Determinants of Adolescent Sexual Risk-taking - Part 1

Stella Babalola, Associate Professor
April 10, 2019
Relevant determinants
Learning Objectives

At the end of this session, students will be able to:

- Describe the multilevel factors affecting key adolescent sexual behaviors
- Understand the possibility of using communication strategies to effectively change the determinants
Risk and Protective Factors

• Occur at various levels of the social ecological model:
  – Individual
  – Interpersonal (Family, Peers)
  – Organizational (School, Work)
  – Community
  – Political Environment

• Some modifiable; others difficult or impossible to alter
Behaviors and outcomes related to ASRH

• Premarital sexual initiation
• Multiple sexual partnerships
• Condom use
• Contraception
• Pregnancy and childbearing
• HIV/AIDS
• STIs
## Premarital sexual initiation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
<th>Protective Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Early age at puberty</td>
<td>• School enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Male</td>
<td>• School performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Academic difficulty</td>
<td>• High educational aspirations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Out-of-school Employment</td>
<td>• Religiosity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Permissive attitudes towards sex</td>
<td>• Effective sexual negotiation skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gun handling</td>
<td>• Co-residence with parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Older siblings early pregnancy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Attendance at discos/clubs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Smoking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Drug/Alcohol use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Type and frequency of movies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Perceived peer sexual experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Family structure/ instability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Type of place of residence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Center for Communication Programs**

**JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**
### Multiple Sexual Partnerships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
<th>Protective Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Older age</td>
<td>• Married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Male</td>
<td>• RH self-efficacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Employment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Perceived risk of HIV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Alcohol use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Timing of sexual debut</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Perceived peer sexual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Discussion of SRH with</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Place of residence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Condom use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
<th>Protective Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Perceives multiple barriers to condom use</td>
<td>• Condom use self-efficacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Negative partner attitudes towards condom use</td>
<td>• Knows where to procure condom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Early age at sexual debut</td>
<td>• Discussed SRH (or condom) with partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Alcohol intervention</td>
<td>• Prior STI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Perceives condom effectiveness</td>
<td>• Co-residence with parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Perceives at risk of HIV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Contraception

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
<th>Protective Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Low partner education</td>
<td>• Older age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No children</td>
<td>• Higher education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Contraceptive knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Small family size desire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Contact with FP worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Attended FLE class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Frequent sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Positive attitudes about contraception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Early sexual debut</td>
<td>• Partner’s professional employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Discussed sex/contraception with partner</td>
<td>• Joint decision-making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Urban residence</td>
<td>• Urban residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• High socio-economic status</td>
<td>• High socio-economic status</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Early pregnancy and childbearing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
<th>Protective Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Older age</td>
<td>• Higher education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Early age at puberty</td>
<td>• Contraceptive knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Younger age at marriage</td>
<td>• Co-residence with parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Non-use of contraceptives at first sex</td>
<td>• Father present in household</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Smokes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Early sexual debut</td>
<td>• Alcohol use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Employed</td>
<td>• Low future aspirations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Has a pregnant friend</td>
<td>• Has a pregnant friend</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

[Center for Communication Programs]

[JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH]
### HIV/AIDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
<th>Protective Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Older age</td>
<td>• Circumcised/Partner circumcised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Divorced/separated/widowed</td>
<td>• Regular use of condoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Commercial sex worker</td>
<td>• Lives in area of low burden of disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Early debut of sex work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Frequency of sex with CSW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unprotected anal sex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• History of STI (genital ulcer, Hep C, HSV2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## STIs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
<th>Protective Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Higher number of sexual partners</td>
<td>• Consistent condom use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Anal sex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prostitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Positive test for other STDs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Previous history of an STD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What can communication programs change?
## Policy environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Possibility of changing*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Penalties for sex with under-age persons</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at majority</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penalties for underage marriage</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy on access to contraception</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy on access to safe injections</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* That is, possibility that an ARH communication program would change this factor in short run
## Community factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Feasibility of Changing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic Mix</td>
<td>Very low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community malaise/social disorganization (violence/substance abuse, etc)</td>
<td>Very low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of health services</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Family Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Feasibility of Changing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two-parent household (biological)</td>
<td>Very low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorce/separation/single-parent</td>
<td>Very low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental education</td>
<td>Very low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental/household substance abuse</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality family interactions/connectedness</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Family factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Feasibility of Changing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parental supervision/monitoring</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical abuse within family</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of health services</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother’s early age at first sex</td>
<td>Very low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older siblings early sexual debut</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Family factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Feasibility of Changing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parental attitudes towards teen sex</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental attitudes towards contraceptive use by sexually active teens</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent-child communication about sex/condom use</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Peer factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Feasibility of Changing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Older age of peer group members</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer alcohol use</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer childbearing attitudes and behaviors</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer permissive values about sex</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer norms about condoms</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Partner factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Feasibility of Changing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Older partner</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner attitudes towards condom use</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Individual factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Feasibility of Changing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Being male</td>
<td>Very low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older</td>
<td>Very low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical maturity</td>
<td>Very low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>Very low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connectedness to school</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic performance</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Individual factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Feasibility of Changing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational aspirations</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community service</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religiosity/religious affiliation</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol/drug use</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gang affiliation</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem behavior</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Individual factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Feasibility of Changing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequent dating</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Going steady</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of prior sexual abuse</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connectedness to school</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid work</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Individual factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Feasibility of Changing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual beliefs</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual skills</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual attitudes</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncDGk2Tp784