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Day Parties, drug abuse, HIV/AIDS transmission and unintended pregnancy: Among school teenagers

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Objectives: To investigate the impact of teenagers day party and practices of alcohol and substance abuse on the health of teens and to examine the relationship between teenagers' day party events and risky behavior. This study sought to clarify the types of risky behavior and substances used before, during and after the event.

Method: A written survey was administered to students aged 15–17 years in two selected high schools in Addis Ababa. The study method adopts mixed research design with various data triangulation methods. Both qualitative and quantitative data collection tools and analysis techniques were used.

Result: Of the 284 sample participants 86% of them are visiting day party for the sake of having fun and to experiment alcohol and other substances freely and considered the event as an opportunity to do this. Day party event was strongly correlated with teenagers' risky behavior as indicated r=0.89. Chewing chat (38%), drinking alcohol (36.2%) and smoking cigarette and ganja (32.7%) were identified the most commonly substance use before, during and after the event. Of the samples, 77.11% were reported to have school absenteeism the next day of the party event. Female teenagers were found to perceive their high level of vulnerability to health related problems than do males teenagers' for T=0.002, P<0.05 with 95% of CI.

Conclusion: Although this study has been done with non-representative sample it was possible to identify the characteristics and practices of teenagers in the day party event. The relationship between the use of psycho-active substances and risky behavior are found to be directly correlated. Findings from this study can be used to design an intervention strategy how to organize healthy and monitored day party events. This fact can be a way to discuss the insertion of the drug thematic in the various courses offered at high and junior high schools. Besides it could help to make effective planning of policies for the prevention in the school context.

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Mother-to-child HIV transmission and its predictors among HIV-exposed infants: A retrospective follow-up study in Southwest Ethiopia

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Despite the marked progress in coverage of prevention of mother to child HIV transmission (PMTCT) programs, high rate mother to child HIV transmission (MTCT) was documented. This raised questions about the effectiveness of PMTCT program and the need for more research on identifying predictors of MTCT of HIV. A retrospective follow up study was carried at Jimma University Specialized Hospital PMTCT clinic to quantify MTCT rate and its predictors among HIV-exposed infants. Data were extracted from medical records of HIV-infected women and exposed infants between September 2010 and December 2012. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses were carried out to identify potential infant and maternal factors predicting mother to child HIV transmission. A total of 146 infants born to HIV-infected mothers were included in the analysis. Out of 146 infants, 25 (17%, 95% CI: 11%- 23.2%) were HIV positive. In the adjusted multivariate logistic regression analysis, mothers on late AIDS stage (stage 3 or 4) during child birth (OR=5.8; 95% CI: 1.6-16.5), absence of maternal PMTCT interventions (OR=4.9; 95% CI: 1.4-16.5), home delivery (OR=8.1; 95% CI: 2.1-31.9) and mixed infant feeding (OR=5.6; 95% CI: 1.4-41.2) were independently associated with mother to child HIV transmission among exposed infants. We documented a high rate of mother to child HIV transmission among exposed infants in Southwest Ethiopia. All pregnant HIV positive mothers should receive antiretroviral therapy at earlier stage. In addition, delivery at health center and exclusive breast feeding should be encouraged so as to decrease mother to child HIV transmission.

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