SCIENCE AND COMMUNITY IN THE RESPONSE TO HIV IN WESTERN AFRICA

AIDS 2019 POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

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DAY 1
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HIV prevention for adolescent girls, young women and their partners

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Presentation Outline

• Introduction/Definitions

• Key drivers of HIV transmission among AGYW

• Services available for HIV prevention among AGYW and their partners

• Challenges to prevention of HIV among AGYW and their partners

• Interventions that work to prevent HIV infection among AGYW
Who is an Adolescent?

• Definition (WHO)
  – Adolescent (10-19 years)
  – Young person (10-24 years)

• The transition between childhood and adulthood
What’s on the Minds of Adolescents?

- Peer relationships
- Relationships with parents and adults
- Gender roles; girls/women!
- Self-esteem
Levels of Influences on Adolescent Behavior

Modified from Challa et al, 2018
HIV data; the sad reality

In 2017

– Every week, 7000 adolescent girls and young women aged 15–24 years became newly infected with HIV.

– In Western and Central Africa, for every 3 new HIV infections among young men (aged 15–24 years), there were 5 new infections among young women.

Women and HIV; A spotlight on adolescent girls and young women, UNAIDS 2019
UNAIDS 2018 HIV Estimates for Ghana
NEW INFECTIONS BY GENDER

UNAIDS 2018 HIV Estimates for Ghana
Why?

1. Biological/anatomical factors
2. Gender inequalities
3. Societal/cultural norms
4. Etc. etc.

9 million girls aged 15–19 years experienced forced sex in 2017 alone!

Women and HIV; A spotlight on adolescent girls and young women, UNAIDS 2019
MINIMUM PACKAGE OF SERVICES

General health education

Addressing adolescent developmental problems

Nutrition services

Pre-conception care

Maternal Health Services

Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Services

Mental Health Services

Prevention of Injuries

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)

National Operational guidelines and standards for adolescent and youth friendly Health Services, Ghana
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

- Sexual and Reproductive health Assessment
- Guidance for development of reproductive health plans
- Comprehensive Sexuality Education
- Family Planning services for sexually active adolescents - NO AGE LIMITS
- Post Partum family Planning services for adolescent mothers
- Emergency Contraception
- HIV Services
- Care and Support for the sexually abused adolescent
- Breast/Testicular examination
- Referral for further assessment and management

National Operational guidelines and standards for adolescent and youth friendly Health Services, Ghana
HIV SERVICES

SBCC on Prevention of HIV and other sexually Transmitted Infections

Treatment and Care

Nutrition support for ALHIV

Blood Safety

HIV Testing and Counselling

Psychosocial support for ALHIV

Post exposure prophylaxis for rape survivors

Condom Promotion

National Operational guidelines and standards for adolescent and youth friendly Health Services, Ghana
Access to HIV prevention

ADOLESCENTS IN SCHOOL
• School clinics
• Adolescent clubs in schools
• Schools linked to health facilities
• Adolescent Corners in health facilities

ADOLESCENTS OUT OF SCHOOL
• All health facilities
• Adolescent community clubs
• Outreach services (PPAG, etc.)
Barriers

- Ignorance of available of services
- Limited access to adolescent friendly services (geographic)
- Poor service coordination
- Stigma
- Religious and cultural believes
- Laws and policies
- Funding
Factors to Improve Adolescent Health Care

- Enhance provider capacity
- Incorporate health promotion, disease prevention, and youth development
- Coordinate services
- Assure access to vulnerable populations
- Assure consent & confidentiality
- Engage young people

Incorporate health promotion, disease prevention, and youth development.
Interventions which have been shown work- empowering AGYW

- Keeping Girls in School

- Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)
  “an age-appropriate, culturally relevant approach to teaching about sex and relationships by providing scientifically accurate, realistic, non-judgmental information”

HIV Prevention with Adolescent Girls and Young Women (CHANGE, 2018)
• Holistic Adolescent and Youth Friendly Approaches
  – Health services
  – Social approaches
  – Economic approaches
• Reducing Gender-based violence (GBV)
• Working with men, families, and communities
  – Male engagement
  – Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC)
  – Community engagement
GHS-YMK app/GHS-FHMapp
Areas for improvement/attention

- Age of consent for testing
- Data capture
- Disclosure (Hayfron-Benjamin et al, 2018)
- Dealing with partner(s)
- ALHIV networks involvement
- Research
AGYW need us and it is time to implement interventions which have been proven to work!
Some resources

- Women and HIV; A spotlight on adolescent girls and young women, UNAIDS 2019
- UNAIDS 2018 HIV Estimates for Ghana
- National Operational guidelines and standards for adolescent and youth friendly Health Services-Ghana
- HIV Prevention with Adolescent Girls and Young Women (CHANGE, 2018)


- http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health

Acknowledgements
Thank you