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Determinants of unintended pregnancies among adolescent girls and young women in urban Cambodia

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Background: Unintended pregnancies are a major concern in urban Cambodia and sexually active adolescent girls and young women face significant social, economic and health consequences associated with unintended pregnancies and abortions. The social ecological model was used to identify the determinants of unintended pregnancies among young Cambodian women.

Method: Secondary data analyses of the 2014 nationally representative Cambodia demographic and health survey was undertaken. Stata 15 was used for descriptive and bivariate analyses. Multivariate logistic regression was used for a sample of 1086 urban Cambodian, sexually active female adolescents and young women aged 15-29 years.

Result: Multiple regression analyses showed that unintended pregnancy was significantly associated with the age group 15-19 years (OR: 2.8, CI 1.04-7.99, p value=0.04), higher parity (OR: 3, CI 2.11-4.43, p=0.000), any domestic and sexual violence perpetrated by their partners/husbands (OR: 2.2, CI 1.07-4.51, p value=0.03), poorer (OR: 2.1, CI 1.17-3.84, p=0.01) and richer (OR: 2.7, CI 1.17-6.36, p=0.02) wealth index quintiles and hearing about family planning messages in the media in the past few months (OR: 1.5, CI 1.01-2.5, p=0.04). Women's employment (OR: 0.49, CI 0.30- 0.80, p value=0.005) was protective against unintended pregnancies. Univariate logistic regression analysis showed significant association with the use of any modern contraceptive method (OD: 4.7, CI 2.11-10.55, p=0.000) and decreased autonomy of women when their access to health care was decided by their husband/partner (OD: 1.6, CI 1.04-2.62, p=0.03).

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