

Dimensions and Manifestations of Sexual Risk Taking Behaviours in the Era of STIs and HIV/AIDS in South Africa

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ABSTRACT Importantly, the global community especially under the auspices of WHO and UNAIDS relentlessly continue to mount strong emphasis for individuals and communities to consider controlling or reducing the effects of sexual risk taking behaviours in an endeavour to reduce, mitigate or altogether annihilate the pinching and horrendous effects of HIV/AIDS, STIs and other commensurate behavioural based social vices. This paper aims to explore, debate and discuss various dimensions and manifestations of sexual risk taking behaviours driving the state of HIV/AIDS and STIs in South Africa. It has used a review of literature methodology. The paper has identified homosexuality, heterosexuality, bisexuality as inclinations that continue to influence HIV/AIDS/STI infections with homosexuality and bisexuality putting individuals at a more risk than heterosexuality. Importantly, being a transgender, a gay, or a lesbian also constitute serious sexual risk taking phenomena. The paper recommends adopting abstinence, both primary and secondary, in tandem with adopting indigenous ways of maintaining chastity such as virginity testing as possible measures to mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS