
Age		
18-19	84	15.8
20-24	396	74.6
25+	51	9.6
Gender		
Male	257	48.4
Female	274	51.6
Home place		
Rural	314	59.1
Urban	217	40.9
Year of study		
First year	139	26.2
Second year	72	13.6
Third year	207	39.0
Fourth year	79	14.9
Post graduate	34	6.4
Biological parents alive		
Both are alive	336	63.3
Mother is alive	112	21.1
Other	83	15.6
Residence at university		
Reside on campus	352	66.3
Reside with a guardian	88	16.6
Renting a room	91	17.1
Faculty		
Human and social science	142	26.7
Agriculture, science and technology	92	17.3
Commerce and administrative	204	38.4
Faculty of Education	41	7.7
Faculty of Law	52	9.8
Does main guardian have a job		
No	173	32.6
Yes	358	67.4
Total	531	100.0

Source: Mafikeng Campus Sexual Behaviour Survey, 2013

Close to nine in every ten (89.3%) of the students had had sexual intercourse and only one in every ten (10.7%) of the students had never had sexual intercourse. Figure 2 shows that more than nine out of ten (93.4%) male and 85.4% of female students had had sexual intercourse. In addition, less than a fifth (14.6%) of female

students had never had sexual intercourse compared to only 6.6 percent of male students.

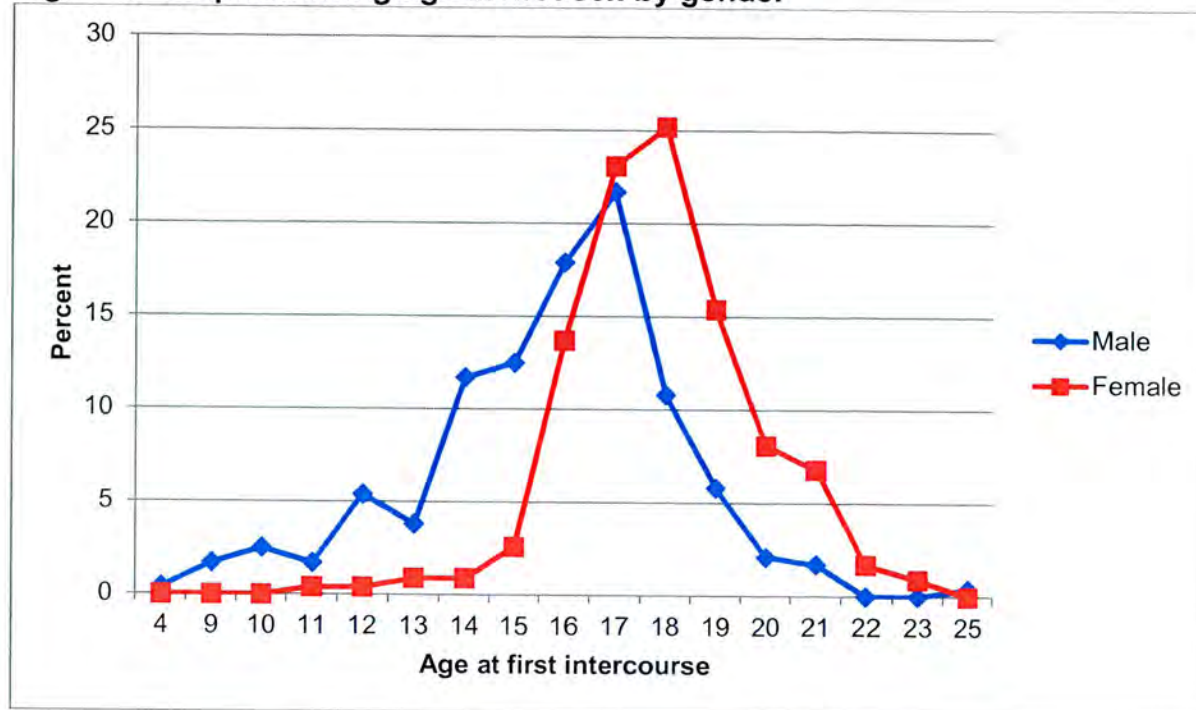
Figure 2: Percent distribution of students who had had sexual intercourse by gender



Source: Mafikeng Campus Sexual Behaviour Survey, 2013

The mean age at first intercourse is 16. 81 (SD= 2.499) years, male students were found to have initiated sexual intercourse earlier than females (16 and 18 years respectively). This finding is similar to reports that show that men initiate first sexual intercourse earlier than women (Tapia-Aguirre et al., 2004; Abebe & Mitikie, 2009; Hoque et al., 2012). Figure 3, shows that the proportion of female students who had had sex starts increasing at the age of 14 and peaks at the age of 18 and declines afterwards. For male students, the proportion of those who had had sex starts increasing from the age of 11 and peaks at the age of 17 and declines afterwards.

Figure 3: Graph showing age at first sex by gender



Source: Mafikeng Campus Sexual Behaviour Survey, 2013

Table 2 shows the sexual behaviour of students who had had sexual intercourse. A little more than a quarter (27.0%) of the students indicated that they did not use condoms at first intercourse. The mean age at which students had their first sexual intercourse was 17 years. A little more than a third (38.4%) of the students indicated that they had their first sexual intercourse before the age of 17. A little more than a third (36.1%) indicated that they did not use a condom at the last intercourse. Close to four in every ten (35.9%) of the students mentioned that they had had sexual intercourse with a stranger. Two fifths (41.6%) of the students admitted that they had had more than one boy/girlfriend and running them concurrently. More than half (54.9%) of students revealed that they had sexual intercourse with another person while still in a relationship.

Table 2: Frequency distribution of respondents who ever had sexual intercourse

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Use of condom at first sexual intercourse		
No	128	27.0
Yes	346	73.0
Age at first sexual intercourse		
Below 17	182	38.4
17 and above	292	61.6
Level of education at first sexual intercourse		
Primary	43	9.1
Secondary	114	24.1
High school	197	41.6
Other	120	25.3
Biological parents alive at first sexual intercourse		
Both alive	353	74.5
Mother alive	73	15.4
Other	48	10.1
Person last had sexual intercourse with		
Married/Cohabiting	322	67.9
Boy/girlfriend	30	6.3
Casual friend	55	11.6
Other	67	14.1
Age group Person last had sexual intercourse with		
17-24	298	62.9
25-31	95	20.0
32+	81	17.1
Use of condom at last sexual intercourse		
No	171	36.1
Yes	303	63.9
Sexual intercourse with more than one person in the last 12 months		
No	261	55.1
Yes	213	44.9
Sexual intercourse with a stranger		
Yes	170	35.9
No	304	64.1
Ever had a boyfriend and girlfriend and running them concurrently		
No	277	58.4
Yes	197	41.6
Sexual intercourse with another person while in a relationship with boy/girlfriend		
No	214	45.1
Yes	260	54.9
Total	474	100.0

Source: Mafikeng Campus Sexual Behaviour Survey, 2013

Table 3 shows the relationship between socio-demographic characteristics of the students by age at first sexual intercourse. As indicated earlier, the mean age of first sexual intercourse among the students was age 17. In general, close to four in every ten (38.4%) of the students had their first sexual intercourse before the age of 17. Table 3 indicates younger students appeared to have started sexual intercourse earlier than older students. More than half (52.5%) of the students aged between 18-19 had their first sexual intercourse before the age of 17. While 36.7% and 33.3% of students aged between 20-24 and 25 years and above respectively had their first sexual intercourse before the age of 17.

Male students were more likely to have had their first sexual intercourse before age 17 than females. Table 3 shows that more than half (57.5%) of the male students and a fifth (18.8%) of the female students had their first sexual intercourse before the age of 17. As expected, students who were from urban areas were more likely to have had their first sexual intercourse before the age of 17. The results show that two fifths (40.9%) and a little less than two fifths (36.6%) of urban students and rural students respectively had their first sexual intercourse before the age of 17. Interestingly, a higher proportion of students who had their first sexual intercourse before age 17 had it while in primary (86%) and secondary (70.2%) school.

Unexpectedly, a higher proportion of students who had their first sexual intercourse before the age of 17 had both parents alive at that particular time. It may be expected that with both parents alive, children will be advised not to indulge in early sexual intercourse or be provided with most of their basic needs, which reduces the

chances of being taken advantage of. About a third (32.9%) of the students had their first sexual intercourse before the age of 17 while only their mothers were alive. This could probably be due to the fact that mothers usually offer care and support to their children. Risky as it is, six in every ten (60.9%) of the students who had their first sexual intercourse before the age of 17 did not use a condom at first sexual intercourse.

Table 3: Percent distribution of respondents by age at first sexual intercourse and background characteristics

Variables	Below 17	17 and above	Percent	N
Age				
18-19	52.5	47.5	100.0	61
20-24	36.7	63.3	100.0	362
25+	33.3	66.7	100.0	51
Gender				
Male	57.5	42.5	100.0	240
Female	18.8	81.2	100.0	234
Home place				
Rural	36.6	63.4	100.0	276
Urban	40.9	59.1	100.0	198
Level of education at first sexual intercourse				
Primary	86.0	14.0	100.0	43
Secondary	70.2	29.8	100.0	114
High school	32.5	67.5	100.0	197
Other	0.8	99.2	100.0	120
Biological parents alive at first sexual intercourse				
Both alive	39.1	60.9	100.0	353
Mother alive	32.9	67.1	100.0	73
Other	41.7	58.3	100.0	48
Use of condom at first sexual intercourse				
No	60.9	39.1	100.0	128
Yes	30.1	69.9	100.0	346
Total	38.4	61.6	100.0	474

Source: Mafikeng Campus Sexual Behaviour Survey, 2013

Table 4 shows the patterns of risky sexual behaviour among students. The Table shows that male students are more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviour compared to female students. It is only on use of condoms at last sexual intercourse where female students were found to be less likely to use condoms. Table 4 also reveals that more male students (54.5%) used condoms at last intercourse compared to female students (45.5%). For instance, it is revealed that a high percentage of female students (59.2%) used condoms at first intercourse, compared to male students (40.8%). The low use of condom at last sexual contact among female students concurs with Anyanwu et al. (2013) where 73.77% male and 64.05% female students reported using condoms at the last sexual contact.

The study reveals that in the last 12 months, about two thirds (64.8%) of the male students had sexual intercourse with more than one person, while a little more than a third (35.2%) of the female students had sexual intercourse with more than one person. The study also found that a little below seven in every ten male students (67%) reported having more than one girlfriend and running them concurrently, compared to about three in every ten females (33%). The study further found that 63.5% of the male students had had sexual intercourse with another person while still in a relationship with the person they considered to be their girlfriends, compared to 36.5% of the female students. Finally it is revealed that a significant number of male students (75.3%) engaged in once-off sexual acts with strangers, compared to 24.7% of the female students.

Table 4: Pattern of risk sexual behaviour among male and female students

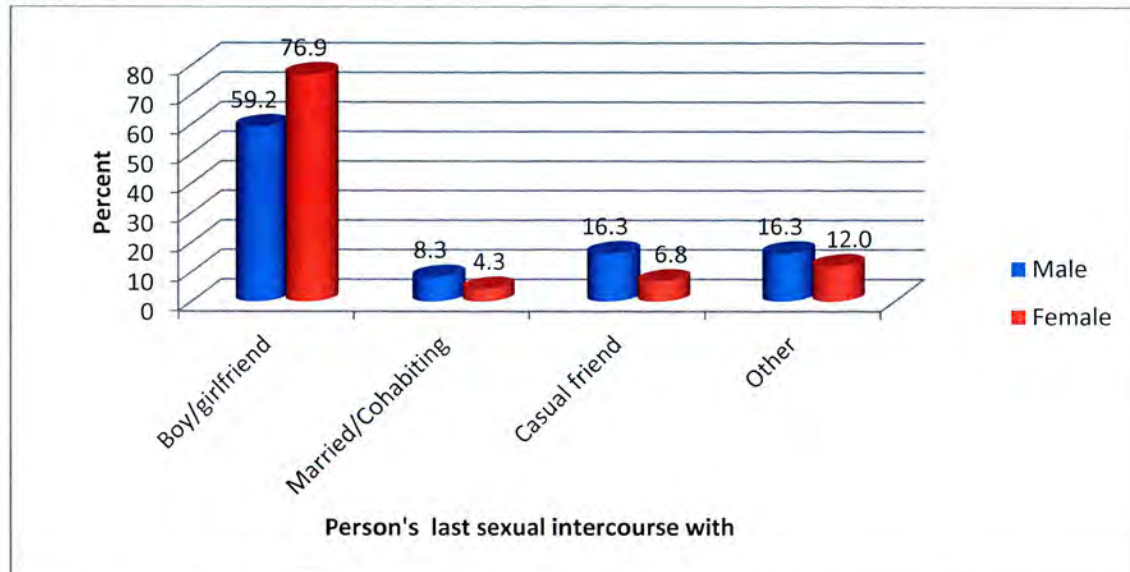
Variable	Male	Female	Percent	N
Percent of those who used of condom at first intercourse	40.8	59.2	100.0	346
Percent of those who used of condom at last intercourse	54.5	45.5	100.0	303
Percent of those who had sexual intercourse with more than one person in the last 12 months	64.8	35.2	100.0	213
Percent of those who had sexual intercourse with a stranger	75.3	24.7	100.0	170
Percent of those who had a boyfriend and girlfriend and running them concurrently	67.0	33.0	100.0	197
Percent of those who had Intercourse with another person while in a relationship with a boy/girlfriend	63.5	36.5	100.0	260
Total	50.6	49.4	100.0	474

Source: Mafikeng Campus Sexual Behaviour Survey, 2013

Figure 4 indicates that only 8.3% of the male students and 4.3 percent of female students had their last sexual encounter with their married/cohabiting partner. It also shows that more students were engaged in boy/girlfriend relationships, with almost six out of every ten (59.2%) of the male students reporting that their last sexual encounter was with their girlfriends and close to eight in every ten (76.9%) of the female students reporting that their last sexual encounter was with their boyfriends. On the other hand, less than a fifth (16.3%) of the male students reported that their last sexual encounter was with a casual friend compared to less than one in every ten (6.8%) of the female students who also reported that their last sexual encounter

was also with a casual friend. The “Other” category includes: having sex with a commercial sex worker, a stranger or forced sex and friends with benefits. A proportion of (16.3%) male and (12%) female students engaged in sex with others.

Figure 4: Percentage of the person who students had last sexual intercourse with



Source: Mafikeng Campus Sexual Behaviour Survey, 2013

4.2 THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS ON RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

Table 5 shows the results of three logistic regression models (Model 1, Model 2 and Model 3). In Model 1, the dependent variable is age at first sexual intercourse, which is dummy-coded into 1 having had sexual intercourse before the age of 17 and 0 having had sex at the age of 17 and above. The age 17 was chosen because mean age at first intercourse is 17 years. In Model 2, the dependent variable is use of condom at last sexual intercourse, dummy-coded into 0 being those who did not use a condom at last sexual intercourse and 1 those who used a condom at last sexual intercourse. In Model 3, the dependent variable is having sexual intercourse with

another person while in a relationship, also dummy coded into 0 for those who did not have sexual intercourse with another person while in a relationship and 1 for those who had sexual intercourse with another person while in a relationship.

Using the enter method, all the three models appeared to be significant at 0.05 level. The Nagelkerke R squared indicates that 49 percent, 39 percent and 21 percent of the variation in the dependent variables is explained by the predictor variables in Model 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

Table 5: Logistic regression showing impacts of selected covariates on different sexual behaviours

Variable	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	OR	S.E	OR	S.E	OR	S.E
Age						
20-24 (RC)	1.000		1.000		1.000	
18-19	2.060*	0.368	1.447	0.453	1.130	0.363
25+	0.712	0.423	1.471	0.422	1.156	0.363
Gender						
Male (RC)	1.000		1.000		1.000	
Female	0.526*	0.272	0.360**	0.338	0.372**	0.273
Year of study						
First year (RC)	-	-	1.000		1.000	
Second year	-	-	1.335	0.459	1.131	0.372
Third year	-	-	0.979	0.377	1.413	0.330
Fourth year	-	-	0.753	0.451	0.703	0.398
Post graduate	-	-	2.052	0.610	0.864	0.483
Biological parents alive (currently)						
Both are alive (RC)	1.000		1.000		1.000	
Mother is alive	1.333	0.411	0.542	0.404	1.301	0.378
Other	0.974	0.473	1.619	0.500	1.858	0.440
Income						
No (RC)	1.000		1.000		1.000	
Yes	1.458	0.283	0.948	0.270	1.040	0.239
Home place						
Rural (RC)	1.000		1.000		1.000	
Urban	1.024	0.253	1.317	0.249	1.035	0.216
Residence at University						
Reside on campus (RC)			1.000		1.000	
Reside with a guardian	-	-	0.745	0.343	1.217	0.297
Renting a room	-	-	0.932	0.319	1.408	0.287
Biological parents alive at first sexual intercourse						
Both alive (RC)						
Mother alive	0.718	0.449	2.135	0.458	0.884	0.408
Other	0.973	0.554	0.274*	0.560	0.507	0.508
Age at first sexual intercourse						
17 and above (RC)	-	-	1.000		1.000	
Below 17	-	-	1.710	0.319	1.975*	0.271
Use of condom at first sexual intercourse						
No (RC)	1.000		1.000		1.000	
Yes	0.586	0.285	2.425**	0.298	0.925	0.264

(RC) = reference category; OR= Odds ratio; *= 0.05, **= 0.01; -= not included in the model

Source: Mafikeng Campus Sexual Behaviour Survey, 2013

Table 5 Continued

Variable	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	OR	S.E.	OR	S.E.	OR	S.E.
Level of education at first sexual intercourse						
Secondary (RC)	1.000		1.000		1.000	
Primary	1.990	0.505	1.096	0.481	1.266	0.445
High school	0.264**	0.282	1.829	0.351	1.288	0.300
Other	0.005**	1.037	2.209	0.434	0.951	0.369
Person last had sexual intercourse with						
Boy/Girlfriend (RC)			1.000		1.000	
Married/Cohabiting	-	-	0.346*	0.453	0.596	0.431
Casual friend	-	-	1.517	0.409	2.462*	0.394
Other	-	-	0.193**	0.500	0.754	0.434
Age group person last had sexual intercourse with						
17-24 (RC)	-	-	1.000		1.000	
25-31	-	-	1.098	0.318	1.105	0.289
32+	-	-	0.117**	0.452	0.662	0.399
Constant	2.823	0.378	1.409	0.486	1.115	0.438

(RC) = reference category; OR= Odds ratio; * = 0.05, ** = 0.01; - = not included in the model

Source: Sexual Behaviour Survey, 2013

In Model 1, biological parents alive, income, home place, biological parents alive at first sexual intercourse and use of condom at first sexual intercourse did not appear to be significantly related to age at first sexual contact. Model 1 shows that students aged 18-19 are significantly different from students aged 20-24 in terms of age at first sexual intercourse. However, students aged 25 years and above are not significantly different from students aged 20-24. The results show that students aged 18-19 are 2.060 times likely to have had sexual intercourse before the age of 17 compared students aged 20-24.

Gender is significantly related to age at first sexual intercourse. Female students are less likely to have had sexual intercourse before the age of 17. Females are about 0.526 times more likely to have had sexual intercourse before the age of 17

compared to male students. This finding supports the hypothesis that male students are more likely to initiate sexual intercourse earlier than females. This can probably be explained by young male curiosity about sex, the pressure and need to please friends (Olapegba et al., 2013).

The level of education at first sexual intercourse is significantly related to age at first sexual intercourse. The results show that the higher the level of education, the less likely students were to engage in sexual intercourse before the age of 17. Students who had their first sexual intercourse in primary school, even though not significant, are 1.990 more likely to engage in early sexual intercourse (before age 17), compared to students who had their first sexual intercourse in secondary school. Students who had their first sexual intercourse while in high school are significantly 0.264 times less likely to have had sexual intercourse before age 17, compared to those who had their first sexual intercourse in secondary school. Students who reported other (which includes having sex while in tertiary, working or gap year before university) are significantly 0.005 less likely to have had engage in sexual intercourse before age 17. It could be argued that it is at secondary school level that students develop both physically and psychologically and are eager to experiment with sex.

In Model 2, age, year of study, biological parents alive, income, home place, residence at University, age at first sexual intercourse and level of education at first sexual intercourse, did not appear to be significantly related to condom use at last sexual intercourse. Model 2 shows that gender is significantly associated with condom use at last intercourse, the odds of female students using condom at last

intercourse are 64% lower than male students. This supports the hypothesis earlier stated that male students are more likely to use condoms than female students. This is in line with the Rahamefy et al. (2008) study where men were twice (2.29) as likely to report using condoms as women. Condom use is found to be low among females, probably because the age disparity among partners creates unequal gender power relationships which can reduce women's ability to negotiate whether intercourse will take place or whether condoms should be used. According to UNAIDS (2010), correct and consistent condom use has been found to have 90% positive effect in preventing transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. There is no doubt that there is a need for young females to take charge of their lives, including making informed decisions about their sexual interactions.

Students who indicated that their mother was alive at first sexual experience were not significantly different from those who indicated that both parents were alive. As expected, those who indicated other were 0.274 times less likely to use a condom at last sexual intercourse contact, compared to those who indicated that both parents were alive. This was expected because research has found that when children are left with only a father figure in the household there is a difficulty in reaching out to them. It becomes even more complex when both parents are not alive because there is no one to reach out to. It has been consistently proven that having both parents reduces the chances of engaging in various types of sexual behaviour (Miller, 2002; Moore, 2001 & Singh et al., 2000) .

Condom use at first sexual intercourse is significantly associated with condom use at last intercourse. The results show that those who indicated that they used condoms

at first sexual contact were 2.425 times more likely to use condoms at last sexual intercourse than those who did not. This concurs with Yotebieng et al. (2009) who reported that having used a condom at first sexual intercourse increased the odds of using condoms at most recent sex by 4.81 times and increased the odds of using condoms 'most or all the time' by 8.76. The likelihood that young people who used condoms at first sexual intercourse would use condoms at last sexual intercourse is high, probably due to the fact that they have knowledge about condoms and will settle for options that favour safe sexual practices.

Person with whom last intercourse was with is associated with condom use at last sexual intercourse, showing that those who indicated that their last sexual intercourse was with married/cohabiting partner and other are 0.346 and 0.193 times less likely to have used condoms at last sexual intercourse respectively, compared to those who had their last sexual intercourse with their boy/girlfriend. One of the strongest determinants of condom use is relationship type, such as casual sex, serious relationship, cohabitation and marriage. Condom use is typically high with commercial sex partners but exceedingly low with spouses or regular partners.

Finally, the model shows that the age group of the person with whom last sexual intercourse was with is significantly related to condom use at last sexual intercourse. The odds ratio shows that those who indicated that the person they had their last sexual intercourse with was 32 years and above were 0.117 times less likely to have used condoms at last intercourse compared to those whose last sexual partner was 17-24 years. This might be because the older partners in sexual interactions are more likely to enforce and determine what happens in the relationship. On the other

hand, those who indicated their last sexual partners were between the ages of 25 to 31 were not significantly different from those whose last sexual partners were between 17 - 24 years.

In Model 3, age, year of study, biological parents alive, income, home place, residence at University, biological parents alive at first sexual intercourse, use of condom at first sexual intercourse, level of education at first sexual intercourse and age group of person last had sexual intercourse with, are not significantly related to sexual intercourse with another person while in a relationship. Model 3 shows that gender is significantly related with sexual contact with another person while in a relationship. The odds ratio shows that female students are 0.372 less times likely to engage in sexual intercourse while they are still in relationships than male students. This is similar to other studies where males were found to be more likely to engage in multiple and concurrent sexual relationships. For example, a study conducted in Kwa-Zulu Natal found that more than half (57%) of sexually active men also reported having at least one other partner during the period of the survey, compared with only 9.0% of women (Harrison et al., 2008). This is probably because those in casual relationships are probably not in any serious relationship to feel obligated to have sex with one person.

Model 3 also shows that age at first sexual intercourse is significantly related to having sexual intercourse with another person while still in a relationship. The results show that students who had their first sexual intercourse before age 17 were 1.975 times more likely to engage in sexual intercourse with another person while in a relationship. This is similar to the finding by Zuma et al. (2010) where those who had

early sexual debut, were significantly more likely to have multiple sexual partners than those who had late sexual debut (OR=2.29, p-value<0.001). This might be explained by the fact that the earlier one starts the more they are exposed to various sexual behaviours including multiple sexual partners.

CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter summarises the most important results that are found in the current study. The conclusion and recommendations are also presented.

5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The study examined sexual behaviour among students in North-West University (Mafikeng campus) students using primary data collected from students in 2013. The study examined factors that influence sexual behaviour in three domains of sexual behaviour namely age at first sexual intercourse, condom use at last sexual intercourse and intercourse with another person while in a relationship using both descriptive and multivariate techniques (logistic regression).

The majority (73%) of the students used condoms at first sexual contact. However, the proportion that used condoms at last intercourse was lower compared to the proportion that used at first sexual intercourse (63.9%). The bivariate analysis found that 57% of the male student initiated sexual intercourse before the age of 17 and 18.8% of the female students initiated sexual intercourse before the age of 17. While the multivariate analysis found that female students were (0.526) times less likely to start sexual intercourse before the age of 17 compared to the male students.

Male students were more likely (64.8%) to have had sexual intercourse with more than one person in the last 12 months compared to the female students (35.2%). A higher proportion of male students (75.3%) engaged in once off sexual acts with

strangers compared with female students (24.7%). Twice as many male students (63.5%) had sexual intercourse with another person while in a relationship compared to the female students (36.5%).

In assessing the three domains of sexual behaviour, age only appeared to matter in age at first sexual intercourse. Gender of the student appeared to be very important in predicting sexual behaviour. Female students appeared to be less likely to indulge in early onset of sexual activities, less likely to use condoms and less likely to have sexual intercourse with another person, while still in another relationship. The use of condoms at first intercourse was significantly associated with condom use at last sexual intercourse. Those who used condoms at their first sexual contact were more likely to use condoms at the last sexual contact.

There is a significant relationship between level of education at first sexual intercourse and age at first sexual intercourse. Those who had their first sexual intercourse at high school and other (tertiary and working) levels were less likely to engage in sexual intercourse before 17 years. Students who had their last sexual intercourse with their married/cohabiting partners were less likely to use condoms than those who had sexual intercourse with their boy/girlfriends. In addition, students who had their last sexual intercourse with a casual friend were more likely to have had sexual intercourse with another person while still in a relationship. Students whose last sexual contact was with a person who was 32 years and above were less likely to have used condoms at last sexual contact, compared to students whose last sexual intercourse was with a person who was between 17- 24 years.

5.2 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study found a high level of sexual activity among students, for instance almost all students had had sexual intercourse before. This study confirms that there is gender disparity in sexual behaviour. Male students were found to be dominant in engaging in sexual activities than female students. Male students were more likely to experience sexual activities earlier than female students and more likely to have sexual intercourse with another person while in a relationship. However, they were also more likely to use condoms than female students. Although female students in the present study were less likely to engage in various sexual activities than male students, they were also less likely to use condom during sexual intercourse. This can expose them to the risk of sexually transmitted infections such as HIV.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Targeting University students as a priority group for prevention interventions is an important strategy. This study found that male students were more dominant in sexual behaviour while female students were found to be less likely to use condoms at last sexual intercourse. Thus, it is recommended that effort be made to educate students (especially female students) on the need to use condoms consistently and highlight the importance of correct use of condoms among male and female students. It is also important to intensify the understanding of the consequences of sexual behaviour and how the risks could be minimised. Further studies should be conducted to investigate why condom use is lower among female students.

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APPENDIX

FACULTY OF HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES POPULATION TRAINING AND RESEARCH UNIT

QUESTIONNAIRE

Sexual behaviour among North-West University (Mafikeng Campus) students

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this study. You do not need to identify your name, as the information gathered from you will be kept confidential. The information will only be used for the purpose of this study. The purpose of this study is to examine the sexual behaviours of students in the North West University (Mafikeng Campus).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Age.....

Gender

Faculty

Marital status.....

Please circle on the answer you think applies.

Q1. Year of study

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. 1 st year | 2. 2 nd year | 3. 3 rd year | 4. 4 th year |
| 5. Honours | 6. Masters | 7. PhD | |

Q2. How do you classify your home place?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. Rural | 2. Urban |
|----------|----------|

Q3. Are any of your biological parents alive?

1. Yes, both of them are alive
2. Yes, my mother is alive
3. Yes, my father is alive
4. None of them are alive
5. Don't know

Q4. What is your relationship to your guardian?

1. Biological parent
2. Siblings
3. Adopted parent/ Relative
4. Spouse (Husband/Wife)

5. Boyfriend/ Girlfriend/ Fiancé
6. Family friend, not a relative
7. Other (Specify).....

Q5.How many people stay in your home?.....

Q6.How are you related to those people? **(Circle all that apply)**

1. Mother
2. Father
3. Siblings
4. Uncle, aunt, cousins, grand parents
5. Other (Specify).....

Q7.Does your main guardian have a job?

1. Yes
2. No

Q8.Apart from your main guardian, are there other people that support your day to day living?

1. Yes
2. No → skip to Q10

Q9.How you are related to these people? **(Circle all that applies).**

1. I support myself
2. Biological Parent
3. Siblings
4. Adopted Parent
5. Relative
6. Spouse
7. Boyfriend/ Girlfriend/ Fiancé
8. Casual friend
9. Family friend, not relative
10. Other (Specify).....

Q10.What is the category of your sponsorship at the University?

1. Government
2. Private, with a scholarship
3. Private, without a scholarship
4. University bursary
5. Other (Specify).....

Q11.Where do you stay when you are at the university?

1. Reside within campus residence
2. Reside at home with a guardian
3. Stay with a relative
4. Renting a room
5. Stay with a boyfriend/ girlfriend
6. Other
(Specify).....

I) SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

a) SEXUAL DEBUT.

Q12. Have you ever had sexual intercourse?

1. Yes 2. No → skip to Q45

Q13. What age were you when you had your first sexual intercourse- indicate age in completed years.

Q14. The first time you had sexual intercourse where were you?

1. At primary school
2. At secondary School
3. At High school
4. At Tertiary
5. Working
6. Other (Specify).....

Q15. The first time you had sex, was there a use of condom?

1. Yes 2. No

Q16. The first time you had sexual intercourse did you or your partner take some alcohol in the hours before the act?

1. Yes, I had some alcohol
2. Yes, my partner had some alcohol
3. Yes, both of us had some alcohol
4. No, none of us had had some alcohol
5. Don't drink
6. Don't remember

Q17. The first time you had sexual intercourse, was it intentional?

1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't remember

Q18. The first time you had sexual intercourse was it with someone you considered your boy/girlfriend?

1. Yes 2. No

Q19. The first time you had sexual intercourse, were you promised some material or monetary reward or did you promise your partner a reward?

1. Yes I was promised some rewards
2. Yes, I promised my partner some rewards
3. No rewards promised
4. Don't remember

Q20. The first time you had sexual intercourse, were your friends already sexually active?

1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't remember

Q21. The first time you had sexual intercourse were your biological parents still alive?

1. Yes both of the were alive
2. Yes, my mother was alive
3. Yes, my father was alive
4. No, none of them were alive
5. Don't recall

Q22. The first time you had sexual intercourse, where did the act take place?

1. At my home
2. At my partners home
3. At a friend's home
4. At my partners rented room/flat
5. At my rented room/flat
6. University residence
7. Other (Specify).....

b) RECENT SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Q23. Have you had sexual intercourse in the last 12 months?

1. Yes
2. No → skip to Q30

Q24. When was the last time you had sexual intercourse?

1. Less than a week
2. Less than a month
3. One month plus
4. Don't recall

Q25. What was your relationship with the person with whom you had the most recent sex?

1. Husband/wife
2. Cohabiting partner
3. Boy/girlfriend not living with me
4. Casual friend
5. Commercial sex worker
6. Other (Specify).....

Q26. In which age group does this person belongs to?

1. 17-24
2. 25-31
3. 32-39
4. 40+

Q27. The last time you had sexual intercourse, was a condom used?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know/ don't recall

Q28. The last time you had sexual intercourse, were you promised some material or monetary reward or did you promise your partner some reward?

1. Yes I was promised some rewards

2. Yes I promised my partner some rewards
3. No rewards promised
4. Don't remember

Q29. The last time you had sexual intercourse did you or your partner take some alcohol in the hours preceding the act?

1. Yes, I had had some alcohol
2. Yes, my partner had had some alcohol
3. Yes, both of us had had some alcohol
4. No, none of us had had some alcohol
5. Don't remember/ don't know

Q30. Have you had sexual intercourse with more than one person in the last 12 months?

1. Yes
2. No

Q31. In the last 12 months, did you pay anyone or were you paid to have sex?

1. Yes I paid for sex
2. Yes I paid someone for sex
3. No

Q32. Have you ever had a 'one-off' sexual act with a casual partner within 48 hours of having met them?

1. Yes
2. No → skip to Q34

Q33. What were your reasons for engaging in this exercise?

1. I was drunk
2. For fun
3. For money
4. It just happened
5. Other (Specify).....

II) RELATIONSHIPS

a) **SEXUALLY EXPERIENCED**

Q34. Have you ever had a boy-friend or girl- friend (a person with whom you are in a romantic relationship)?

1. Yes
2. No → **END OF INTERVIEW**

Q33. Do you currently have a boy-friend or girl-friend to whom you are romantically involved?

1. Yes
2. No → skip to Q41

Q36. How long have you been in a romantic relationship with your current boy-friend or girl-friend?.....

Q37. Have you had sexual intercourse with your current boy/girl-friend?

1. Yes 2. No

Q38. How do you describe your sexual partner?

1. Steady partner
2. Casual partner
3. Regular partner
4. Other (Specify).....

Q39. In your current relationship who initiates sexual activities more?

1. Myself 2. My partner 3. Both

Q40. In your relationship do you take part in making decisions about using a condom?

1. Yes 2. No

Q41. How many boy-friends/girl friends have you had a romantic relationship with in your life?.....

Q42. Have you ever had more than one romantic boy/girl-friend running concurrently?

1. Yes 2. No

Q43. Have you had sexual intercourse with another person while you were in a relationship with a person you considered your boy/ girlfriend

1. Yes 2. No

Q44. Have you ever had a relationship in which your main intention was to obtain material gains or money from your partner?

1. Yes 2. No **END OF INTERVIEW**

b) SEXUALLY INEXPERIENCED (This section is only for people who have never had sexual intercourse)

Q45. Have you ever had a boyfriend/girlfriend?

1. Yes 2. No → skip to Q52

Q46. How many boy/girlfriends have you ever had?.....

Q47. Are you currently in a relationship?

1. Yes 2. No → skip to Q52

Q48. How long have you been in a relationship with your partner?.....

Q49. Has your partner ever been sexually active before?

1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know

Q50. Does your partner understand your decision to wait for sex?

1. Yes 2. No

Q51. How do you get intimate with your partner?

1. Kissing and Hugging
2. Touching
3. Masturbating
4. Talking
5. Other (Specify).....

Q52. What are the reasons for you to wait to have sex?

1. My culture/religion
2. Still young/ not ready
3. Waiting to be married
4. Afraid to contract HIV/AIDS
5. Other (Specify).....

Q53. Do you feel the pressure to engage in sexual intercourse?

1. Yes 2. No

Thank you for your participation
