

Perceptions Towards HIV and AIDS, Condom Use and Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) amongst Students at a Previously Disadvantaged South African Tertiary Institution

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ABSTRACT The study focuses on risk behaviour, stigmatization, social perceptions, voluntary counselling and HIV testing (VCT) amongst a sample of four hundred students at a rural tertiary institution in South Africa. Statistica was used to calculate descriptive statistics from the quantitative data and Thematic Content Analysis was used to analyse qualitative data. The mean age of students is 22.85 years and the Standard Deviation (SD) = 2.08. Overall the findings indicate that students have knowledge about condom use, risky sexual behaviours and VCT but this does not always translate into positive sexual behaviours. For instance, thirty -seven percent (37%) of the sample had little or no intention of using a condom. The results point towards the spread of the pandemic as a noteworthy percentage of participants indulge in high risk sexual behaviours and display negative attitudes towards Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT), condom use and people living with HIV and AIDS.