

## **Youth Welfare and Health Seeking Behavior in Edo Central, Nigeria**

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**ABSTRACT** This study is an examination of youth welfare in relation to health seeking behavior. Data were derived from 783 randomly selected youth ages 10 – 24 years and standardized using percentages to cushion the effect of the variation in the sample sub-totals. Among the respondents, 46.4% had experienced penetrated sex previously and 53.6% had not. 87.1% of them had known of a type of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). In other words, 12.9% was not familiar with STIs at the time of survey. Consequently, respondents' health seeking behavior, after contract with STIs, was investigated. It was observed that 57.5% and 45.1% of youth and sex partners respectively went to hospital or clinics for treatment after contract with STIs. Since, this was not quite encouraging or good enough to stop the perpetuation or prevalence of STIs, proper counseling by stakeholders is recommended to improve the functional health and treatment literacy among youth.