

**RESULTS FROM A BASELINE SURVEY ON STDs AND  
HIV/AIDS FOR THE IN-AND-OUT-OF SCHOOL  
YOUTH OF OBUASI**

*[ DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT ]*  
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## RESULTS FROM A BASELINE SURVEY ON STDs, AND HIV/AIDS FOR THE YOUTH OF OBUASI

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In July/August 1998, a baseline survey on Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) /AIDS for the youth of Obuasi in the Ashanti Region was conducted. The purpose of the study was to collect baseline information for the future evaluation of UNICEF-sponsored programmes on HIV/AIDS prevention among commercial sex workers in the district. The overall objective of the HIV/AIDS prevention programme in Obuasi was to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS and STDs infections in the community through increased use of condoms by commercial sex workers.

Although the HIV/AIDS prevention programme in Obuasi did not have as its target the youth in general at the moment, the baseline survey included the youth population in view of their high vulnerability to contracting STDs. The youth are sexually active but are inconsistent in the practice of condom use. Second, they are sexually active in an earlier age therefore more likely to change sexual partners and thus face a greater risk of exposure to STDs. Third, the youth (i.e., young adults) may be more reluctant and embarrassed than older ones to seek treatment for STDs because their sexual activity is not socially acceptable. Furthermore, young adults may be unable to afford services if they realize that they have STDs and instead go to unqualified traditional healers, or obtain antibiotics from pharmacies or drug hawkers without proper diagnosis.

In order to accomplish the objectives of the baseline survey, a combination of sampling techniques was used to obtain a sample of 400 youth, consisting of two main categories, namely in-school and out-of-school youth to solicit the relevant information needed which form the basis for this report. Structured personal interviews were employed to obtain information covering the following main areas:

- Socio-demographic characteristics
- Knowledge of STDs
- Knowledge of HIV/AIDS

- Risk Behaviours
- Risk Reduction Behaviours
- Self-Efficacy
- Causes of Sex indulgence by the youth
- Smoking and alcoholism

## 2.0 PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

The sample of the youth covered in the survey was 312, consisting of 49% youth in- school, 28% out-of-school regular, and 23% out-of-school irregular, (see Table 1). In terms of sex, 59% were males while 41% females. The in-school youth had the greatest number of females (18%), followed by out-of-school irregular (15%), and then out-of school irregular (8%).

Table 1  
Sample Distribution by Sex

Category of Youth	Total	Male	Female
In-School	153 (49%)	97 (31%)	56 (18%)
Out-of School Regular	87 (28%)	40 (13%)	47 (15%)
Out-of-School Irregular	72 (23%)	47 (15%)	25 (8%)
Total	312	59%	41%

The majority of the respondents originally came from Ashanti Region, followed by Central, Upper West, Northern, Eastern Regions respectively, with Greater Accra and Brong Ahafo having the least. The ages ranged between 10 and 25, with a majority of them being between 15-19 years old, then followed by 20-24 years, 25 years with 10-14 years having the least. In terms of youth categories, the in-school had the highest percentage (89.3%) of respondents in the 15-19 years age bracket.

The three youth categories were mostly Spiritual/Pentecost (see Table 2), with a greater percentage (31.5%) of the in-school belonging to that in this category and followed by out-of-school regular (24.1%) . Protestants formed the second highest religious group, followed by Catholics, and other Christians in a descending order. Very few (1.4% of the out-of-school irregular) of the respondents practised traditional religion.

Only 4.5% of the regular out-of-school youth were married while 14.9% were living with a partner. The females were more likely than the males to be single (43.7% compared to 35.6%).

Table 2  
Percentage of Personal Characteristics of Youth By Sex

Characteristic	In-School Youth		Out-of-School Regular Youth		Out-of-School Irregular	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Age</b>						
< 10	-	-	-	-	-	-
10- 14	-	-	1.1	1.1	4.2	5.6
15- 19	54.3	35	14.9	27.6	34.8	23.8
20 -24	7.3	2	18.4	23.0	22.6	25.6
25	1.3	-	11.5	2.3	4.2	-
<b>Region of Birth</b>						
Ashanti	34.6	20.6	18.4	1.8	27.8	4.2
Central	13.3	7.8	14.9	8.0	12.5	8.3
Western	3.3	-	1.1	3.4	1.4	1.4
Upper West	.7	.7	2.3	3.4	6.9	6.9
Northern	-	2.0	1.1	4.6	2.8	2.8
Eastern	6.5	2.0	2.3	1.1	-	2.8
Volta	3.3	2.0	3.4	1.1	-	-
Brong Ahafo	.7	.7	1.1	1.1	-	-
Upper East	.7	-	-	1.1	13.5	5.6
Greater Accra	.7	.7	1.1	1.1	-	-
* Outside Ghana	-	-	-	-	-	-

<b>Religious Affiliation</b>						
Spiritual/Pentecostal	21.6	9.8	13.8	10.3	8.3	2.8
Other Christians	9.2	5.2	9.8	8.0	12.5	4.2
Protestants	13.7	10.5	8.0	17.2	13.9	6.9
Muslims	-	2.0	4.6	10.3	16.7	9.7
Catholic	17.6	9.2	9.2	5.7	6.9	2.8
Traditional Religion	-	-	-	-	-	1.4
None	1.3	-	1.1	2.3	6.9	6.9
<b>Marital Status</b>						
Married	-	-	3.4	1.1	-	-
Single	-	-	35.6	43.7	-	-
Divorced	-	-	-	1.1	-	-
Separated	-	-	-	-	-	-
Living With Partner	-	-	6.9	8.0	-	-
<b>Sample Size =</b>	153		87		72	

## 2.1 Educational Level of Youth

The majority (59.7%) of the in-school youth were in SSS 3 followed by SSS 2 (28%), SSS1 (11.8%) and 0.7% JSS3 in that descending order. The majority (25%) of the regular out-of-school youth completed Middle/JSS while 20% were training college graduands. Nearly forty-one percent (41.9%) of the out-of-school irregular youth did not complete primary school. The females were less likely than the males to have not completed primary school (14.5% females compared to 27.4%) (see Table 3). Slightly over eleven percent (11.3%) and 5% of the out-of-school irregular and regular youth, respectively, have no education at all.

Table 3  
Educational Level By Youth Category

Level of Education	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular Youth		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
No Education	-	-	-	-	5.0	5.0	1.6	9.7	11.3
Primary Incomplete	-	-	-	-	-	-	27.4	14.5	41.9
Primary Complete	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.1	1.6	9.7
Middle/JSS Incomplete	-	-	-	5.0	5.0	10.0	8.1	1.6	9.7
Middle/JSS Complete	-	-	-	20.0	5.0	25.0	19.4	1.6	21.0
Secondary/SSS Incomplete	-	-	-	-	5.0	5.0	3.2	-	3.2
Secondary/SSS Complete	-	-	-	5.0	5.0	10.0	3.2	-	3.2
Training College	-	-	-	10.0	10.0	20.0	-	-	-
JSS 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JSS 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JSS 3	.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SSS1	10.5	1.3	11.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
SSS 2	17.0	11.1	28.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
SSS 3	35.5	24.2	59.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sample Size:	153			30			40		

## 2.2. Reasons For Haven't Been to School

The most important reason for the out-of-school youth not being to school was poverty (66.7% of irregular youth and 50% of out-of-school regular). The youth were not sent to school either because the parents were poor, the father died or they did not have a guardian. The parents were too poor and could not afford to provide uniforms and pay the school fees. The females were more likely than the males to have come from poor parents.

### **2.3. Parents Background**

Parents education was very low. The majority of the out-of-school regular and irregular youth's parents (see Table 4) completed only middle or JSS level (35.3% and 28.2%, respectively). A significant percentage (15%) of the out-of-school regular did not have any education. The highest level of education attained by most fathers of the in-school youth was teacher training college (54%). Generally, the youth in-school were more likely than the out-of-school regular and irregular youth to have fathers of higher education.

The majority (63.3%) of the irregular youth came from mothers who did not have any education. The majority of the mothers of the in-school and regular out-of-school youth completed middle/JSS school (34% and 36.7, respectively). On the whole, the respondents' fathers were more likely than mothers to have been to school or have attained higher education.

The majority (28% and 52.9%, respectively) of the regular and irregular youth's fathers were farmers while those of in-school (15%) were teachers. On the other hand, a majority of the respondents' mothers were traders (73.1% of in-school youth, 60.3% regular, and 26% irregular mothers, respectively).

### **2.4 Aspiration of the Youth**

The youth had various aspirations. The majority of the in-school aspired to become professionals such as engineers (24.8%), followed by doctors (17%), nurse and teachers (7.2%) in that descending order. The males were more likely than the females among the in-school youth to aspire towards becoming engineers and doctors and the vice versa for becoming nurses and teachers.

the regular (16.4%) of the out-of-school, other hand, aspired to become artisans/tradesmen while the majority (18.1%) of the irregular aspired to become teachers, and traders/businessmen/women and lawyers (10.9%). The most important problems facing the youth were financial, inadequate school facilities/books/teachers, inadequate clothing, and poor academic performance.

## **2.5 Reasons For Street Involvement of Youth**

Twenty-seven (27%) percentage of street children surveyed either took a spontaneous decision to leave home or had an informed relative at the destination. Nearly sixteen percent (15.9%) planned for a long time to leave the home. Only 4.8% and 1.6% discussed with parents and informed relatives at home, respectively, before leaving the home.

The street involved youth advanced a variety of reasons for taking to street life. The most important reason for the youth involvement in the street (see Table 5) was to look for a job (33.4%). Closely related to this reason was the desire to earn their own incomes (22.2%). Equally important is the lack of somebody (e.g., parents, guardians) to provide their basic needs (15.5%). In effect 60% and 33% of them indicated that their fathers and mothers, respectively, have not given them adequate support, particularly that of finances. The street children perceived their mothers to be more supportive than the fathers and therefore had better relations with the former.

Even though an overwhelming majority (90.5%) of them planned to leave the street some day, most (85.7%) had no intention of returning home and indicated that their parents were indifferent/neutral about it. With the provision of sponsorship to pursue education/apprenticeship and provision of guardians, 64.3% and 14.3%, respectively, indicated that they would leave the street today. Another 14.3% would leave the street if they were given decent places to start their own businesses.

**Table 5**  
**Reasons For Youth Street Involvement**

Reasons	Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total
To look for a job	18.1	15.3	33.4
To earn own income	15.3	6.9	22.2
No peace at home	5.6	2.8	8.4
Nobody to provide needs	11.1	1.4	15.5
To learn a trade	4.2	-	4.2
Brought by relative	1.4	-	1.4
Peer/Friends influence	-	4.2	4.2
Adventure	1.4	-	1.4

Sample Size

72

## 2.6 Economic Activities of Street Involved Youth

Most (43.1%) of the males did shoe shining while that of the females was petty trading (21.5%) (see Table 6). A few of them (9.2%) also push trucks or did porter work for a living. Only 1.5% were engaged in commercial sex work or prostitution. It is interesting to note that those engaged in commercial sex work were males thus suggesting that the practice of homosexuality or that older women paid the male youth to have sexual intercourse with them. The majority (51.4%) of street children spend a bulk of their incomes on food and followed by clothing (30.6%). Slightly over eleven percent (11.1%) of them use their incomes to acquire assets, mostly items such as radios, tape recorders and bicycles.

**Table 5**  
**Economic Activities of Street Involved Youth**

Reasons	Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total
Petty trading	4.6	21.5	26.2
Shoe shine	43.1	-	43.1
Sex worker/ prostitute	1.5	-	1.5
Porter/ truck pusher	7.7	1.5	9.2
Barber/ Hair dresser	3.1	-	3.1
Other jobs	3.1	3.1	6.2

Sample Size 72

## 2.7 Future Plans of Street Children

The majority (49.2%) planned to learn a trade (see Table 7). Others (17.5%) planned to start trading/establish a business while 14.3% planned to raise capital to go into farming. Surprisingly, more female street children than males planned to go into farming. Slightly over eleven percent (11.1%) planned to further their education. Some (6.3%), mostly females, planned to marry. Nearly two percent (1.6%) planned to travel abroad.

**Table 6**  
**Future Plans of Street Involved Youth**

Reasons	Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total
To learn a trade	28.6	20.6	49.2
To start trading/ business	17.5	-	17.5
Travel abroad/ to country	1.6	-	1.6
To further my education	11.1	-	11.1
To raise capital for farming	4.8	9.5	14.3
I want to get married	1.6	4.8	6.3

Sample Size 72

### **3.0 KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE**

#### **3.1 Knowledge of Sexually Transmitted Disease**

The awareness of STDs was quite high among the three categories of the sample (65.3% , 97.6%, and 83%, respectively). The males of the irregular and in-school youth (47.2% and 52.3%, respectively) were more likely than the females to be aware of STDs and the vice versa for the regular youth (50.6% for females as against 47.1%). The most widely known STDs among the three categories of youth were gonorrhea (irregular, 100%; regular, 98.8%; and in-school 94.5%), and Syphilis (18.8%, 4.8%, 7.1%, respectively). Very few respondents were aware of genital warts while none heard of chlamydia and herpes.

#### **3.2 Source of Information About Sexually Transmitted Disease**

The main sources of STD information for the youth were the news media, friends, parents, forum/durbars, and church (see Table 8) . For the in-school youth and out-of-school regular, the news media was the most important source (40.2% and 40%, respectively) while that of the irregular out-of-school youth was friends (80.6%). The school was also the second most important source for the in-school youth (25.3%) and out-of-school regular (23.5%) while that of the irregular was the news media (19.5%). The church, forum/durbar, and other relatives were the least important sources of STD information for the respondents. Parents constituted a fairly significant source of STD information for in-school youth (14.6%). Friends constituted the most important source of STD information for out-of-school irregular youth, particularly the males (51.1% males versus 29.2% females).

Table 7

Percentage of Source of Information About STDs By Youth Category

Source	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Friends	3.3	4.0	7.3	7.1	10.6	17.7	51.4	29.2	80.6
Parents	10.6	4.0	14.6	2.4	-	2.4	-	-	-
Other Relatives	.7	-	.7	-	1.2	1.2	-	-	-
School	16.6	9.3	25.3	14.1	9.4	23.5	-	-	-
Forum/Durbar	.7	-	.7	2.4	2.4	4.8	-	-	-
Health Worker	3.3	6.6	9.9	1.2	8.2	9.4	-	-	-
News Media	27.2	13.2	40.2	18.8	21.2	40.0	13.9	5.6	19.5
Church	.7	-	.7	1.2	-	1.2	-	-	-

Sample Size

### 3.3 Prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Disease

There was low prevalence of STDs among the respondents in general but fairly high among their friends. Only 4.7% of the out-of-school regular admitted having ever been treated of STDs while a fairly significant percentage (49%) of the irregular, predominantly males, reported having ever been treated of STDs as well as having between 1-6 friends who have ever also been treated of STDs. In the overall, nearly twenty-three percent (22.8%) had friends who have ever been treated of STDs. The most common STDs that respondents contacted was gonorrhea. The majority (50%) of the out-of-school regular youth sought treatment of STDs at the hospital/clinic while the irregular all sought treatment from the drug store.

The most common drugs used for self-medication are antibiotics which were often used for a period ranging between 1-2 weeks. Most of the respondents were willing (71.9% of in-school, 96.2% of out-of-school regular, and 94.7% of irregular youth) to participate in STDs screening in a clinic.

Those unwilling to participate in STD screening (see Table 9) believed they either had no STDs (61.5%), it was not necessary (25.7%), or could not meet the cost of the screening.

Table 8  
Percentage of Reason for Not Wanting to Participate in STDs  
Screening By Sex of Youth

Reason	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
I don't have STDs	35.9	25.6	61.5	-	3.4	3.4	-	-	-
It is not necessary	23.1	2.6	25.7	1.1	-	1.1	-	-	-
It is expensive	12.8	-	12.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sample Size	152			87			72		

The general perception of the respondents was that they were not likely to get STDs. The in-school were more likely than the out-of-school youth to believe that they were definitely not likely to get STDs (42% of in-school compared to 24.7% out-of-school regular and 29.1% irregular) (see Table 10). However, the majority of the in-school (50.6%) and out-of-school irregular (63.2%) believed that they were definitely likely to get STDs.

Table 9  
Percentage of Likelihood of Getting STDs By Youth Category

Likelihood	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Definitely Not	25.0	17.0	42.0	14.8	9.9	24.7	26.5	2.6	28.1
Definitely Yes	25.0	10.7	35.7	22.2	28.4	50.6	39.5	23.7	63.2
Not Sure	11.6	10.7	22.3	9.9	14.8	24.7	7.9	-	7.9
Sample Size	152			87			72		

The respondents believed that the following categories of people were at risk of getting STDs: Prostitutes, youth, males, adults, multiple sex partners, and adults. This is because these categories of people are likely to be sexually active, to engage in indiscriminate and unprotected sex.

The respondents suggested measures for self-protection against getting STDs (see Table 11) included, abstinence from sex, faithfulness to one partner, both partners be faithful, use of condoms, avoidance of commercial Sex Workers, and use, and use of clean needles.

Table 10  
Percentage of What One Can Do to Protect Self Against  
Getting STDs By Youth Category

Measures to be Taken	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Abstinence from Sex	44.1	19.7	63.8	-	-	-	17.9	3.6	21.5
Faithfulness to one Partner	5.3	5.9	11.2	10.3	3.4	13.7	21.4	5.4	26.8
Both Partners be faithful	5.9	3.3	9.2	-	-	-	33.3	-	33.3
Use Condom	7.9	7.9	15.8	20.7	17.2	37.9	33.9	14.3	48.2
Avoid Commercial Sex Workers	-	-	-	6.9	3.4	10.3	-	-	-
Use Clean Needles	-	-	-	3.4	27.6	31.0	16.7	-	16.7
Sample Size:	145			82			65		

#### 4.0 KNOWLEDGE OF AIDS

This section outlines and discusses the youth's knowledge of AIDS, sources of information about it, the content of the information, the symptoms of AIDS, mode of transmission, protection against AIDS, and what should be done with people infected with AIDS.

#### 4.1 Awareness of AIDS

The awareness of HIV/AIDs was very high among the youth surveyed. One hundred percent (100%) of the out-of-school regular and irregular youth have heard of HIV/AIDs and 98.7% of the in-school youth. One hundred percent (100%), 94%, 96.5% of the irregular, regular, and in-school youth, respectively, also knew that HIV/AIDs could not be cured. Respondents could also describe the symptoms of HIV/AIDs.

#### 4.2 Source of Information About AIDS

The respondents' main sources of information about AIDS in order of importance were school, friends, health workers, news media, parents, other relatives, forum/durbar and the church (see Table 10). The most important source of information about AIDS for the Out-of-School youth were friends while the in-school was the School. The church is the least source of information about AIDS for the youth in spite of the proliferation of churches in Ghana over the past two decades.

Table 11  
Percentage of Source of Information About AIDS By Sex of Youth Category

Source of Information	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
School	16.6	9.3	25.9	14.1	9.4	23.5	-	-	-
Friends	3.3	4.0	7.3	7.1	10.6	17.7	51.4	29.2	80.6
Health Workers	3.3	6.6	9.9	1.2	8.2	9.4	-	-	-
News Media	27.2	13.2	40.4	18.8	21.2	40.0	13.9	5.6	19.4
Parents	10.6	4.0	14.6	2.4	-	2.4	-	-	-
Other Relatives	.7	-	.7	-	1.2	1.2	-	-	-
Sample Size	152			87			72		

### 4.3 Content of Information About AIDS

The main information heard about AIDS were that it: kills; cannot be cured; is a bad/dangerous disease; is blood related; and is a virus.

### 4.4 Knowledge of Transmission of AIDS

The respondents had a fair knowledge of how the AIDS Virus is transmitted (see Table 13). Indiscriminate sex/prostitution was the most widely known means by which the AIDS virus is transmitted (80.8%, 80%, and 75%, respectively, for in-school, out-of-school regular and irregular). The in-school female youth and out-of-school irregular (29.1% and 22.1%, respectively) were less likely than their male counterparts (51.7% and 52.9%, respectively) to believe that one could get HIV/AIDs through indiscriminate sex/prostitution. However, not many of the respondents, particularly the In-School youth (.7%), knew that AIDS can be transmitted through unprotected sex.

Table 12  
Percentage of Knowledge of How One Gets AIDS By Youth Category

How AIDS is Transmitted	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Indiscriminate sex/Prostitution	51.7	29.1	80.8	40.0	40.0	80.0	52.9	22.1	75.0
Sharing blades/needles	6.6	3.3	9.9	3.5	9.4	12.9	5.9	1.5	7.4
Eating with people with AIDS	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.4	2.9	7.3
Blood transfusion	1.3	1.7	3.0	-	2.4	2.4	-	-	-
Through unprotected sex	-	-	-	3.5	1.2	4.7	1.5	1.5	3.0
Through Birth	-	.7	.7	-	-	-	1.5	-	1.5
Sample Size	150			80			70		

Also a fairly high percentage of the Out-of-School youth (35.2% of regular and 63.3% of irregular) erroneously believed that one could get AIDS by using the same toilet with someone with someone with AIDs, eating from the same plate (19% and 31%, respectively), and using the same clothing with someone with AIDs (16.3 and 11.9%, respectively, for regular and irregular youth)(see Table 13) .

Table 13  
Percentage of Getting AIDS Through Doing Things With Someone  
With AIDS By Sex Youth Category

Will you Get AIDS If you...	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Talk to someone with AIDS	1.3	-	1.3	-	1.2	1.2	1.4	-	1.4
Touch someone with AIDS	3.3	2.7	6.0	-	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.4	2.8
Eat from the same plate with someone with AIDS	3.5	6.3	9.7	11.9	7.1	19.0	15.5	15.5	31.0
Use the clothing of someone with AIDS	3.4	2.7	6.1	6.3	10.0	16.3	9.5	2.4	11.9
Use the same razor with someone with AIDS	58.0	28.0	86.0	47.1	51.8	98.9	65.3	34.7	100.0
Use the same needle with someone with AIDS	58.4	36.9	95.3	47.1	52.9	100.0	65.3	34.7	100.0
Use the same toilet with someone with AIDS	6.5	8.7	15.2	16.9	18.3	35.2	34.7	28.6	63.3
Have sex with someone with AIDS	61.2	36.2	97.4	47.1	52.9	100.0	65.3	34.7	100.0
Sample Size:	150			87			72		

#### 4.5 Knowledge of Protection From Getting AIDS

The most widely known method (see Table 14) of what should be done to protect one from getting AIDS among the youth was abstinence (51.9%, 36.9%, and 39.4%, respectively, for in-school youth, out-of-school regular and irregular). A comparatively higher percentage (36.8%) of the In-School and out-of-school irregular (22.5%) male youth than their female counterparts believed that abstinence from sex was the method to protect them from getting AIDS. However, 15.4% and 7%, though small percentages, of

the Out-of-School regular and irregular youth believed in doing nothing to protect themselves from getting AIDS.

Table 14  
Percentage of What to Do to Protect One From Getting  
AIDS By Youth Category

Measures For Protection	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular Youth		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Noting/No Protection	-	-	-	7.1	8.3	15.4	2.8	4.2	7.0
Abstain from sex	36.8	15.1	51.9	14.3	22.6	36.9	22.5	16.9	39.4
Faithful to one partner	5.3	12.5	17.8	10.7	8.3	19.0	18.3	11.3	29.6
Both partners faithful	7.9	1.3	9.2	2.4	3.6	6.0	-	-	-
Use of condom	9.9	7.2	17.1	6.0	8.3	14.3	19.7	2.8	22.5
Avoid sex workers	2.0	.7	2.7	2.4	1.2	3.6	-	-	-

Sample Size:

152

87

72

#### 4.6 Attitudes Towards People With AIDS

The general attitude (see Table 15) of the youth surveyed towards people with AIDs (PWA) was negative. The majority (34.8%, 44%, and 38.9%, respectively, for in-school, out-of-school regular and irregular youth) were of the opinion that AIDS patients should be kept in isolation. Fairly high percentages of the three categories of the youth (11.9%, 14.3%, and 27.8%, respectively) were also of the opinion that PWA should be killed while 13.9%, 16.7%, and 19.4%, respectively) indicated that they should be kept in the hospital.

Table 15  
Percentage of What to Do With People With AIDS By Youth Category

Measures For Protection	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Kept in isolation	30.5	7.9	34.8	29.8	14.3	44.0	20.8	18.1	38.9
Kept in the hospital	2.6	11.3	13.9	6.0	10.7	16.7	11.1	8.3	19.4
Should be Killed	6.6	5.3	11.9	9.5	4.8	14.3	27.8	-	27.8
Should be castrated	2.6	2.6	5.2	-	2.4	2.4	-	-	-
Should be cared for	17.2	8.6	25.8	-	16.7	16.7	2.8	2.8	5.6
Nothing/be left alone	3.3	1.3	4.6	2.4	3.6	6.0	2.8	5.6	8.4
Sample Size:	152			87			72		

## 5.0 RISK BEHAVIOURS

### 5.1 Perceptions About Sexual Intercourse

The general perception among the respondents was that it was not possible for a normal person to stay without sex. The main reasons were that: sex is a strong natural desire; a normal person must marry at all cost and would therefore have to engage in sexual intercourse; and one could fall sick without sex. However, the majority (81.7%, 56.3% and 78.8%, respectively, for in-school, out-of-school regular and irregular) of youth agreed to the suggestion that it was normal for a boy and girl to be friends without having sex.

### 5.2 Frequency of Sexual Intercourse

The practice of sexual intercourse was fairly common among the youth. With regard to the in-school, 42.5% have ever had sex. The figures were even higher for the out-of-school regular (80.5%) and irregular (69.4%). Fairly high percentages of the respondents (81.7%, 93.1% and 88.9% respectively, of the in-school, out-of-school regular and irregular youth had friends who have ever had sex.

The reported ages (see Table 16 and 17) at first sex for the respondents and their youth and their friends ranged from a low of 7 to a high of 24 years with a majority with age range of 13-16 years (45%, 35.8%, and 72%, respectively, for in-school, out-of-school regular and irregular youth).

Table 16  
Percentage of Age at First Sex of Respondents By Youth Category

Age at First Sex	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
7-12 years	10.6	1.8	12.4	-	-	-	6.0	-	6.0
13-16 years	26.4	19.3	45.7	12.9	22.9	35.8	40.0	32.0	72.0
17-20 years	17.6	21.1	38.7	25.7	31.4	57.1	20.0	2.0	22.0
21-24 years	3.5	-	3.5	5.7	-	5.7	-	-	-
Sample Size:	152			87			72		

Table 17  
Percentage of Age at First Sex of Friends By Youth Category

Age at First Sex	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
7-12 years	5.7	1.4	7.1	-	5.3	5.3	2.5	2.5	5.0
13-16 years	20.0	22.8	42.8	17.6	28.0	45.6	52.5	18.0	70.5
17-20 years	38.5	14.2	52.7	26.4	18.9	45.3	17.5	5.0	22.5
21-24 years	7.1	-	7.1	5.3	-	5.3	-	-	-
Sample Size:	152			87			72		

In terms of frequency of having sex, the majority of the respondents were of the view that one must have sex weekly, followed by as and when one needs it. Most them reported having sex with one person within the last week (see Table 18). Of those who had casual partners, 34.6% of the Out-of-School had between 2-4 compared to 20.4% of the In-School youth.. The females were more likely than their male counterparts to have only one regular sexual partner.

Table 18  
Percentage of Number of People Had Sex Within the Last  
Week By Youth Category

Number of People	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
One	28.6	28.6	57.2	11.4	22.9	34.3	15.2	18.2	33.4
Two	14.3	-	14.3	5.7	11.4	17.1	39.4	21.2	60.6
Three	14.3	-	14.3	10.0	7.1	17.1	6.1	-	6.1
Four	14.3	-	14.3	2.9	8.6	11.4	-	-	-
Many	-	-	-	5.6	-	5.6	-	-	-
Sample size:	152			87			72		

### 5.3 Forms of Sexual Intercourse

The knowledge of other forms of sexual intercourse besides vaginal sex was fairly high among the youth surveyed (see Table 31). The most widely known forms were homosexuality, oral sex, and lesbianism in that descending order. The in-school youth were more likely than the out-of-school youth to know of other forms of sexual intercourse. Practice of other forms of sex beside vaginal sex was quite high. Nearly seventy-eight percent (77.7%) and 70.6%, respectively, of the in-school and out-of-school youth have had other forms of sexual intercourse besides vaginal sex twice (see Table 20).

Table 19  
Percentage of Number of Times Have Had Other Forms of Sexual  
Intercourse By Youth Category

Number of Times	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
One	-	-	-	15.4	38.5	53.8	-	-	-
Two	33.3	44.4	77.7	-	16.4	16.4	35.3	35.3	70.6
Three	-	11.1	11.1	-	-	-	17.6	-	17.6
four	11.1	-	11.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
many	-	-	-	7.7	7.7	17.4	11.8	-	11.8
Sample Size:	152			87			72		

The practice of commercial sex was quite prevalent among the youth surveyed. Slightly over three percent (3.3%), 33.3%, 48.6%, respectively of in-school, out-of-school regular and irregular have either paid or been paid for having sex. They paid or were paid (mainly the females) between ₦1,000 - ₦3000 in the case of the in-school youth and between, ₦1000 - ₦10,000 for out-of-school regular, per encounter.

## 6.0 RISK REDUCTION BEHAVIOUR

### 6.1 Knowledge and Use of Condoms

The awareness of condoms was very high among the youth surveyed ( 89.5% of in-school youth, 98.8% of regular, and 100%of the irregular youth). However, use of condoms was comparatively lower (28.8%, 54.8%, and 37.1%, respectively, for in-school, out-of-school regular and irregular). Nearly seventy-five percent (74.5%), 83.6%, and 100%, respectively, of the three categories of youth indicated that condoms were readily available if they needed some.

Of those who could not get condoms as and when in need, explained that either they and their partners did not like using condoms or that there were no drug stores within area they lived.

## 6.2 Perception of Effectiveness of Condoms

For the in-school youth, 75.4% believed that condoms could reduce the risk of getting AIDS when used during sexual intercourse. With regard to the out-of-school, 90.9% and 100% of the regular and irregular believed the use of condoms could reduce the risk of getting AIDS.

## 6.3 Reasons for Non-Use of Condoms

While some did not know how to use condoms, others refused to use condoms because there is no sexual satisfaction when condoms are used (see Table 20).

Table 20  
Percentage of Reason for Non-Use of Condoms By Youth Category

Reasons For Non-Use	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Don't know how to use it	17.9	-	17.9	5.6	-	5.6	12.5	-	12.5
Don't know where to get it	-	-	-	16.7	11.1	27.8	-	-	-
Because of no satisfaction with use	39.3	10.7	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sample Size:	28			18			8		

## 6.4 Measures to Protect Self From Getting Infection Since Hearing of AIDS

The main measures pursued by the youth to protect themselves from getting AIDS since they heard were abstinence from sex, use of condoms, and being faithful to one's partners (see Table 21).

Table 21  
Percentage of Measures For Self Protection Against AIDS  
Infection By Youth Category

Reasons For Non-Use	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Abstinence from sex	25.5	17.2	42.7	16.9	14.5	31.4	25.0	5.6	30.6
Being faithful to partner	8.3	6.9	15.2	13.3	8.4	21.7	5.6	-	5.6
Using condoms	9.0	9.0	18.0	13.3	15.7	29.0	20.8	16.7	37.5
Using Clean blades/needles	.7	-	.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Doing nothing	1.4	-	1.4	-	-	-	1.4	8.3	9.7
Sample Size	152			87			72		

## 7.0 SELF EFFICACY

Less than 40% of the in-school youth had confidence that they could use condoms correctly, every time, after drinking, insist on use of condoms, refuse to have sex when partner refuses to use condoms or get money to buy condoms (see Table 23) . However, the majority (58%, 57.8%, and 60.6%) of out-of-school irregular youth had confidence that they could use condoms correctly, every time, and get money to buy condoms, respectively. The out-of-school irregular youth (28.8%) were less likely than the regular (37.5%) and in-school youth (31.1%) to refuse to have sex when the partner would not use condoms.

Table 22

Percentage of Level of Confidence to Negotiate Safe Sex by Youth Category

How confident are you to ...	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Use condom correctly	10.2	7.4	17.6	21.8	32.1	53.9	53.2	4.8	58.0
Use condom every time	15.7	12.2	27.8	23.6	23.6	47.2	57.8	-	57.8
Use condom during sex after drinking	15.7	3.9	19.6	11.0	9.6	20.6	-	-	-
Insist on use of condom	16.2	9.5	25.7	19.7	15.5	35.2	37.9	-	37.9
Refuse to have sex when partner will not use condom	17.5	13.6	31.1	20.8	16.7	37.5	28.8	-	28.8
Get money to buy condoms	20.7	12.9	33.6	32.1	20.5	52.6	48.5	12.1	60.6
Sample Size:	152			87			72		

## 8.0 CAUSES OF SEX INDULGENCE BY ADOLESCENTS

The youth indulge in sex for mainly three reasons: because of poverty/economic, lack of parental care, and due to peer pressure (see Table 24). For the out-of-school regular (98.8%) and irregular (93.1%) youth, poverty was the most important factor for indulging in sex while that of in-school were lack of parental care (75.8%) and peer pressure (74.5%). Peer pressure was greater with the males than the females among the in-school and out-of-school irregular youth (53.6% male compared to 20.9% females for in-school; and 38.9% male compared to 14.3% female for out-of-school regular).

## 9.0 PROBLEMS FACING GHANAIA CHILDREN

### 9.1 Children in General

The three most important and interrelated problems (see Table 25) reported to be facing the Ghanaian children in general were poverty and lack of support, lack of education, and lack of parental care. The female in-school and out-of-school regular youth (20.7% and 15.1%, respectively) were more likely than their male counterparts (17.2% and 8.2%, respectively) to face the problem of poverty and lack of support.

Table 22  
Percentage of Major Problems Facing Ghanaian Children in  
General By Youth Category

Major Problems	In-School Youth			Out-of-School Regular Youth			Out-of-School Irregular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Poverty and Lack of Support	17.2	20.7	37.9	8.2	15.1	23.3	34.8	10.1	44.9
Lack of Education	17.9	6.9	24.8	13.7	1.4	15.1	10.1	17.4	27.5
Lack of Parental Care	13.1	1.4	14.5	16.4	17.8	34.2	13.0	4.3	17.4
Peer Pressure	.7	-	.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teenage Pregnancy	2.1	-	2.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lack of Job Opportunities	.7	1.4	2.1	4.1	4.1	8.2	10.1	-	10.1
Disobedience/criminality	2.1	2.8	4.9	5.5	5.5	11.0	-	-	-
Sample Size	152			87			72		

## 9.2 Problems Facing Street Children

The problems identified to be facing street children in Ghana were similar to those facing Ghanaian children in general, namely lack of parental care, accommodation, and financial support. It was the opinion of the youth surveyed that Ghanaian street children were at the risk of getting the AIDs virus because engage in sex at an early age, were involved in prostitution, and share blades/needles.

## 10.0 SMOKING AND ALCOHOLISM

Drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes were common among the out-of-school youth. Very few (less than 2%) of the in-school smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol. Less than one percent of the out-of-school irregular reported of ever using hard drugs, mainly marijuana. The ages at first smoking of cigarette, drinking of alcohol, and use of hard drugs among the respondents were 12, 10, and 15 years, respectively.

However, a significant percentage of the respondents had friends who smoke cigarettes and drink alcohol. The Out-of- School youth were more likely than the In-School to have friends who smoked cigarettes, drunk alcohol, and used drugs.

Those who drink and smoke explained that it all our of peer pressure and sometimes during festive and problem situations. They also indicated that their peers or friends did not disapprove their smoking and drinking.