**Risky Sexual Behaviour of Youth in Rural Areas of Nigeria: Implications for Primary Health Centres**

By

**Juliana C. Onuh, Aloysius Odii, Chukwuedozie K. Ajaero & Chimezie Atama**

Department of Geography, University of Nigeria Nsukka, Nigeria +2348161809951

*E-mail: juliana.onuh@unn.edu.ng*

**Background**

Young people residing in both urban and rural areas of Nigeria are known to indulge in risky sexual behaviour. Meanwhile, interventions aimed at curbing these behaviours easily reach urban areas thereby leaving Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in rural areas with the important responsibility of health promotion and disease prevention. However, PHCs would find the delivery of this duty more tasking without evidenced knowledge about the categories of youth prone to risky sexual behaviour.

**Objective**

The objective of this study is therefore to examine the spatial risky sexual behaviour of youth residing in rural areas of Nigeria and the sociodemographic factors affecting them.

**Method**

Data from Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey of 2013 conducted in all 36 states of Nigeria and Abuja were used. With a sample of 8788 young people aged 15-24 years. Risky sexual behaviour was measured using three items; none condom use at first sexual intercourse, none consistent condom use and multiple sexual partners. The data was analysed using descriptive statistics, chi-Square, hot spot and binary logistic regression analyses.

**Results**

Based on the chi-square analyse, result from this study recorded significant variations in risky sexual behaviours across rural areas with major hotspot in North West Nigeria. Highest prevalence of multiple sexual partnerships, none condom use and than 15 years age at first sex were found in South South, North West and North West Nigeria respectively. Finally, binary logistic regression identified education, marital status, region and age as dominant risk factors of risky sexual behaviours across regions.

**Conclusion**

These results therefore suggest that since Primary Health Centres in rural areas have the primary duty of health promotion and disease prevention, region specific programmes meant to create awareness on the importance of safe sex and condom use should be targeted at youths with low educational status and those within poor wealth category with major emphases on vulnerable regions.