

Protocol for a systematic review:

**STI and HIV/AIDS prevention  
programmes among  
adolescents in sub-Saharan  
Africa**

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# Outline

- Background
- Objectives of the review
- Criteria for considering studies for this review

# Background

## *Some statistics*

- In 2003, about 40 million people were estimated living with HIV/AIDS
- More than half of them were living in sub-Saharan Africa
- 50% of all new HIV infections affect young people

## *Importance of targeting adolescents*

- Period of risk taking, first experimentations
- Period important for the acquisition of future habits
- Adolescents are vulnerable ← underestimate
  - seriousness of HIV
  - often how it spreads
  - and to protect themselves
- In sub-Saharan Africa: sexual initiation occurs around 13 years for boys and 14 years for girls and is often done without condoms.
  - ➔ Crucial to prevent adolescents from HIV/AIDS

## *Possible barriers reducing impact of prevention programmes in sub-Saharan Africa*

Cultural, social and economic factors increasing transmission of STI and HIV

- ➔ gender inequities (women economic dependence)
- ➔ prostitution
- ➔ sexual & cultural practices (levirate, polygamy, dry sex)

# Objective of the review

Assess STIs / HIV prevention programmes  
for adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa for  
their effectiveness

# Criteria for considering studies

## **Types of studies**

Studies evaluating the effects of STDs / HIV prevention interventions among young people in sub-Saharan Africa

These studies will have to compare :

- an intervention with no / another intervention
- or - before and after interventions

## **Types of participants**

Adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa

# Type of intervention

Any intervention aimed at reducing the occurrence of STDs /AIDS  
May include: educational programs, behavioral change interventions, implementation of centers for adolescents

# Type of outcome measures

Studies measuring at least one HIV-related outcome:

- HIV & STD decrease in numbers
- Behavioral changes (increased use of condoms, reduced number of sexual partners...)
- Intention of changes
- Increased age of initial sexual activity
- Increased knowledge on STDs / HIV (what are STDs/AIDS? which are the symptoms? how to avoid transmission?)



# Search Strategy

- Comprehensive search strategy
- Cochrane methodology of quality assessment

- This sytematic review will be done in collaboration with the GFMER and WHO



# References

- UNAIDS and WHO (2003). AIDS epidemic update
- HIV/AIDS and adolescents, fact sheet In [http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/HIV/HIV\\_adolescents.htm](http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/HIV/HIV_adolescents.htm)
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