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An Investigation of the Knowledge, Attitudes and Use of Contraceptives by Youth Development Female Students at the University of Venda

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ABSTRACT Young people around the globe are faced with the precipitous escalation of HIV/AIDS and unintended pregnancies. The aim of this study was to investigate the knowledge, attitudes and use of contraception by Youth Development female students at the University of Venda's. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for the descriptive analysis of the data. University of Venda's Youth Development female students displayed varying degrees of knowledge of contraceptives as well as the significance of contraceptives for their health and well-being. Surprisingly, over sixty-five percent of the respondents had a negative attitude towards contraception because of the side effects of contraceptives. Religion, culture, partners and families also perpetuated female students' negative attitudes towards contraceptives. Intensified sex education and health promotion campaigns should be a priority at the University of Venda in order to address female students' common misconceptions and negative attitudes towards contraceptives.