



I NO BIN GAT PROTECTION

Understanding HIV and AIDS Risk and Vulnerability Among
Vanuatu Youth

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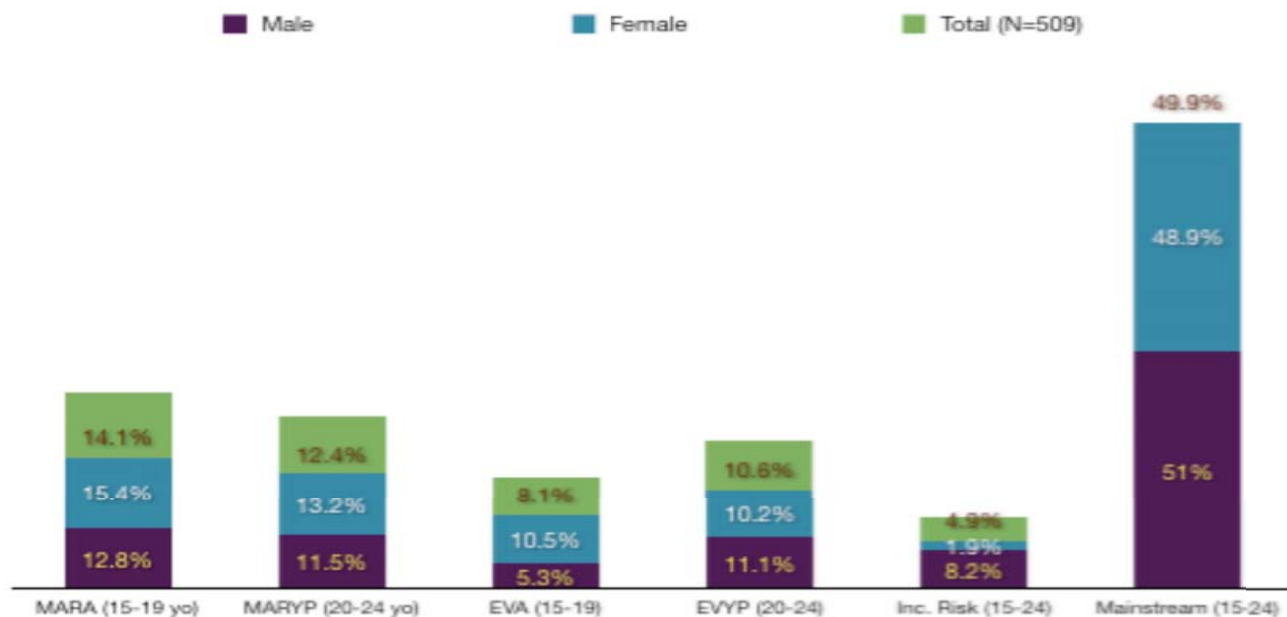
UNDERSTANDING HIV AND AIDS RISK AND VULNERABILITY AMONG VANUATU YOUTH

Despite the low prevalence of HIV and AIDS, young boys and girls, men and women in Vanuatu are at increased risk and vulnerability to HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). The level of risk and vulnerability is affected by certain behaviours like commercial and transactional sex, and the lack of knowledge for safe sex and substance abuse. A Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) survey was jointly organised by UNICEF Pacific Offices and the Government of Vanuatu from 2008 to 2009 to gain a better understanding of risk and vulnerability related to HIV and AIDS among most-at-risk and especially vulnerable adolescents, young people and general population youth in Vanuatu.

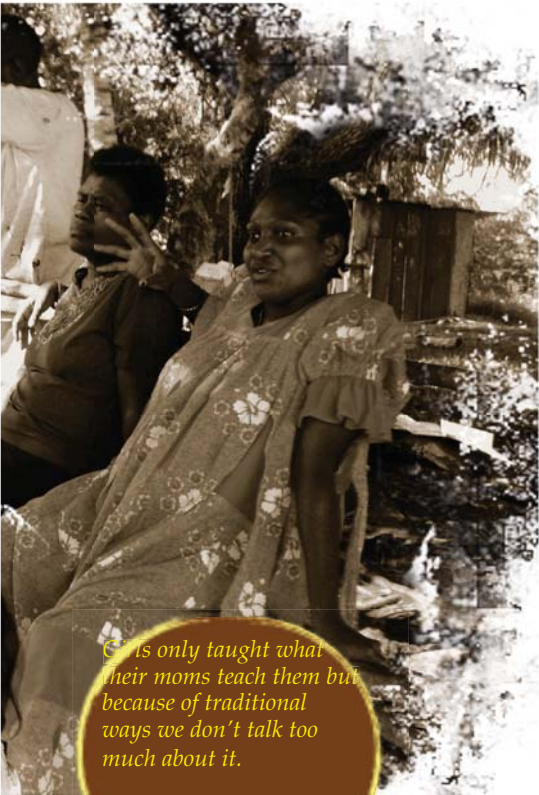
What the survey says

The survey has a total of 510 respondents from Port Vila area (213), Tanna in Tafea Province (130), and Malekula in Malampa Province (167). The KAP survey uses the term “adolescent” for youth ages 15-19, “young people” to describe the 20-24 age group, and “youth” for the sample of 15-24 years. The terms Most-at-Risk Adolescent (MARA), Most-at-Risk Young Person (MARYP), Especially Vulnerable Adolescent (EVA) and Especially Vulnerable Young Person (EVYP) are used in accordance with international standards.

The findings from mapping workshops, KAP survey questionnaires, Focus Group Discussions, and Key Informant Interviews are presented below.



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It is only taught what their moms teach them but because of traditional ways we don't talk too much about it.

Context of Vulnerability

- * Forced sex
- * Substance abuse
- * Poverty
- * Homelessness
- * Sexual Violence
- * Incest
- * Lack of Community and Family Support
- * Being away from home
- * Being out of school
- * Single mother
- * Pregnant Teens
- * Sexually-Transmitted Infections (STIs)
- * Displaced populations
- * Lack of leadership
- * Breakdown of family structure and safety net
- * Outside influences
- * Early onset sex
- * Pornography

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Knowledge about HIV and AIDS risk and prevention

- * A relatively **low level** (24%) of comprehensive knowledge of HIV and AIDS.
- * Only 10% of sexually active youth had been tested for HIV and received their results.

Attitudes

- * Less than 60% of respondents had used a condom, although 70% were sexually active. **Condom is viewed with embarrassment, fear and suspicion, making the promotion of safe sex a problematic issue.**
- * Forty-six percent said **their parents talked to them about sexuality and prevention of HIV** while there are more males who obtained HIV and AIDS information and condom from health clinic than females.
- * Sixty-five percent of respondents displayed low or **no perception of personal risk**, and **lack of focus on changing unsafe behaviour** despite a basic understanding of risks.

