



Annotated Example Conference Abstract



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Good Example: Title

What are the barriers to contraceptive use among Botswanian youth living in urban, informal settlements?

- The question format is engaging
- Population and setting are highlighted
- Main topic is conveyed



Good Example: Background



Background: Contraceptive use among youth in Botswana is still very low, as low as 3.8% among those below 19 years yet their level of sexual activity is high. By 2020, 41% and 30% of women and men respectively had initiated sex before the age of 19 years. There is a gap in our understanding of contraceptive use among youth in impoverished communities, referred to in our study as urban informal settlements. This is a particularly pressing issue because 53% of Botswana's population is below 20 years and 65% of Botswana's population lives in urban informal settlements. Youth living in such settings are at increased risk of unintended pregnancies, sexual violence, and sexually transmitted infections. This study aimed to identify and quantify the knowledge of and barriers to contraceptive access and use among youth, aged 15-24 years, living in urban informal settlements in Gaborone, Botswana.

Problem

Importance

Describe gap in knowledge

Explain unfamiliar terms or concepts

Describe setting and/or population

Importance

Objective(s)

Good Example: Methods



Methods: This study employed a cross-sectional study design. The largest three informal settlements in Gaborone were sampled, using convenience sampling to identify participants in each location. We strove to recruit an equal number of males and females in each location, as well as a balance of participants in the 15-19 year and 20–24-year age groups. Data were collected in 2024 using a validated questionnaire. The outcome (dependent) variables were knowledge about, access to and use of contraceptives. We described these separately by teen versus older age group and by gender. Descriptive statistics such as mean and percent were used to characterize our data.

Study design

Recruitment approaches
(if relevant)

Timing/duration of study

Outcomes, exposures, KEY
covariates

Avoid unnecessary details such as
the threshold for significance,
names of statistical software, etc.
KEY analytic approaches

Good Example: Results



Results: A total of 326 respondents participated in this study, with an overall average age of 19 years. Respondents demonstrated high knowledge of contraception (98%) yet only 34% had ever used contraceptives. About 41% of respondents had made their sexual debut with the average age of initiation of 17 years. A majority of respondents using contraceptives obtained them from the pharmacy (24%) and/or youth centers (31%). The following were identified as strong barriers to contraceptive access and use among respondents: long distances to access contraceptives, unavailability or stockout of contraceptives, lack of privacy at the service points, perceived stigma of accessing contraceptives, perceived judgment from service providers, lack of insurance coverage, fear of side effects, and pressure to give birth. No differences by gender or age group were identified.

Final sample size

2-3 KEY findings

Fully address aims

Avoid causal language
“impacted” etc. as
appropriate

Good Example: Conclusions



Conclusions: Despite demonstration of high knowledge of contraception, contraceptive use was low among young males and females in urban Botswana. Contrary to the belief that youth obtain contraceptives in health facilities, this study identified that most youth get their contraceptives from pharmacies and youth centers. The barriers identified in this study were similar to those from other studies in similar settings. To address low access due to service provider attitudes, training and standards should be implemented that shift such settings into judgment free access points. Adding youth centers with private spaces will further enhance access.

Interpret and explain main findings & implications

Avoid simply repeating results

Applications as appropriate

Next steps as appropriate