

**FACTORS INFLUENCING MULTIPLE SEXUAL PARTNERSHIPS  
AMONG FEMALE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN UGANDA**

**By**

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## ABSTRACT

Multiple sexual partnerships in most cases culminate in spreading of HIV/STDS within the society. This risky behavior increases the probability of negative consequences or adverse effect on one's life. It involves sexual activity with more than one partner. The general objective of the study was to establish factors influencing multiple sexual partnerships among female university students in Uganda. Data were from a study conducted in 2009 by Population service International on cross-generation sex. It was analyzed on 1020 weighted cases of female undergraduates across Ugandan universities aged 19-24 years. Analysis was done at three levels; univariate, bivariate and multivariate.

Significant determinants of multiple sexual partnerships among female university students were residential status, age at first sex, year of study, sponsorship and religion. The odds of engaging in multiple sexual partnerships were higher among younger females age 19-21 (OR=2.8) compared to older females 22-24, non residents (OR=2.1) compared to residents; second years (OR=1.1) compared to third years. Reduced odds were observed among private students (0.3) compared to government sponsored ones; Catholics (OR=0.5) and Muslims (OR=0.3) compared to other religions respectively.

Undergraduates exhibited behavior associated with early sexual intercourse. Most of them commenced sexual activities in second year. It is important to introduce course units on issues pertaining health especially sexuality, in first year across all faculties for adequate sensitization of students. Sensitization on sexuality sessions and open debates should be organized to expose the nature and magnitude of multiple sexual partnerships whereby non-residents gain attention. Introduce developmental plans for students with unstructured time, particularly the government sponsored; allow loan schemes payable after attaining employment. Religious groups should use these findings to help students understand factors associated with engagement in multiple sexual partnerships. There is need to engage female undergraduates in good and productive church activities leading into spiritual growth to avoid being redundant.

Research on male undergraduates should be conducted because fighting against HIV/AIDS needs challenging attitudes and practices of gender disparate. Policies and programs should be put forward in addressing multiple sexual partnerships through appropriate preventive efforts educating the entire students' community.