

**TITLE:**

**STI AND HIV KNOWLEDGE, PREVALENCE AND  
RELATED BEHAVIOR AMONG YOUNG FEMALE  
TRADERS IN AN URBAN SLUM IN LAGOS NIGERIA**

**Authors:**

**Sekoni A.O, Oyedele D.K**

**Department of Community Health and Primary Care College of  
Medicine, University of Lagos Nigeria**



# Background

- Globally, sexually transmitted infections (STI) are responsible for a high burden of morbidity and mortality.
- Complications of improperly managed infections are felt years after the event.
- STI has also been linked to the development of cancers.
- Globally, a high proportion of young people in the lower socio-economic status have been found to indulge in risky sexual behavior that exposes them to infection
- In sub-Saharan Africa, poverty, gender inequality and unemployment puts young females at higher risk compared to the males
- An estimated twenty percent of people living in urban areas in Nigeria are in the 10-24years age range.

## **Aim**

- This study was carried out to assess STI and HIV knowledge, prevalence and related behavior among young female traders in Mushin community Lagos, Nigeria

# Methods 1

- Lagos state is one of the rapidly developing megacities in Africa and the commercial nerve centre of Nigeria. Because of its rapid population growth, urban slums are rapidly springing up
- The study area was Mushin local government. This is one of the popular long standing urban slum settlement in Lagos state
- Garages in Lagos state, double as trading places for many traders. This include those in shops, kiosks and hawkers
- They usually sell things like food, drinks (including alcoholic drinks) and snacks and cater to the basic needs of the drivers and or passengers.

## Methods 2

- There are three major divisions of the garages under the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) in Mushin local government
- Study population – Young female trader's 15-24 years of age who sell goods in garages in an urban slum in Lagos Nigeria
- A cross-sectional descriptive study design was used
- Sample size of 290 was calculated using the formula for descriptive study ( $n = z^2 pq / d^2$ )
- Simple random sampling was used to select one of the three divisions
- All the thirteen units of motor parks in this division were used

## Methods 3

- The sample size was divided equally among the 13 garages (22/garage)
- Traders were purposively selected. The first 22 traders within 15-24years age range were interviewed in each market
- Interviewer-administered questionnaire was used to collect information
- Ethical approval was obtained from LUTH HREC, participation was voluntary following written informed consent
- Data was analyzed using Epi info version7
- Knowledge questions were scored and graded. Scores above the mean was graded as good knowledge
- Association was explored using chi square at  $p < 0.05$

# Results 1 – Table showing socio-demographic characteristics

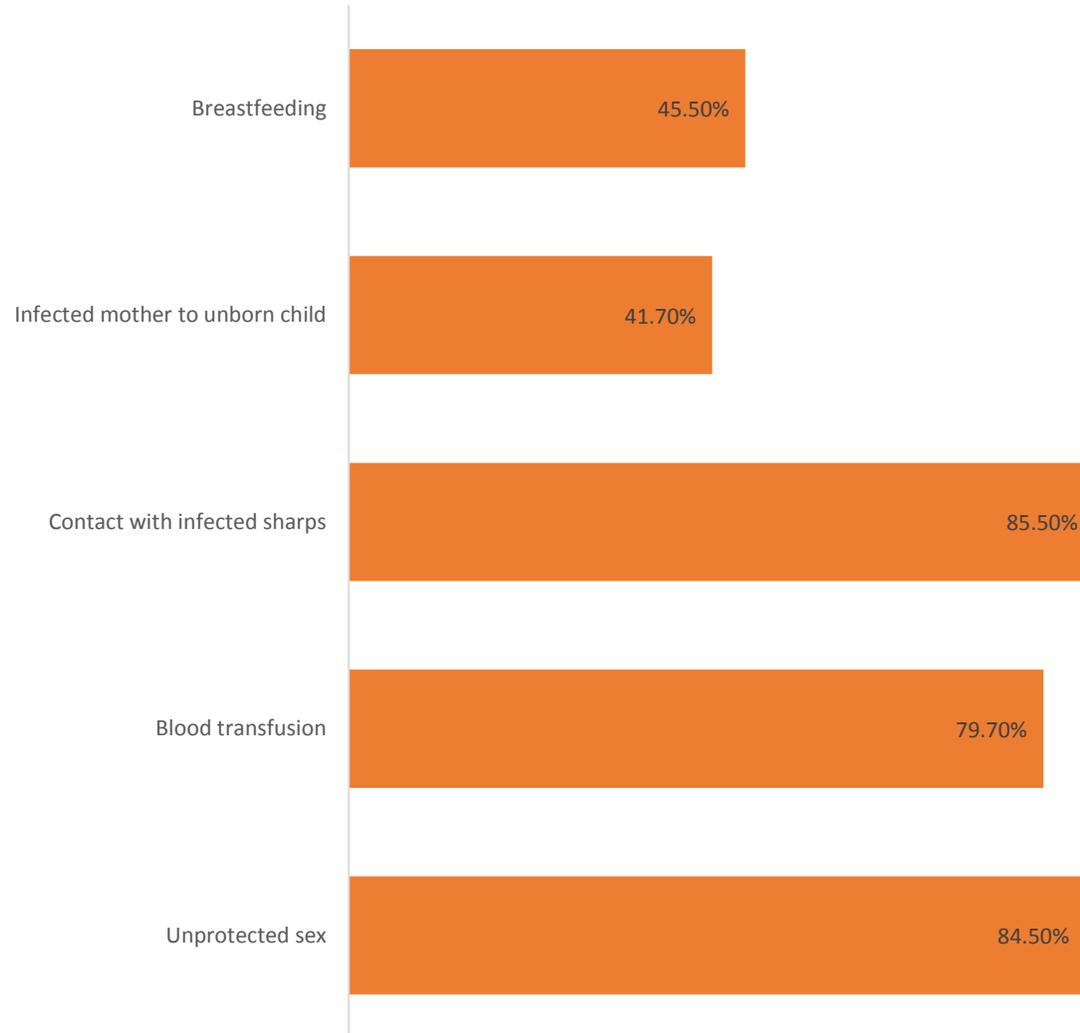
Variable (n=290)	Frequency (%)
Age (years)	
15 – 19	79 (27.2)
20 – 24	211 (72.8)
Mean 20.99±2.39	
Level of education	
No formal/primary	50 (17.2)
Secondary	191 (65.9)
Tertiary	49 (16.9)
Marital status	
Married	104 (35.9)
Single	186 (64.1)
Religion	
Christianity	149 (51.4)
Islam	141 (48.6)
Ethnicity	
Yoruba	234 (80.7)
Others	56 (19.3)

## Results 2 – Knowledge of symptoms and types of STIs

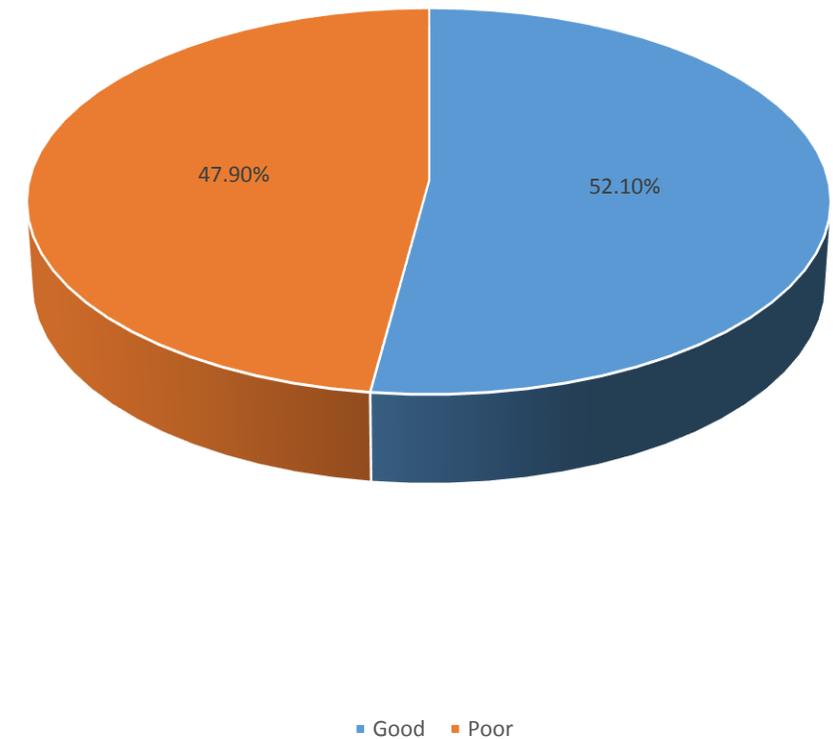
Variables (n=290)	Frequency (%)
Types of STI	
Gonorrhoea	249 (95.7)
Genital warts	49 (18.8)
Trichomoniasis	58 (22.3)
Syphilis	137 (52.6)
Hepatitis	113 (43.4)
Herpes	61 (23.4)
Symptoms of STI	
Asymptomatic	145 (50.0)
Genital discharge	198 (76.1)
Genital itching	205 (78.8)
Genital sores	152 (58.4)
Groin swelling	110 (42.3)
Pain during urination	160 (61.5)

# Result 3 – Knowledge of HIV and other STI

Modes of transmission for HIV and STI

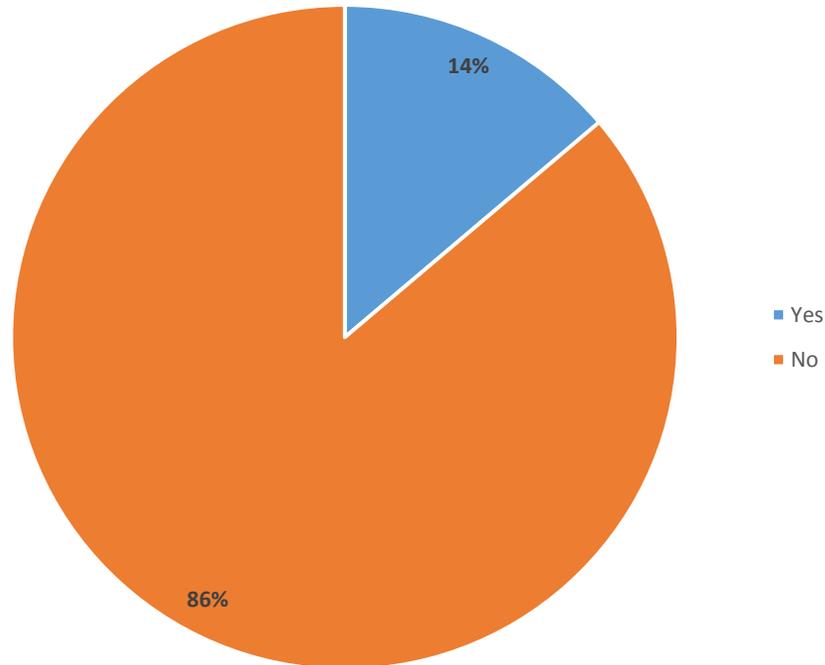


Overall knowledge regarding transmission, prevention, symptoms and types of STI and HIV

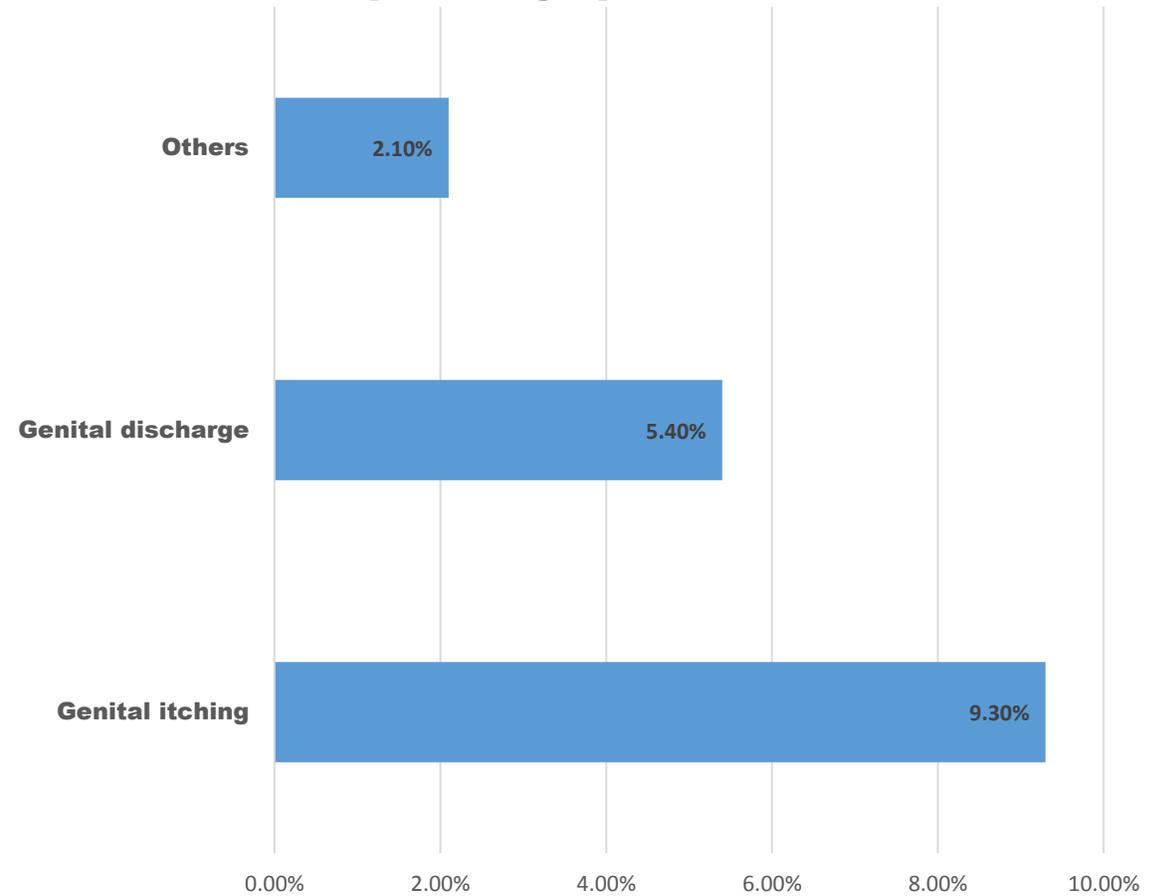


# Result 4 – Prevalence of STI and reported symptoms

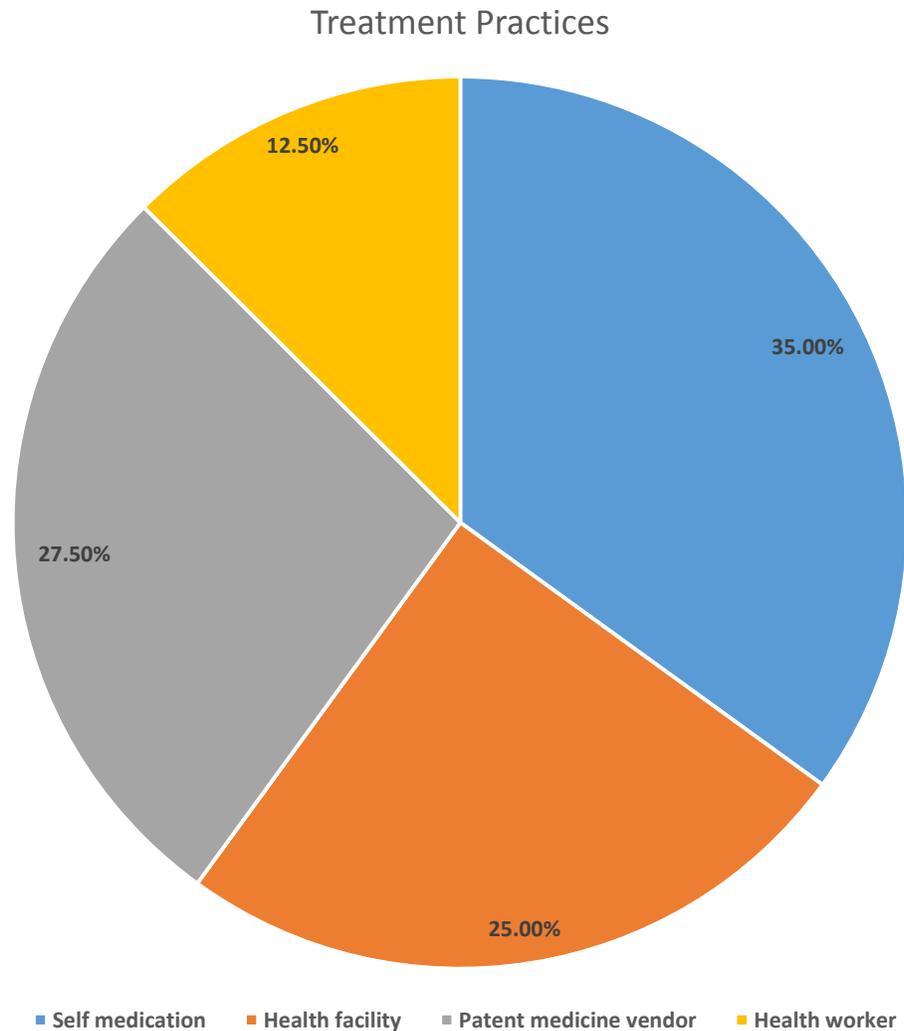
Prevalence of STI six months preceding data collection



Reported symptoms of STI



# Results 5 – Treatment for STIs and related behaviour



Related Behaviour	Frequency (%)
Condom use during STI episode	8 (20.0)
Sexually active traders (n=290)	216 (74.5)
Condom use at last sex among sexually active traders (n=216)	56 (26.0)
Knows HIV status of sexual partners (n=216)	97(45.0)

## Results 6 – HCT, Couple HCT and Associations

Variable	Frequency (%)
Tested for HIV (n=290)	111 (38.3)
Tested for HIV among sexually active (n=216)	94 (43.5)
Couple HIV Counselling and Testing (n=94)	39 (41.5)

- Increasing age and education of the traders was associated with HIV testing. Older females (19-24 years age group)  $p=0.009$  and those with at least a secondary school education ( $p<0.001$ ) were more likely to have been tested.
- Married traders were more likely to have been tested compared to single females ( $p=0.002$ ).
- Single traders were more likely to use condoms at last sex ( $p<0.001$ ) and to use it consistently ( $p=0.030$ ) compared to married traders

# Discussion

- Among the respondents in this study awareness of HIV was universal. Knowledge of the other STI was however lower. Similar to other Nigerian studies the commonest mentioned STI was Gonorrhoea.
- Knowledge about the modes of transmission was high but misconceptions still persist about mosquito bites, hand shake and witchcraft. This is similar to what was obtained in the Nigerian 2013 NDHS
- Young female traders working in garages are
  - economically disadvantaged
  - may not have adequate knowledge about HIV/STI prevention and treatment
  - ill equipped with the skill to negotiate refusal of sex/condom use
  - exposed to older sexually experienced men with disposable income

# Conclusion

- The young female traders in this urban slum had poor knowledge regarding HIV and STI. Reported high prevalence of STI and poor preventive and treatment practices

THANK YOU FOR READING