



Summary Fact Sheet for Botswana

ASRH¹ Background²:

- Out of the 1.7 million people in Botswana, 22.4% are between the ages of 15-24.³
- In 2001, almost 40% of the population aged 15-49 was HIV positive.
- The rate of youth aged 15-24 years old who were suffering from an STI in 2001 was about 10%, while for 1994, 1993, and 1992 the rates averaged over 20%.
- The proportion of sexually active females, aged 10-14, that had been pregnant in 2001 was 12.1%; for those ages 12-24, it was 47.3%.
- 66% of 15-19 year olds are sexually active.
- In 2000, it was reported that most of the older youth (15-24 years) had a regular sexual partner and over 50% of the males, and 25% of the females, also had one casual partner in addition to a regular partner. The average number of regular sexual partners over the past year for sexually active youth was 1.2 for males and 1.0 for females.
- All adolescents (14-24 year olds) and 90% of youth (10-14 year olds) have heard of condoms. However, for their initial sexual event, 71% of female youth, compared to 34% of male youth, used a condom. For adolescents, 74% males and 87% of females used a condom for their initial sexual event. Currently sexually active young people report that they are using a condom for 93% of their sexual events.
- 50% of young children and 20% of older youth believes that if someone is known to be HIV positive, they should be isolated even if they do not show signs of illness. 33% of young people aged 15-24 and 75% of those ages 10-14 felt that a teacher who was living with HIV should not be allowed to continue teaching. Furthermore, almost 50% of those aged 15-24 and 80-90% of those aged 10-14 felt that if a shopkeeper was HIV positive, they would not purchase produce from them. Stigmas such as these lead people to keep their HIV/AIDS status a secret and will not seek health services.

AYA in Botswana Program⁴ 2003:

- \$7.9 million⁵
- 10 districts
- 11 implementing partners

Program Achievements⁶:

- 253 representatives of 36 different church denominations participated in AYA Stakeholder Policy and Advocacy Workshops. Churches and community leaders such as the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, the Anglican Diocese of Botswana, the Chairperson of the Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church of Botswana, the Chairperson of the Assemblies of God Church in Botswana, and the Chairperson of the Evangelical Fellowship of Botswana, publicly pronounced their support for ASRH programs and committed to implementing positive policies and laws on ASRH aimed at increasing access to services and information for young people.
- Enter-educate programs such as jam sessions, workshops, and puppet and drama theater have reached over 29,000 young people. Young people are reporting improved communication and negotiation skills gained from AYA activities.
- Botswana Family and Welfare Association (BOFWA) has improved five existing youth centers and has established three new youth friendly facilities to provide reproductive health outreach and has successfully dispersed over 27,000 condoms.
- To ensure sustained delivery of quality YFS⁷, the staff of 10 clinics were trained to conduct monitoring and support visits and 38 staff were trained in ASRH and the provision of youth friendly services.
- Through the Ministry of Education (MOE), 111 teachers and supervisors from six vocational training institutes have been trained to integrate ASRH into the course curriculum.
- The District Multisectoral AIDS Committees (DMSACs) reported that AYA supported coordination meeting have led to appreciation of youth matters. DMSACs now support youth activities by donating office space, providing transport, and sponsoring special events.

¹ Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health

² Government of Botswana (Ministry of Health/AYA). *The Sexual Behaviour of Young People in Botswana*. December 2001

³ "Country Profiles on The Situation of Youth: Botswana." *Youth at the United Nations*. 6 July 2004.

<<http://esa.un.org/socdev/unyin/countrys.asp?countrycode=bw>>

⁴ Please refer to the AYA Information Folder for more details.

⁵ 2001-2005

⁶ African Youth Alliance. *Annual Report 2003*. New York, NY: African Youth Alliance, 2003

⁷ Youth Friendly Services