

Zimbabwe continues to experience one of the worst HIV infection rates in sub-Saharan Africa. Because of the increased burden of disease due to AIDS, Zimbabwe has not only continued to scale up prevention, care, and treatment programmes to combat the disease, but also to strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems for these prevention programmes. Measuring changes in HIV/AIDS risk behaviours is important for successful tracking of the drivers of the epidemic in generalized epidemic states like that in Zimbabwe.

The principal mode of HIV transmission in Zimbabwe is heterosexual contact, which accounts for an estimated 80-90 percent of all HIV infections in the country (Zimbabwe National AIDS Council, 2005). The second most important mode of HIV transmission in Zimbabwe is perinatal transmission in which the mother passes HIV to the child during pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding. The prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) programme is a priority in the fight against HIV/AIDS in children in Zimbabwe. The programme seeks to prevent paediatric HIV infection through primary prevention of HIV infection in the childbearing population; prevention of unintended pregnancies; PMTCT through a single-dose nevirapine regimen; and provision of care and follow-up psychosocial support.

The future course of Zimbabwe's AIDS epidemic depends on a number of variables including levels of HIV/AIDS-related knowledge among the general population; social stigmatisation; risk behaviour modification; access to high-quality services for sexually transmitted infections (STI); provision and uptake of HIV counselling and testing; and access to care and antiretroviral therapy (ART), including prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections. The principal objective of this chapter is to establish the prevalence of relevant knowledge, perceptions, and behaviours at the national level and also within geographic and socioeconomic subpopulations. In this way, the AIDS control programme in Zimbabwe can target those groups of individuals most in need of information and most at risk of HIV infection.

In this chapter, HIV/AIDS-related knowledge and behaviour indicators are presented first for the entire population of women and men interviewed in the survey. To facilitate comparisons between sexes, differentials in these results are limited to the age group 15-49. The chapter concludes with a discussion of the findings for youth age 15-24.

## 13.1 HIV/AIDS KNOWLEDGE, TRANSMISSION, AND PREVENTION METHODS

ZDHS respondents were asked whether they had heard of HIV or AIDS. Those who reported having heard of HIV or AIDS were asked a number of questions about whether and how HIV/AIDS could be avoided.

Table 13.1 provides information on overall HIV/AIDS knowledge in Zimbabwe. In the population age 15-49, the knowledge rate was 98 percent among women and 99 percent among men. Knowledge levels are high among both men and women in all subgroups for which information is presented in Table 13.1. The lowest knowledge level was recorded among women in Matabeleland South (89 percent).

Table 13.1 Knowledge of HIV or AIDS

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 who have heard of HIV or AIDS, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Women		Men	
	Has heard of HIV or AIDS	Number of women	Has heard of HIV or AIDS	Number of men
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	97.2	4,104	98.6	3,358
15-19	96.5	2,152	97.9	1,899
20-24	97.9	1,952	99.5	1,459
25-29	98.6	1,466	99.7	1,082
30-39	98.5	2,050	99.8	1,545
40-49	98.5	1,287	99.9	878
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married	97.2	2,404	98.6	3,404
Ever had sex	97.8	559	99.6	1,611
Never had sex	97.0	1,845	97.7	1,793
Married/living together	98.0	5,143	99.8	3,132
Divorced/separated/widowed	98.5	1,360	99.6	327
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	99.2	3,502	99.8	2,767
Rural	97.0	5,405	98.8	4,096
<b>Province</b>				
Manicaland	98.7	1,043	98.8	793
Mashonaland Central	94.6	825	98.3	681
Mashonaland East	98.7	714	98.5	570
Mashonaland West	96.5	829	99.2	691
Matabeleland North	99.8	536	99.7	416
Matabeleland South	89.1	439	99.0	306
Midlands	98.8	1,193	99.2	956
Masvingo	99.6	1,137	99.4	771
Harare	98.4	1,492	99.7	1,219
Bulawayo	99.9	697	100.0	460
<b>Education</b>				
No education	95.5	380	96.6	88
Primary	96.2	2,902	97.9	1,782
Secondary	98.9	5,355	99.7	4,588
More than secondary	99.5	270	100.0	405
<b>Wealth quintile</b>				
Lowest	96.6	1,552	98.9	1,042
Second	96.2	1,500	98.1	1,137
Middle	97.6	1,546	99.1	1,194
Fourth	98.5	2,006	99.6	1,892
Highest	99.5	2,304	99.8	1,599
Total 15-49	97.9	8,907	99.2	6,863
Total 15-54	na	na	99.2	7,175

na = Not applicable

HIV/AIDS prevention programmes focus their messages and efforts on three important aspects of behaviour: use of condoms, limiting the number of sexual partners or staying faithful to one partner, and delaying sexual debut for young persons (i.e., abstinence). Table 13.2 shows that eight in ten or more women and men age 15-49 recognise that the risk of getting HIV can be reduced by limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner or by abstaining from sexual intercourse. Eighty-one percent of men also know that using condoms is a way to prevent HIV transmission and 71 percent agree that using condoms and limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner is a way to reduce the risk of getting HIV. Women are less likely than men to perceive using condoms, whether alone (76 percent) or in combination with limiting intercourse to one uninfected partner (65 percent), as a mode of prevention.

Table 13.2 Knowledge of HIV prevention methods

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 who, in response to a prompted question, say that people can reduce the risk of getting HIV by using condoms every time they have sexual intercourse, by having one sex partner who is not infected and has no other partners, and by abstaining from sexual intercourse, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Women					Men				
	Using condoms <sup>1</sup>	Limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner <sup>2</sup>	Using condoms and limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner <sup>1,2</sup>	Abstaining from sexual intercourse	Number of women	Using condoms <sup>1</sup>	Limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner <sup>2</sup>	Using condoms and limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner <sup>1,2</sup>	Abstaining from sexual intercourse	Number of men
<b>Age</b>										
15-24	72.4	78.5	61.5	78.7	4,104	79.0	82.8	68.2	85.7	3,358
15-19	67.8	76.7	57.7	77.7	2,152	75.9	81.3	65.1	84.4	1,899
20-24	77.5	80.5	65.7	79.9	1,952	83.0	84.7	72.2	87.4	1,459
25-29	80.6	84.3	70.6	83.0	1,466	82.7	86.6	72.9	90.1	1,082
30-39	80.2	82.9	69.4	83.5	2,050	85.1	86.0	75.3	89.6	1,545
40-49	73.6	80.4	64.2	79.6	1,287	82.5	87.6	74.1	87.7	878
<b>Marital status</b>										
Never married	71.9	79.6	61.9	80.8	2,404	79.6	82.8	68.8	86.6	3,404
Ever had sex	80.4	79.8	68.2	82.2	559	84.2	84.9	73.6	88.6	1,611
Never had sex	69.3	79.5	60.0	80.3	1,845	75.5	81.0	64.6	84.8	1,793
Married/living together	76.4	80.8	65.6	79.9	5,143	83.0	86.6	73.6	88.6	3,132
Divorced/separated/widowed	80.0	82.6	69.6	83.6	1,360	84.8	85.7	74.8	86.8	327
<b>Residence</b>										
Urban	79.6	85.6	70.1	85.7	3,502	85.2	79.9	69.7	90.5	2,767
Rural	73.2	77.7	62.1	77.4	5,405	78.8	87.9	72.3	85.5	4,096
<b>Province</b>										
Manicaland	76.4	84.8	68.6	78.1	1,043	75.4	85.1	68.0	82.3	793
Mashonaland Central	72.8	81.4	65.8	73.2	825	79.1	87.0	72.0	80.2	681
Mashonaland East	84.8	76.6	69.0	90.4	714	81.3	87.4	73.3	85.6	570
Mashonaland West	69.4	76.8	57.7	77.7	829	84.8	88.3	75.9	88.4	691
Matabeleland North	68.2	79.8	58.6	77.3	536	80.6	93.7	78.0	91.4	416
Matabeleland South	64.6	72.8	57.0	72.8	439	89.9	88.9	83.5	87.0	306
Midlands	82.8	77.7	67.7	83.2	1,193	76.2	88.3	71.3	87.6	956
Masvingo	71.7	77.3	59.2	73.1	1,137	83.8	92.0	78.8	91.2	771
Harare	74.6	85.1	64.6	85.7	1,492	84.0	65.1	55.3	90.3	1,219
Bulawayo	86.0	90.4	81.7	91.8	697	85.1	93.5	81.8	91.6	460
<b>Education</b>										
No education	62.8	68.9	51.4	70.2	380	71.6	79.5	62.0	78.4	88
Primary	69.9	74.7	58.1	74.2	2,902	76.3	83.9	68.2	82.4	1,782
Secondary	79.5	84.6	69.8	84.5	5,355	83.0	84.9	72.2	89.1	4,588
More than secondary	80.9	85.4	70.7	90.0	270	87.5	86.7	76.7	94.4	405
<b>Wealth quintile</b>										
Lowest	66.9	73.1	54.7	73.5	1,552	76.4	87.6	69.6	84.6	1,042
Second	73.5	77.2	61.9	76.6	1,500	79.4	88.3	73.9	83.7	1,137
Middle	77.0	80.2	67.0	79.4	1,546	78.6	85.8	70.8	85.6	1,194
Fourth	77.5	82.6	67.1	83.2	2,006	84.0	86.1	73.9	88.5	1,892
Highest	80.7	87.0	71.7	86.8	2,304	85.1	77.8	67.8	92.5	1,599
Total 15-49	75.7	80.8	65.2	80.7	8,907	81.4	84.7	71.3	87.5	6,863
Total 15-54	na	na	na	na	na	81.3	84.7	71.2	87.4	7,175

na = Not applicable

<sup>1</sup> Every time they have sexual intercourse

<sup>2</sup> Who has no other partners

Table 13.2 also presents differences in the levels of knowledge of these prevention methods by background characteristics. Youth age 15-24 generally have lower levels of knowledge than those in older age groups, and never-married respondents who have not yet had sex also are less likely to know about the prevention modes than those who have married or initiated sexual intercourse. As expected, urban residents are generally more knowledgeable about prevention modes than rural residents. There is considerable variation in knowledge levels by province; for example, 86 percent of women in Bulawayo recognise using condoms as a way to avoid getting HIV, compared with 65 percent of women in Matabeleland South. Women and men with higher levels of schooling are more likely than those with less schooling to be aware of the various prevention methods. Similarly, women and men in higher wealth quintiles are more likely than those in lower quintiles to know about actions that can be taken to reduce the risk of getting HIV.

As part of the effort to assess HIV/AIDS knowledge, the 2005-06 ZDHS obtained information on several common misconceptions about HIV transmission. Respondents were asked whether they think it is possible for a healthy-looking person to have the HIV and the chances of getting HIV from mosquito bites, from supernatural means, or from sharing food with a person who has HIV.

Tables 13.3.1 and 13.3.2 show the proportions of women and men who know that a healthy person can have HIV and who reject common misconceptions about HIV transmission. Eighty-six percent of women and 91 percent of men agreed that a healthy-looking person can have HIV. This represents an increase in the levels of women and men who recognise that people infected with HIV do not necessarily show signs of illness from the rates observed in the 1999 ZDHS (76 percent of women and 85 percent of men, respectively). With respect to the misconceptions about avenues of infection, 75 percent of women and men said HIV cannot be transmitted by mosquitoes. Eighty-seven percent of women and 90 percent of men know HIV cannot be transmitted by supernatural means. Eighty-two percent of women and 85 percent of men said a person cannot become infected by sharing food with a person who has HIV.

Two composite measures of HIV/AIDS knowledge are included in Tables 13.3.1 and 13.3.2. The first measure indicates that a majority (62 percent of women and 64 percent of men) know that the two most common misconceptions about HIV/AIDS (i.e., HIV can be transmitted by supernatural means or by sharing food) are incorrect and also are aware that a healthy-looking person can have HIV. The second measure shows that less than half of Zimbabwean women (44 percent) and men (47 percent) have what can be considered comprehensive knowledge about the modes of HIV transmission and prevention, i.e., they 1) know that both condom use and limiting sex partners to one uninfected partner are HIV prevention methods; 2) are aware that a healthy-looking person can have HIV, and 3) reject the two most common local misconceptions—that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted through supernatural means or sharing food with a person who has HIV. The youngest (age 15-19) and oldest (age 40-49) respondents are least likely to have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention methods. Those in urban areas are more likely than rural residents to have comprehensive knowledge. Among both women and men, the level of comprehensive knowledge is highest in Bulawayo. The proportion with comprehensive HIV/AIDS knowledge rises with education level and the wealth quintile among both women and men.

Table 13.3.1 Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS: women

Percentage of women age 15-49 who say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV and who, in response to prompted questions, correctly reject local misconceptions about HIV transmission or prevention, and the percentage with a comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Percentage of women who say that:				Percentage who say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV and who reject the two most common local misconceptions <sup>1</sup>	Percentage with a comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS <sup>2</sup>	Number of women
	A healthy-looking person can have HIV	HIV cannot be transmitted by mosquito bites	HIV cannot be transmitted by supernatural means	A person cannot become infected by sharing food with a person who has HIV			
<b>Age</b>							
15-24	83.7	78.5	88.3	84.8	64.2	43.7	4,104
15-19	81.0	78.7	88.7	83.4	64.3	41.4	2,152
20-24	86.6	78.3	87.8	86.4	64.1	46.3	1,952
25-29	89.1	77.3	88.3	82.9	65.3	49.0	1,466
30-39	88.4	71.7	86.9	81.7	60.7	45.2	2,050
40-49	84.6	65.7	82.3	75.1	53.0	38.7	1,287
<b>Marital status</b>							
Never married	84.8	81.7	89.9	86.1	68.8	46.3	2,404
Ever had sex	88.6	79.1	90.2	87.0	68.7	50.1	559
Never had sex	83.7	82.4	89.9	85.9	68.8	45.1	1,845
Married/living together	85.8	72.2	86.3	80.7	59.4	43.0	5,143
Divorced/separated/ widowed	87.5	72.9	85.3	82.0	59.3	45.1	1,360
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	91.7	80.7	90.2	89.3	70.4	51.3	3,502
Rural	81.9	71.1	85.1	77.9	56.4	39.6	5,405
<b>Province</b>							
Manicaland	84.5	73.5	88.1	81.4	59.3	44.4	1,043
Mashonaland Central	83.5	70.5	86.8	81.1	61.5	45.3	825
Mashonaland East	90.5	67.8	83.5	81.9	57.5	39.5	714
Mashonaland West	78.3	70.6	79.0	77.0	50.6	32.2	829
Matabeleland North	90.5	73.4	92.6	82.0	65.1	43.9	536
Matabeleland South	79.3	59.6	81.8	66.7	51.8	37.3	439
Midlands	89.1	86.1	89.9	88.1	73.1	52.8	1,193
Masvingo	76.4	72.4	83.6	75.5	49.3	35.1	1,137
Harare	88.9	77.1	90.7	89.1	67.0	43.9	1,492
Bulawayo	97.7	85.5	91.8	89.6	78.9	67.2	697
<b>Education</b>							
No education	74.9	53.4	77.4	66.2	39.8	25.8	380
Primary	78.4	66.2	80.9	71.9	49.1	32.8	2,902
Secondary	90.0	80.5	90.9	88.6	69.6	51.0	5,355
More than secondary	96.3	87.7	91.7	94.3	78.7	58.6	270
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	75.8	70.4	83.3	74.2	51.0	34.1	1,552
Second	79.9	69.7	83.4	75.7	54.8	38.5	1,500
Middle	85.8	71.3	86.5	81.3	58.9	42.6	1,546
Fourth	89.8	76.0	89.2	84.8	65.2	45.9	2,006
Highest	92.8	82.7	90.7	90.9	73.1	54.4	2,304
Total	85.8	74.9	87.1	82.4	61.9	44.2	8,907

<sup>1</sup> Two most common local misconceptions: (1) HIV can be transmitted by mosquito bites and (2) a person can become infected by sharing food with a person who has HIV.

<sup>2</sup> Comprehensive knowledge means knowing that use of condoms and having just one uninfected, faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting HIV, knowing that a healthy-looking person can have HIV, and rejecting the two most common local misconceptions about HIV transmission or prevention.

Table 13.3.2 Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS: men

Percentage of men age 15-49 who say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV and who, in response to prompted questions, correctly reject local misconceptions about HIV transmission or prevention, and the percentage with a comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Percentage of men who say that:				Percentage who say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV and who reject the two most common local misconceptions <sup>1</sup>	Percentage with a comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS <sup>2</sup>	Number of men
	A healthy-looking person can have HIV	HIV cannot be transmitted by mosquito bites	HIV cannot be transmitted by super-natural means	A person cannot become infected by sharing food with a person who has HIV			
<b>Age</b>							
15-24	88.6	76.9	90.6	86.0	64.6	45.6	3,358
15-19	85.0	78.2	90.0	84.3	63.8	43.5	1,899
20-24	93.3	75.2	91.4	88.3	65.7	48.4	1,459
25-29	92.5	73.3	91.5	86.7	65.3	49.3	1,082
30-39	95.4	73.5	91.7	85.7	66.4	50.8	1,545
40-49	93.9	69.0	85.1	80.2	58.8	44.2	878
<b>Marital status</b>							
Never married	88.8	78.0	90.4	86.6	65.4	46.7	3,404
Ever had sex	92.0	75.7	91.4	87.4	64.7	48.8	1,611
Never had sex	85.9	80.0	89.5	85.9	66.1	44.8	1,793
Married/living together	94.0	71.4	90.1	84.0	63.4	47.6	3,132
Divorced/separated/widowed	95.0	70.0	90.6	84.4	63.4	47.9	327
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	96.2	80.7	91.5	91.1	72.7	51.4	2,767
Rural	88.2	70.5	89.5	81.4	58.7	44.3	4,096
<b>Province</b>							
Manicaland	87.6	76.5	93.3	82.6	65.4	46.5	793
Mashonaland Central	85.1	73.7	89.6	82.9	60.1	46.2	681
Mashonaland East	86.1	79.1	88.5	88.0	64.5	50.1	570
Mashonaland West	94.3	69.9	92.3	86.3	62.5	48.5	691
Matabeleland North	88.7	62.7	87.7	74.9	51.5	42.7	416
Matabeleland South	94.4	77.1	90.3	87.3	68.2	58.9	306
Midlands	93.3	77.3	86.0	82.6	64.3	47.5	956
Masvingo	90.2	64.1	88.5	80.7	55.2	45.1	771
Harare	95.2	79.8	92.3	92.6	72.1	39.3	1,219
Bulawayo	98.2	81.1	94.2	91.2	75.9	64.2	460
<b>Education</b>							
No education	84.9	49.9	64.3	57.6	35.4	21.8	88
Primary	84.4	60.9	86.5	73.4	47.9	35.5	1,782
Secondary	93.6	79.1	92.0	89.6	69.8	50.7	4,588
More than secondary	98.7	88.9	92.6	95.5	81.6	63.7	405
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	85.5	66.9	87.8	77.5	53.1	38.8	1,042
Second	88.1	65.0	88.7	78.5	54.6	41.6	1,137
Middle	88.6	73.8	90.8	83.2	61.8	46.3	1,194
Fourth	94.2	77.1	91.2	88.8	68.8	51.9	1,892
Highest	96.5	84.0	91.6	92.7	75.3	51.7	1,599
Total 15-49	91.4	74.6	90.3	85.3	64.4	47.2	6,863
Total 15-54	91.4	74.0	90.1	84.9	63.9	46.9	7,175

<sup>1</sup> Two most common local misconceptions: 1) HIV can be transmitted by mosquito bites, and 2) a person can become infected by sharing food with a person who has AIDS.

<sup>2</sup> Comprehensive knowledge means knowing that use of condoms and having just one uninfected, faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting HIV, knowing that a healthy-looking person can have HIV, and rejecting the two most common local misconceptions about HIV transmission or prevention.

## 13.2 KNOWLEDGE ABOUT MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION

Increasing the level of general knowledge of transmission of HIV from mother to child and reducing the risk of transmission using antiretroviral drugs is critical to reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV (MTCT). To assess MTCT knowledge, respondents were asked if the virus that causes AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to a child through breastfeeding and whether a mother with HIV can reduce the risk of transmission to the baby by taking certain drugs during pregnancy.

Table 13.4 shows that eight in ten women and men recognised that HIV can be transmitted through breastfeeding. This represents a substantial change from the situation at the time of the 1999 ZDHS when only 33 percent of women and 36 percent of men were aware that HIV could be transmitted from mother to child through breastfeeding. Although women and men are more aware than previously about mother-to-child transmission, knowledge about how this risk can be reduced remains comparatively low; only 57 percent of women and 46 percent of men knew that the risk of MTCT can be reduced by taking special drugs. Fifty-two percent of women and 39 percent of men were both aware that HIV can be transmitted through breastfeeding and that this risk can be reduced by taking special drugs.

MTCT knowledge levels increased with educational level and the wealth quintile, were higher among urban than rural residents, and were lowest in Midlands and highest in Bulawayo.

Table 13.4 Knowledge of prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV

Percentage of women and men who know that HIV can be transmitted from mother to child by breastfeeding and that the risk of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV can be reduced by the mother taking special drugs during pregnancy, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Women				Men			
	Percentage who know that:			Number of women	Percentage who know that:			Number of men
	HIV can be transmitted by breast-feeding	Risk of MTCT can be reduced by mother taking special drugs during pregnancy	HIV can be transmitted by breastfeeding and risk of MTCT can be reduced by mother taking special drugs during pregnancy		HIV can be transmitted by breast-feeding	Risk of MTCT can be reduced by mother taking special drugs during pregnancy	HIV can be transmitted by breastfeeding and risk of MTCT can be reduced by mother taking special drugs during pregnancy	
<b>Age</b>								
15-24	76.4	54.4	48.0	4,104	78.1	43.8	36.7	3,358
15-19	72.0	48.7	41.7	2,152	76.5	40.0	33.2	1,899
20-24	81.2	60.6	55.0	1,952	80.1	48.8	41.4	1,459
25-29	84.0	62.5	57.8	1,466	80.5	48.2	40.4	1,082
30-39	84.2	60.0	55.6	2,050	83.1	47.3	41.5	1,545
40-49	79.7	55.0	49.5	1,287	80.9	47.0	40.9	878
<b>Marital status</b>								
Never married	73.5	53.0	46.0	2,404	78.0	44.1	36.9	3,404
Ever had sex	79.5	62.8	56.4	559	81.3	48.1	41.4	1,611
Never had sex	71.6	50.0	42.8	1,845	75.1	40.5	32.8	1,793
Married/living together	82.2	58.0	53.2	5,143	81.6	47.1	40.7	3,132
Divorced/separated/ widowed	82.4	60.7	55.4	1,360	83.4	48.3	42.3	327
<b>Currently pregnant</b>								
Pregnant	78.3	53.1	47.6	589	na	na	na	0
Not pregnant or not sure	80.0	57.4	51.9	8,318	na	na	na	0
<b>Residence</b>								
Urban	82.1	69.2	62.6	3,502	80.5	55.1	46.4	2,767
Rural	78.4	49.3	44.4	5,405	79.6	39.4	33.9	4,096
<b>Province</b>								
Manicaland	79.9	63.8	56.0	1,043	75.0	40.4	32.6	793
Mashonaland Central	83.3	60.5	56.0	825	82.1	41.3	35.9	681
Mashonaland East	77.5	62.7	55.4	714	71.5	54.4	47.5	570
Mashonaland West	79.9	57.4	53.2	829	78.6	40.2	32.9	691
Matabeleland North	83.0	47.9	44.0	536	79.3	41.6	35.2	416
Matabeleland South	67.1	46.0	38.3	439	86.0	57.1	53.8	306
Midlands	84.6	35.6	33.6	1,193	86.2	26.3	23.2	956
Masvingo	76.8	52.6	47.8	1,137	81.0	45.1	38.3	771
Harare	78.0	63.1	55.1	1,492	79.9	52.1	44.0	1,219
Bulawayo	85.0	82.2	77.7	697	79.3	79.2	66.2	460
<b>Education</b>								
No education	77.9	39.2	37.8	380	74.5	28.9	28.9	88
Primary	76.2	46.7	42.5	2,902	80.3	37.9	34.1	1,782
Secondary	81.5	62.5	56.0	5,355	79.7	48.0	40.0	4,588
More than secondary	90.6	86.5	80.5	270	82.0	58.1	49.5	405
<b>Wealth quintile</b>								
Lowest	76.3	39.9	36.6	1,552	80.9	35.6	32.1	1,042
Second	77.9	46.3	42.0	1,500	78.2	37.8	32.1	1,137
Middle	79.4	52.2	46.3	1,546	79.4	40.3	33.1	1,194
Fourth	81.0	64.5	57.9	2,006	79.7	51.2	43.8	1,892
Highest	83.0	72.5	65.9	2,304	81.2	55.4	46.9	1,599
Total 15-49	79.9	57.1	51.6	8,907	79.9	45.7	38.9	6,863
Total 15-54	na	na	na	na	80.2	45.7	39.1	7,175

na = Not applicable



### 13.3 ATTITUDES TOWARDS PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

Widespread stigma and discrimination in a population can adversely affect both people's willingness to be tested and adherence to antiretroviral therapy in young ART programmes such as the one currently being rolled out in Zimbabwe. Reduction of stigma and discrimination in a population is, thus, an important indicator of the success of programmes targeting HIV and AIDS prevention and control.

In the 2005-06 ZDHS, women and men who had heard of HIV or AIDS were asked a number of questions to assess the level of stigma associated with HIV/AIDS. Tables 13.5.1 and 13.5.2 present these results for women and men.

Although there was a considerable gender gap, attitudes were most positive with respect to caring for a relative with HIV in the respondent's home; 91 percent of women and 71 percent of men would be willing to care at home for a relative with HIV. The latter proportion represents a substantial reversal in attitude since the 1999 ZDHS when 88 percent of men said they would care for a relative with HIV in their home. In contrast, women were slightly more positive about caring for a sick relative at the time of the 2005-06 than at the time of the 1999 ZDHS (88 percent).

A majority expressed accepting attitudes towards a female teacher with HIV; 71 percent of women and 75 percent of men agreed that she should be allowed to continue teaching. Attitudes were somewhat less positive towards a shopkeeper with HIV, particularly among women; 57 percent of women would buy fresh vegetables from a shopkeeper with HIV, compared with 67 percent of men. Less than half of both women (49 percent) and men (46 percent) indicated that they would not keep secret that a family member was infected with HIV. Overall, only 17 percent of women and 11 percent of men expressed accepting attitudes with regard to all four situations, i.e., they would care for an HIV-positive family member in their own home, buy fresh food from a shopkeeper with HIV, allow an HIV-positive teacher to continue teaching, and would not keep the HIV-positive status of a family member a secret.

Stigma levels in the population are related to most of the defining characteristics shown in Tables 13.5.1 and 13.5.2. With the exception of the attitude towards keeping a family member's HIV status secret, accepting attitudes were generally more common among urban than rural residents. There were marked differences by province in the proportions of women and men expressing accepting attitudes, with men from Matabeleland South and men and women from Bulawayo being most likely to express accepting attitudes with respect to all four situations. The likelihood that accepting attitudes were expressed generally increased with the educational level and the wealth quintile.

Table 13.5.1 Accepting attitudes towards those living with HIV/AIDS: women

Among women who have heard of HIV or AIDS, percentage expressing specific accepting attitudes towards people with HIV/AIDS, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Percentage of women who:				Percentage expressing acceptance attitudes on all four indicators	Number of women who have heard of HIV or AIDS
	Are willing to care for a family member with HIV in the respondent's home	Would buy fresh vegetables from shop-keeper who has HIV	Say that a female teacher with HIV and is not sick should be allowed to continue teaching	Would not want to keep secret that a family member got infected with HIV		
<b>Age</b>						
15-24	88.8	57.3	72.0	51.1	17.5	3,987
15-19	87.4	56.6	69.6	55.1	18.5	2,076
20-24	90.4	58.1	74.6	46.9	16.4	1,911
25-29	93.8	58.6	75.0	46.6	18.3	1,446
30-39	92.5	56.3	71.5	45.5	16.2	2,019
40-49	92.2	53.6	65.6	52.2	16.1	1,268
<b>Marital status</b>						
Never married	88.7	61.2	76.2	49.9	19.5	2,336
Ever had sex	91.1	59.4	79.8	51.3	21.1	547
Never had sex	88.0	61.7	75.0	49.5	19.0	1,790
Married/living together	91.6	54.3	69.3	49.2	16.0	5,043
Divorced/separated/ widowed	92.6	58.5	71.1	48.0	17.3	1,340
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	91.2	64.5	83.6	40.3	18.7	3,476
Rural	90.8	51.7	63.4	55.2	16.1	5,243
<b>Province</b>						
Manicaland	93.2	56.2	76.3	50.0	19.5	1,029
Mashonaland Central	94.6	55.0	63.3	52.8	16.6	781
Mashonaland East	93.6	56.4	71.6	49.6	15.3	705
Mashonaland West	88.1	53.5	60.7	44.3	9.9	800
Matabeleland North	87.2	52.1	70.5	64.8	26.4	535
Matabeleland South	87.9	56.7	65.6	66.6	26.2	391
Midlands	94.2	58.2	69.2	41.6	12.1	1,179
Masvingo	90.2	49.1	57.6	58.9	14.3	1,133
Harare	91.0	61.8	86.6	35.5	14.9	1,469
Bulawayo	84.8	67.1	83.8	53.8	30.2	697
<b>Education</b>						
No education	90.5	39.6	47.8	62.9	13.1	363
Primary	90.6	46.1	58.1	57.4	13.9	2,792
Secondary	91.4	62.4	79.0	45.0	19.0	5,296
More than secondary	88.7	80.8	93.6	30.4	19.5	268
<b>Wealth quintile</b>						
Lowest	88.1	45.3	55.2	61.8	14.3	1,499
Second	90.8	47.5	59.8	56.3	15.9	1,443
Middle	92.6	56.6	68.4	52.4	17.2	1,509
Fourth	92.5	59.6	78.5	46.3	18.3	1,975
Highest	90.6	67.8	85.3	37.0	18.7	2,293
<b>Total</b>	91.0	56.8	71.4	49.2	17.1	8,719

Table 13.5.2 Accepting attitudes towards those living with HIV/AIDS: men

Among men who have heard of HIV/AIDS, percentage expressing specific accepting attitudes towards people with HIV/AIDS, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Percentage of men who:				Percentage expressing acceptance attitudes on all four indicators	Number of men who have heard of HIV or AIDS
	Are willing to care for a family member with HIV in the respondent's home	Would buy fresh vegetables from shop-keeper who has HIV	Say that a female teacher with HIV and is not sick should be allowed to continue teaching	Would not want to keep secret that a family member got infected with HIV		
<b>Age</b>						
15-24	64.7	66.8	73.3	53.6	11.7	3,310
15-19	60.6	64.5	70.0	59.6	12.6	1,859
20-24	69.9	69.8	77.4	45.9	10.6	1,451
25-29	76.3	70.7	77.0	37.7	10.5	1,079
30-39	76.8	68.9	76.9	38.3	9.7	1,542
40-49	77.8	62.1	72.6	39.1	9.1	877
<b>Marital status</b>						
Never married	66.0	68.0	74.7	52.3	12.3	3,357
Ever had sex	68.4	67.0	74.4	50.4	12.3	1,605
Never had sex	63.8	68.9	75.0	54.1	12.3	1,752
Married/living together	76.2	66.7	75.2	38.3	9.1	3,125
Divorced/separated/ widowed	71.1	65.9	67.6	49.1	10.9	326
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	75.7	74.3	87.3	38.9	12.5	2,761
Rural	67.6	62.5	65.9	50.4	9.6	4,047
<b>Province</b>						
Manicaland	59.7	65.7	70.4	52.0	7.6	783
Mashonaland Central	50.7	58.6	63.2	48.4	0.5	670
Mashonaland East	69.8	72.5	73.2	28.1	1.0	562
Mashonaland West	66.5	63.3	65.4	40.1	2.9	685
Matabeleland North	90.8	61.3	59.1	62.3	24.6	415
Matabeleland South	85.6	72.6	84.3	72.8	43.9	303
Midlands	72.9	61.0	75.6	43.2	5.9	948
Masvingo	78.3	69.6	71.2	55.2	19.3	766
Harare	68.2	75.4	88.9	29.3	2.5	1,215
Bulawayo	90.7	72.1	87.1	61.5	37.9	460
<b>Education</b>						
No education	71.3	53.1	56.0	52.3	9.7	85
Primary	63.0	51.2	56.6	58.1	9.8	1,745
Secondary	73.1	72.0	80.0	42.2	10.9	4,573
More than secondary	80.0	86.7	95.4	31.5	13.6	405
<b>Wealth quintile</b>						
Lowest	65.3	56.6	58.8	59.5	12.3	1,031
Second	69.0	58.8	63.8	50.0	9.0	1,115
Middle	64.7	64.2	67.8	47.8	7.4	1,183
Fourth	74.5	71.4	81.2	41.6	10.7	1,884
Highest	76.4	77.7	89.6	37.3	13.5	1,596
Total 15-49	70.9	67.3	74.6	45.7	10.7	6,808
Total 15-54	71.0	67.1	74.4	45.8	10.8	7,119

#### 13.4 ATTITUDES TOWARDS NEGOTIATING FOR SAFER SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH HUSBANDS

The high levels of sexual transmission of HIV make negotiating for safer sex indispensable, especially in marital unions where women's status is compromised by societal expectations, thereby increasing their vulnerability to HIV transmission. Table 13.6 shows that a substantial majority of both women and men in Zimbabwe acknowledge that, if a husband has a sexually transmitted infection, a wife can refuse to have sex with him (79 percent and 77 percent, respectively). A somewhat larger percentage

of women and men consider it appropriate for the wife to ask the husband to use a condom in this situation (83 percent and 86 percent, respectively). Overall, more than nine in ten women and men believe that a wife is justified in taking action to protect herself from infection. The lowest proportions agreeing that a wife can take action are observed among women and men who have no education (81 percent and 85 percent, respectively).

Table 13.6 Attitudes towards negotiating safer sexual relations with husband

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 who believe that, if a husband has a sexually transmitted infection, his wife is justified in refusing to have sexual relations with him or asking that he use a condom, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Women				Men			
	Woman is justified in:			Number of women	Woman is justified in:			Number of men
	Refusing to have sexual relations	Asking that they use a condom	Refusing sexual relations or asking that he use a condom		Refusing to have sexual relations	Asking that he use a condom	Refusing sexual relations or asking that he use a condom	
<b>Age</b>								
15-24	77.2	80.8	90.7	4,104	74.0	81.4	90.5	3,358
15-19	73.4	76.9	88.1	2,152	72.9	78.2	89.8	1,899
20-24	81.5	85.0	93.5	1,952	75.4	85.5	91.4	1,459
25-29	82.1	84.7	93.7	1,466	74.8	86.7	93.3	1,082
30-39	82.1	87.2	94.6	2,050	82.9	91.0	96.5	1,545
40-49	78.9	79.8	89.6	1,287	84.0	90.3	96.6	878
<b>Marital status</b>								
Never married	79.0	80.4	90.5	2,404	75.3	82.4	91.6	3,404
Ever had sex	86.0	89.5	95.6	559	76.1	84.8	92.5	1,611
Never had sex	76.9	77.7	88.9	1,845	74.7	80.2	90.8	1,793
Married/living together	79.1	83.7	92.4	5,143	79.8	88.6	94.4	3,132
Divorced/separated/ widowed	81.1	83.2	92.5	1,360	75.8	88.6	95.3	327
<b>Residence</b>								
Urban	84.1	88.4	94.9	3,502	83.0	92.9	97.3	2,767
Rural	76.4	79.1	90.0	5,405	73.6	80.5	90.2	4,096
<b>Province</b>								
Manicaland	77.7	73.1	90.1	1,043	68.5	79.2	88.6	793
Mashonaland Central	75.7	78.0	90.3	825	65.8	77.7	87.8	681
Mashonaland East	76.6	83.8	92.1	714	74.2	88.1	94.4	570
Mashonaland West	76.4	81.5	90.4	829	73.1	87.9	92.7	691
Matabeleland North	87.8	89.5	96.1	536	90.7	88.4	96.2	416
Matabeleland South	81.4	83.6	92.7	439	90.2	88.9	98.1	306
Midlands	86.5	88.6	94.8	1,193	73.9	80.4	91.3	956
Masvingo	67.1	75.5	85.0	1,137	77.2	82.4	91.1	771
Harare	79.4	84.7	93.3	1,492	84.0	92.8	97.0	1,219
Bulawayo	93.0	95.3	98.0	697	89.9	92.9	98.0	460
<b>Education</b>								
No education	68.7	67.7	80.6	380	72.1	74.0	84.7	88
Primary	72.4	77.6	88.7	2,902	73.1	75.7	87.5	1,782
Secondary	83.3	86.1	94.2	5,355	78.4	88.7	94.9	4,588
More than secondary	91.1	93.5	96.5	270	86.0	95.4	98.5	405
<b>Wealth quintile</b>								
Lowest	71.6	75.4	86.5	1,552	74.1	76.5	87.9	1,042
Second	75.8	78.7	89.9	1,500	74.5	80.0	90.9	1,137
Middle	78.5	80.6	91.7	1,546	69.0	79.5	89.1	1,194
Fourth	81.4	86.3	93.8	2,006	79.7	90.7	95.7	1,892
Highest	85.8	88.8	95.4	2,304	85.2	93.7	97.9	1,599
Total 15-49	79.4	82.8	91.9	8,907	77.4	85.5	93.1	6,863
Total 15-54	na	na	na	na	77.5	85.6	93.2	7,175

na = Not applicable

### 13.5 ATTITUDES TOWARDS CONDOM EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

Condom use is one the main strategies for combating the spread of HIV. However, educating youth about condoms is sometimes controversial, with some saying it promotes early sexual experimentation. To gauge attitudes towards condom education, ZDHS respondents were asked if they thought that children age 12-14 should be taught about using a condom to avoid HIV. Because the table focuses on adult opinion, results are tabulated for respondents age 18-49 in the table.

Less than half of adults support teaching children age 12-14 about condoms (Table 13.7). Men are slightly more likely than women to support education about condom use (48 percent and 41 percent, respectively). Support is highest among those living in Bulawayo, where six in ten women and men approve of condom education for children age 12-14. Women in Mashonaland East (28 percent) and men in Midlands (35 percent) are least likely to accept that children age 12-14 should be educated about condoms.

### 13.6 HIGHER-RISK SEX

Given that most HIV infections in Zimbabwe are contracted through heterosexual contact, information on sexual behaviour is important in designing and monitoring intervention programmes to control the spread of the epidemic. The 2005-06 ZDHS included questions on respondents' sexual partners during their lifetimes and over the 12 months preceding the survey. For male respondents, an additional question was asked on whether they paid for sex during the 12 months preceding the interview. Information on the use of condoms at the last sexual encounter with each type of partner was collected for women and men. These questions are sensitive, and it is recognised that some respondents may have been reluctant to provide information on recent sexual behaviour.

Tables 13.8.1 and 13.8.2 show, for those who had sexual intercourse, the percentages who had two or more partners in the 12 months preceding the survey and who had higher-risk intercourse during

Table 13.7 Adult support of education about condom use to prevent HIV

Percentage of women and men age 18-49 who agree that children age 12-14 years should be taught about using a condom to avoid HIV, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Women		Men	
	Percentage who agree	Number of women	Percentage who agree	Number of men
<b>Age</b>				
18-24	41.6	2,871	51.4	2,193
18-19	39.1	919	45.0	734
20-24	42.8	1,952	54.6	1,459
25-29	41.2	1,466	48.9	1,082
30-39	41.2	2,050	45.0	1,545
40-49	41.3	1,287	43.8	878
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married	44.7	1,327	50.1	2,240
Married or living together	39.7	5,002	45.9	3,132
Divorced/separated/widowed	44.2	1,345	53.9	326
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	47.3	3,056	50.9	2,434
Rural	37.4	4,618	45.9	3,264
<b>Province</b>				
Manicaland	39.6	903	47.2	616
Mashonaland Central	39.0	680	53.0	575
Mashonaland East	27.7	634	49.2	478
Mashonaland West	41.5	721	49.6	605
Matabeleland North	44.7	461	50.9	336
Matabeleland South	50.9	360	45.8	237
Midlands	40.2	1,014	34.6	786
Masvingo	36.4	985	42.4	598
Harare	42.9	1,315	50.8	1,071
Bulawayo	59.6	600	64.2	396
<b>Education</b>				
No education	37.7	377	51.2	86
Primary	36.6	2,525	42.9	1,396
Secondary	43.7	4,503	48.9	3,814
More than secondary	52.6	269	56.3	402
<b>Wealth quintile</b>				
Lowest	36.5	1,353	43.3	828
Second	36.4	1,277	46.8	925
Middle	36.6	1,291	44.8	881
Fourth	43.5	1,755	49.9	1,677
Highest	49.1	1,998	51.3	1,386
Total 18-49	41.4	7,674	48.0	5,698
Total 18-54	na	na	47.6	6,010

na = Not applicable

that period, i.e., intercourse in the past 12 months with a partner who was neither a spouse nor lived with the respondent. Among those who had higher-risk intercourse, the tables also show the percentage of respondents who used a condom during the last higher-risk intercourse. Finally, Tables 13.8.1 and 13.8.2 provide information on the mean number of lifetime sexual partners among those who ever had intercourse.

Table 13.8.1 Multiple sexual partners and higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months: women

Among women age 15-49 who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, the percentage who had intercourse with more than one partner and the percentage who had higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, and among those having higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months, the percentage reporting that a condom was used at last higher-risk intercourse, and the mean number of sexual partners during her lifetime for women who ever had sexual intercourse, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Among women who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months:			Among women who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months:		Among women who ever had sexual intercourse:	
	Percentage who had 2+ partners in the past 12 months	Percentage who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months <sup>1</sup>	Number of women	Percentage who reported using a condom at last higher-risk intercourse <sup>1</sup>	Number of women	Mean number of sexual partners in lifetime	Number of women
<b>Age</b>							
15-24	1.8	16.4	2,031	42.4	333	1.4	2,308
15-19	2.8	24.3	609	40.7	148	1.3	691
20-24	1.3	13.0	1,423	43.7	185	1.5	1,617
25-29	1.2	8.2	1,247	54.1	102	1.6	1,414
30-39	1.2	9.3	1,651	53.1	154	1.7	2,028
40-49	0.7	7.3	917	42.3	67	1.8	1,282
<b>Marital status</b>							
Never married	6.1	91.5	360	46.2	330	2.1	553
Married or living together	0.4	0.6	4,972	(24.9)	29	1.4	5,126
Divorced/separated/ widowed	6.4	57.8	513	49.4	297	2.2	1,354
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	2.1	16.7	2,095	55.3	349	1.7	2,571
Rural	0.9	8.2	3,751	36.9	306	1.6	4,463
<b>Province</b>							
Manicaland	0.7	8.4	655	(48.5)	55	1.4	834
Mashonaland Central	1.8	5.6	616	(72.7)	34	1.7	702
Mashonaland East	0.8	7.4	469	(37.0)	35	1.7	591
Mashonaland West	1.4	9.6	580	(66.2)	55	1.8	696
Matabeleland North	0.4	17.5	391	26.4	68	2.0	450
Matabeleland South	3.3	26.5	280	30.2	74	2.2	341
Midlands	0.9	7.4	812	35.1	60	1.6	943
Masvingo	0.9	6.1	769	(44.2)	47	1.3	910
Harare	2.2	14.0	880	51.3	124	1.5	1,078
Bulawayo	1.2	26.2	394	57.5	103	2.0	487
<b>Education</b>							
No education	0.9	6.4	280	*	18	1.5	374
Primary	1.4	8.6	2,099	34.4	181	1.8	2,550
Secondary	1.4	13.2	3,271	51.7	432	1.6	3,876
More than secondary	0.3	12.4	195	(58.5)	24	1.5	233
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	0.8	8.2	1,116	27.5	92	1.6	1,341
Second	0.9	6.1	1,076	33.7	66	1.5	1,257
Middle	1.4	9.4	1,024	37.9	96	1.6	1,236
Fourth	1.9	12.8	1,361	53.8	175	1.8	1,630
Highest	1.4	17.9	1,268	56.5	227	1.6	1,570
Total	1.3	11.2	5,846	46.7	655	1.6	7,033

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

<sup>1</sup> Sexual intercourse with a partner who neither was a spouse nor who lived with the respondent

Table 13.8.2 Multiple sexual partners and higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months: men

Among men age 15-49 who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, the percentage who had intercourse with more than one partner and the percentage who had higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, and among those having higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months, the percentage reporting that a condom was used at last higher-risk intercourse, and the mean number of sexual partners during his lifetime for men who ever had sexual intercourse, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Among men who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months:			Among men who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months:		Among men who ever had sexual intercourse:	
	Percentage who had 2+ partners in the past 12 months	Percentage who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months <sup>1</sup>	Number of men	Percentage who reported using a condom at last higher-risk intercourse <sup>1</sup>	Number of men	Mean number of sexual partners in lifetime	Number of men
<b>Age</b>							
15-24	19.8	77.5	1,195	68.0	927	3.8	1,621
15-19	15.2	96.5	342	54.4	330	2.9	518
20-24	21.7	69.9	854	75.6	597	4.3	1,103
25-29	15.9	34.4	913	77.9	314	5.8	1,019
30-39	10.6	16.4	1,456	79.9	238	5.7	1,495
40-49	9.8	10.4	817	55.9	85	8.0	840
<b>Marital status</b>							
Never married	19.7	98.9	1,056	69.7	1,044	4.2	1,598
Married or living together	11.7	10.8	3,102	75.3	334	5.8	3,057
Divorced/separated/ widowed	20.2	83.0	224	71.9	186	9.4	321
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	14.1	37.9	1,798	83.2	681	6.2	2,050
Rural	14.0	34.2	2,584	61.9	883	5.0	2,926
<b>Province</b>							
Manicaland	16.8	32.3	459	76.0	148	4.5	508
Mashonaland Central	16.8	35.3	462	77.1	163	5.0	535
Mashonaland East	4.2	26.4	332	72.1	88	5.9	389
Mashonaland West	15.8	34.7	466	80.2	162	6.7	537
Matabeleland North	13.2	44.0	305	43.1	134	5.0	318
Matabeleland South	2.4	42.3	164	64.2	69	5.7	189
Midlands	13.4	31.1	599	59.5	186	4.8	683
Masvingo	18.9	37.3	497	59.6	185	4.5	546
Harare	15.3	35.5	777	86.4	276	6.4	934
Bulawayo	11.5	47.5	321	78.4	152	6.4	336
<b>Education</b>							
No education	18.7	16.6	69	*	11	5.7	76
Primary	13.5	32.2	1,186	51.0	382	5.0	1,333
Secondary	14.9	38.7	2,811	77.3	1,089	5.6	3,218
More than secondary	8.0	26.0	316	85.5	82	6.7	348
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	13.9	32.6	715	42.7	233	4.7	794
Second	14.9	31.5	720	62.6	227	5.4	828
Middle	15.5	41.2	668	71.6	275	5.1	768
Fourth	14.8	35.8	1,288	77.2	461	5.8	1,443
Highest	11.7	37.2	992	86.5	369	6.1	1,141
Total 15-49	14.1	35.7	4,382	71.2	1,564	5.5	4,975
Total 15-54	13.6	33.8	4,671	70.9	1,580	5.7	5,277

Note: An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

<sup>1</sup> Sexual intercourse with a partner who neither was a spouse nor who lived with the respondent

A much larger proportion of men than women reported both having had more than one sexual partner (14 percent and 1 percent, respectively) and engaging in higher-risk sex (36 percent and 11 percent, respectively) at some time in the past 12 months. Men were more likely to report using a condom at last high-risk intercourse than women (71 percent and 47 percent, respectively). On average, men have had 5.5 sexual partners over their lifetimes and women have had 1.6 partners.

Considering age patterns, the percentage with two or more sexual partners in the 12 months preceding the interview and the percentage engaging in risky sexual behaviour was highest among both women and men in the 15-24 year age group. The percentages involved in risky sexual behaviours declined with age and were lowest in the 40-49 year age group among women and men. Condom use at last high-risk sex was lowest among those in the youngest and oldest age categories. The mean number of lifetime sexual partners increased with age, with men age 40-49 reporting an average of 8 lifetime partners and women in the same age group an average of 1.8 partners.

Higher-risk sexual behaviour was reported more often among those who were not married at the time of the interview than among currently married respondents. Married men who engaged in higher-risk sex were somewhat more likely to report condom use at last higher-risk sex than those who were not married. Divorced, separated, or widowed respondents had the highest average number of lifetime sexual partners (9.4 partners for men and 2.2 partners among women).

Urban residents were both more likely to report engaging in risky sexual behaviour and using a condom at last higher-risk sex than rural residents. Urban men reported an average of 6.2 lifetime sexual partners compared with 5 sexual partners among rural men.

Considering provincial patterns, higher-risk sexual behaviour was most prevalent among women in Matabeleland South (27 percent) and Bulawayo (26 percent) and among men in Bulawayo (48 percent). Men in Harare were twice as likely to report condom use at last high-risk sex as men in Matabeleland North (86 percent and 43 percent, respectively). Among men, the mean reported number of lifetime sex partners varied from 4.5 in Manicaland and Masvingo to 6.7 in Mashonaland West. Among women, the mean lifetime sex partners varied from 1.3 in Masvingo to 2.2 in Matabeleland South.

Among women, both the likelihood of having engaged in high-risk sexual behaviour and of using a condom at last high-risk sex generally increased with the education level and the wealth quintile. Among men, the percentages engaging in high-risk sexual behaviour did not vary in a consistent fashion with education or wealth; however, condom use at last high-risk sex rose sharply with educational level and wealth.

### **13.7 PAID SEX**

The act of paying for sex introduces an uneven negotiating ground for safer sexual intercourse. Condom use is an important indicator in trying to ascertain the level of risk involved in sexual encounters involving payments. Table 13.9 presents information on the extent to which men engaged in paid sex in the 12-month period before the survey and on the level of condom use during the last paid sexual encounter in the period.

Four percent of men reported paying for sexual intercourse at least once during the 12 months preceding the ZDHS. Nearly three-quarters of men who engaged in paid sex used a condom the last time they paid for sex. Divorced, widowed, and separated men (13 percent) had the highest rate of paid sex during the 12 months prior to the survey. Eight in ten divorced, separated, or widowed men who engaged in paid sex used a condom.



Table 13.9 Payment for sexual intercourse and condom use at last paid sexual intercourse: men

Percentage of men age 15-49 reporting payment for sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, and among them, the percentage reporting that a condom was used the last time they paid for sexual intercourse, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Percentage who paid for sexual intercourse in the past 12 months	Number of men	Percentage reporting condom use at last paid sexual intercourse	Number of men who paid for sexual intercourse in the past 12 months
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	3.3	3,358	76.7	111
15-19	1.1	1,899	(76.6)	21
20-24	6.2	1,459	76.7	91
25-29	5.6	1,082	78.1	60
30-39	4.0	1,545	76.5	61
40-49	3.9	878	(50.3)	34
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married	3.8	3,404	76.4	128
Married or living together	3.0	3,132	66.7	95
Divorced/separated/ widowed	13.2	327	(80.5)	43
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	4.1	2,767	85.8	114
Rural	3.7	4,096	64.5	153
<b>Province</b>				
Manicaland	4.3	793	(78.9)	34
Mashonaland Central	4.8	681	(64.1)	33
Mashonaland East	2.8	570	*	16
Mashonaland West	5.3	691	(95.8)	37
Matabeleland North	4.0	416	(24.6)	17
Matabeleland South	1.7	306	*	5
Midlands	2.8	956	*	26
Masvingo	4.8	771	(62.2)	37
Harare	4.5	1,219	(83.2)	55
Bulawayo	1.8	460	*	8
<b>Education</b>				
No education	8.8	88	(64.2)	8
Primary	4.4	1,782	57.2	78
Secondary	3.6	4,588	81.3	167
More than secondary	3.6	405	*	14
<b>Wealth quintile</b>				
Lowest	3.9	1,042	(46.5)	41
Second	3.3	1,137	(74.0)	37
Middle	4.0	1,194	(69.1)	47
Fourth	4.9	1,892	79.4	93
Highest	3.0	1,599	(89.3)	49
Total 15-49	3.9	6,863	73.6	267
Total 15-54	3.8	7,175	73.1	274

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

A comparison of the 2005-06 and 1999 ZDHS results suggests that, while Zimbabwean men may increasingly be avoiding the risks involved in paid sex, when they do engage in paid sex, they are less likely than previously to use a condom. In 1999, 7 percent paid for sex and 82 percent reported condom use during last paid intercourse while, in the 2005-06 ZDHS, 4 percent paid for sex and 74 percent used a condom the last time they paid for sex.

### **13.8 COVERAGE OF HIV TESTING SERVICES**

Knowledge of HIV status helps HIV-negative individuals make specific decisions to reduce risk and increase safer sex practices so they can remain disease free. For those who are HIV infected, knowledge of their status allows them to take action to protect their sexual partners, to access treatment, and to plan for the future.

To assess the awareness and coverage of HIV testing services, ZDHS respondents were asked whether they had ever been tested for HIV. If they said that they had, respondents were asked whether they had received the results of their last test and where they had been tested. If they had never been tested, they were asked if they knew a place where they could go to be tested. Tables 13.10.1 and 13.10.2 present the results of these questions.

Around three-quarters of women and men were aware of a place where they can get an HIV test. Younger and older respondents were somewhat less likely than those age 20-39 to know a place where they could go to be tested for HIV. Never-married women and men who had not yet initiated sexual activity were less likely than their sexually active counterparts or ever-married respondents to know a place to obtain an HIV test. Awareness of a place to obtain an HIV test increased with both education and the wealth quintile and was notably more common among urban than rural residents. Looking at provincial patterns, women from Matabeleland South and Masvingo were least likely to know a place to get tested for HIV while women from Harare were most likely to know about a place where testing was available. Among men, Matabeleland South also had the lowest level of knowledge of a source for testing and Harare the highest level.

Tables 13.10.1 and 13.10.2 also show the coverage of HIV testing services. A larger proportion of men (81 percent) than women (74 percent) have never been tested. Most of those who have been tested said that they had received the result of the last test they took. Overall, the percentage of those who were ever tested and received the result of the last test was 22 percent among women and 16 percent among men. Seven percent of women and men had been tested in the 12-month period prior to the survey and were told the result of the last test they took.

Among women, the likelihood of having had an HIV test and receiving the results was highest in the 20-24 year age group while, among men, testing rates peaked in the 25-29 year age group. Urban residents were more likely than rural residents to have been tested and received the result. Among women, the percentage who were ever tested for HIV and received the result of the last test varied from 14 percent in Midlands to 30 percent in Harare, while, among men, this percentage ranged from 8 percent in Matabeleland South to 25 percent in Bulawayo and Harare. Among both women and men, testing coverage rises markedly with education and wealth.

Table 13.10.1 Coverage of HIV testing services: women

Percent distribution of women by whether tested for HIV and by whether received the results of the last test, and the percentage of women who received their test results the last time they were tested for HIV in the past 12 months, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Percentage who know where to get an HIV test	Percent distribution of women by testing status and whether they received the result of their last test				Total	Percentage ever tested	Percentage tested and received results in past 12 months	Number of women
		Received results	Did not receive results	Never tested	Don't know/missing				
<b>Age</b>									
15-24	72.6	20.5	3.8	75.1	0.6	100.0	24.3	6.8	4,104
15-19	65.4	12.0	2.6	85.0	0.3	100.0	14.7	4.8	2,152
20-24	80.6	29.8	5.0	64.3	0.9	100.0	34.8	9.0	1,952
25-29	79.3	27.4	6.5	64.6	1.5	100.0	33.9	7.5	1,466
30-39	79.0	24.5	4.1	71.0	0.5	100.0	28.6	6.8	2,050
40-49	69.1	14.9	2.5	82.1	0.6	100.0	17.4	4.6	1,287
<b>Marital status</b>									
Never married	71.6	13.7	1.5	84.5	0.4	100.0	15.2	6.8	2,404
Ever had sex	79.3	26.5	2.7	69.8	0.9	100.0	29.2	11.3	559
Never had sex	69.2	9.8	1.1	88.9	0.2	100.0	10.9	5.5	1,845
Married/living together	75.8	25.2	5.5	68.4	0.9	100.0	30.7	6.4	5,143
Divorced/separated/widowed	76.0	22.9	3.6	72.9	0.6	100.0	26.5	7.1	1,360
<b>Residence</b>									
Urban	88.3	28.5	3.5	67.1	0.9	100.0	32.0	9.9	3,502
Rural	65.9	17.4	4.5	77.5	0.6	100.0	21.9	4.5	5,405
<b>Province</b>									
Manicaland	76.4	26.6	5.4	67.7	0.4	100.0	31.9	8.9	1,043
Mashonaland Central	69.5	19.6	3.5	76.8	0.1	100.0	23.1	4.9	825
Mashonaland East	72.0	20.2	3.8	75.4	0.6	100.0	23.9	7.5	714
Mashonaland West	76.1	23.1	4.8	71.1	1.0	100.0	27.9	4.4	829
Matabeleland North	66.9	18.3	4.6	76.8	0.4	100.0	22.9	4.8	536
Matabeleland South	61.5	16.9	4.5	78.4	0.1	100.0	21.4	4.7	439
Midlands	74.4	14.0	4.2	81.3	0.5	100.0	18.2	2.8	1,193
Masvingo	61.8	17.9	4.9	76.0	1.2	100.0	22.8	4.7	1,137
Harare	89.6	29.5	3.5	66.0	1.0	100.0	33.0	11.2	1,492
Bulawayo	83.3	25.5	1.6	71.4	1.5	100.0	27.2	9.5	697
<b>Education</b>									
No education	51.2	7.8	3.7	87.8	0.7	100.0	11.5	2.2	380
Primary	60.2	14.1	4.2	80.7	0.9	100.0	18.3	3.3	2,902
Secondary	83.0	25.5	4.2	69.7	0.6	100.0	29.7	8.1	5,355
More than secondary	98.5	48.0	2.7	48.7	0.6	100.0	50.7	19.6	270
<b>Wealth quintile</b>									
Lowest	55.6	12.5	3.8	82.9	0.8	100.0	16.3	3.2	1,552
Second	61.3	16.5	5.0	78.0	0.5	100.0	21.4	3.6	1,500
Middle	73.2	19.6	4.2	75.5	0.7	100.0	23.8	4.8	1,546
Fourth	83.1	25.4	5.2	68.7	0.7	100.0	30.6	7.3	2,006
Highest	89.9	29.6	2.7	66.8	0.9	100.0	32.4	11.4	2,304
Total 15-49	74.7	21.7	4.1	73.4	0.7	100.0	25.8	6.6	8,907

Table 13.10.2 Coverage of HIV testing services: men

Percent distribution of men by whether tested for HIV and by whether received the results of the last test, and the percentage of men who received their test results the last time they were tested for HIV in the past 12 months, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Percentage who know where to get an HIV test	Percent distribution of men by testing status and whether they received the result of their last test				Total	Percentage ever tested	Percentage tested and received results in past 12 months	Number of men
		Received results	Did not receive results	Never tested	Don't know/missing				
<b>Age</b>									
15-24	68.9	11.6	2.0	84.9	1.4	100.0	13.6	5.4	3,358
15-19	60.8	6.9	1.5	89.4	2.2	100.0	8.4	2.9	1,899
20-24	79.4	17.7	2.7	79.0	0.5	100.0	20.5	8.6	1,459
25-29	82.8	22.5	2.3	74.9	0.3	100.0	24.8	9.8	1,082
30-39	80.8	20.6	2.4	76.8	0.2	100.0	23.0	7.3	1,545
40-49	73.4	19.7	2.5	77.8	0.1	100.0	22.1	6.6	878
<b>Marital status</b>									
Never married	69.5	12.5	1.8	84.3	1.4	100.0	14.3	6.2	3,404
Ever had sex	77.0	17.8	2.3	79.5	0.4	100.0	20.1	8.6	1,611
Never had sex	62.6	7.8	1.4	88.5	2.3	100.0	9.2	3.9	1,793
Married/living together	79.4	20.2	2.6	77.0	0.2	100.0	22.8	6.9	3,132
Divorced/separated/widowed	76.6	20.3	2.5	76.8	0.4	100.0	22.8	10.0	327
<b>Residence</b>									
Urban	90.6	23.9	2.3	73.5	0.2	100.0	26.2	10.3	2,767
Rural	63.3	11.3	2.2	85.3	1.2	100.0	13.4	4.2	4,096
<b>Region</b>									
Manicaland	71.9	17.7	2.8	78.4	1.2	100.0	20.5	6.0	793
Mashonaland Central	73.5	12.3	2.6	83.4	1.7	100.0	14.9	4.7	681
Mashonaland East	72.8	15.1	2.6	80.8	1.5	100.0	17.7	5.5	570
Mashonaland West	76.7	15.0	2.0	82.3	0.8	100.0	17.0	5.3	691
Matabeleland North	58.8	11.6	1.0	86.9	0.5	100.0	12.6	3.8	416
Matabeleland South	43.9	8.4	0.6	89.9	1.0	100.0	9.0	2.7	306
Midlands	62.1	10.9	1.3	87.0	0.8	100.0	12.2	5.2	956
Masvingo	75.0	15.2	3.5	80.7	0.6	100.0	18.7	6.4	771
Harare	92.2	24.6	2.2	72.9	0.3	100.0	26.8	10.5	1,219
Bulawayo	89.2	24.9	2.7	72.4	0.0	100.0	27.6	12.6	460
<b>Education</b>									
No education	41.9	6.4	0.9	89.4	3.4	100.0	7.3	1.8	88
Primary	52.4	7.7	2.0	88.2	2.1	100.0	9.7	2.7	1,782
Secondary	81.4	18.0	2.4	79.3	0.3	100.0	20.4	7.6	4,588
More than secondary	98.1	38.2	1.7	60.1	0.0	100.0	39.9	14.8	405
<b>Wealth quintile</b>									
Lowest	52.4	8.7	1.7	88.5	1.1	100.0	10.4	2.8	1,042
Second	63.3	10.2	2.4	85.4	1.9	100.0	12.6	4.2	1,137
Middle	65.1	11.6	2.6	84.9	0.9	100.0	14.2	4.8	1,194
Fourth	81.7	17.8	2.6	79.2	0.4	100.0	20.4	7.3	1,892
Highest	94.5	27.6	1.7	70.5	0.2	100.0	29.3	11.5	1,599
Total 15-49	74.3	16.4	2.2	80.6	0.8	100.0	18.6	6.7	6,863
Total 15-54	74.3	16.4	2.2	80.6	0.8	100.0	18.6	6.6	7,175

Screening for HIV in pregnant women is a key tool in reducing transmission of HIV from a mother to her child. Table 13.11 shows that 46 percent of women who gave birth during the two years prior to the ZDHS received HIV counselling and 28 percent were offered, accepted, and received the result of an HIV test during antenatal care. Just over one-fifth of the women reported they had been both counselled about HIV and offered, accepted, and received the results of an HIV test during antenatal care. Women giving birth during the two years before the survey were most likely to have been counselled and tested for HIV if they had more than a secondary education (48 percent) or lived in Harare (42 percent) or Bulawayo (41 percent). Women were least likely to report receiving the full range of voluntary counselling and testing services during antenatal care if they were in the lowest wealth quintile (8 percent) or had no education (9 percent).

Table 13.11 Pregnant women counselled and tested for HIV

Among all women who gave birth in the two years preceding the survey, the percentage who received HIV counselling during antenatal care for their most recent birth, and percentage who accepted an offer of HIV testing by whether they received their test results, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Percentage who received HIV counselling during antenatal care <sup>1</sup>	Percentage who were offered and accepted an HIV test during antenatal care and who: <sup>2</sup>		Percentage who were counselled, were offered and accepted an HIV test, and who received results	Number of women who gave birth in the past 2 years <sup>3</sup>
		Received results	Did not receive results		
<b>Age</b>					
15-24	45.5	30.5	6.9	24.3	1,017
15-19	37.1	28.8	8.3	20.2	272
20-24	48.6	31.1	6.4	25.7	745
25-29	44.8	24.1	7.1	20.8	531
30-39	49.5	27.3	6.9	22.5	520
40-49	31.5	12.7	12.8	11.9	76
<b>Residence</b>					
Urban	62.4	43.2	6.9	37.2	607
Rural	39.3	21.3	7.3	16.8	1,537
<b>Province</b>					
Manicaland	58.2	30.8	10.6	26.2	283
Mashonaland Central	56.0	32.0	6.0	28.1	226
Mashonaland East	50.4	21.1	6.0	17.8	167
Mashonaland West	38.5	32.5	6.2	24.5	201
Matabeleland North	35.4	20.7	6.8	14.8	147
Matabeleland South	32.2	24.2	6.9	13.4	100
Midlands	28.7	15.3	6.6	12.5	310
Masvingo	33.5	16.6	7.8	11.6	344
Harare	64.4	46.6	8.0	41.8	259
Bulawayo	69.2	45.7	2.9	41.3	108
<b>Education</b>					
No education	11.4	12.3	11.5	8.6	72
Primary	33.6	18.0	6.9	13.8	772
Secondary	54.2	33.3	7.1	27.7	1,249
More than secondary	(74.0)	(51.8)	(7.5)	(48.2)	51
<b>Wealth quintile</b>					
Lowest	25.4	12.4	4.8	8.2	542
Second	42.0	20.1	7.7	15.8	451
Middle	48.2	30.9	9.0	25.5	373
Fourth	55.2	37.9	7.2	31.8	464
Highest	70.0	44.7	8.2	39.9	313
<b>Total</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>2,144</b>

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

<sup>1</sup> In this context, "counselled" means that someone talked with the respondent about all three of the following topics: 1) babies getting HIV from their mother, 2) preventing the virus, and 3) getting tested for the virus.

<sup>2</sup> Only women who were offered the test are included here; women who were either required or asked for the test are excluded from the numerator of this measure.

<sup>3</sup> Denominator for percentages includes women who did not receive antenatal care for their last birth in the past two years

### 13.9 SELF-REPORTING OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

In the 2005-06 ZDHS, respondents who had ever had sex were asked if they had had a disease they had gotten through sexual contact in the previous 12 months or if they had had either of two symptoms associated with STIs (a bad-smelling, abnormal discharge from the vagina/penis or a genital sore or ulcer). Table 13.12 shows the self-reported prevalence of STIs and STI symptoms in the

population for both men and women. Women were somewhat more likely than men to report having had an STI or having experienced STI symptoms. Among women, in the 12 months prior to the survey, 4 percent had an STI, 7 percent had a bad-smelling, abnormal discharge; and 5 percent had a genital sore or ulcer. Among men, in the 12 months prior to the survey, 3 percent reported that they had an STI, 4 percent had a bad-smelling, abnormal discharge; and 5 percent had a genital sore or ulcer. Taken together, 11 percent of women and 8 percent of men age 15-49 had either had an STI or symptoms of an STI during the 12-months prior to the survey.

Table 13.12 Self-reported prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and STI symptoms

Among women and men age 15-49 who ever had sexual intercourse, the percentage reporting having an STI and/or symptoms of an STI in the past 12 months, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

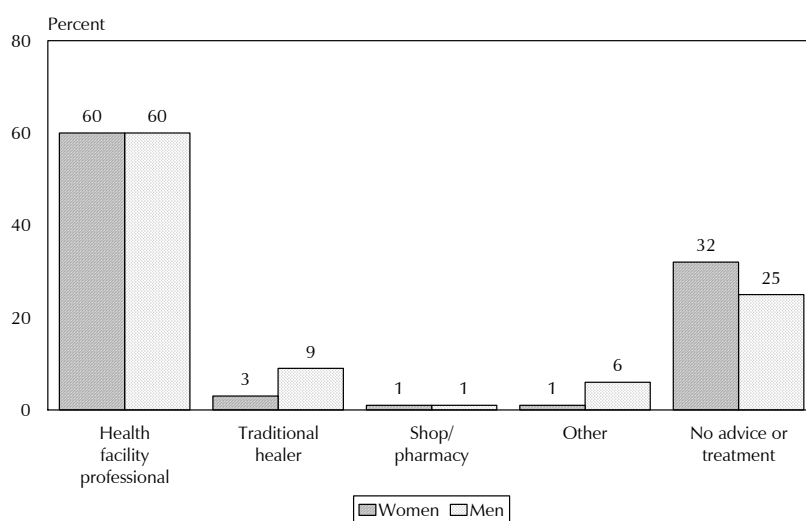
Background characteristic	Women					Men				
	Percentage of women who reported having in the past 12 months:				Number of women who ever had sexual intercourse	Percentage of men who reported having in the past 12 months:				Number of men who ever had sexual intercourse
	STI	Bad-smelling/abnormal genital discharge	Genital sore/ulcer	STI, genital discharge, sore or ulcer		STI	Bad-smelling/abnormal genital discharge	Genital sore/ulcer	STI, genital discharge, sore or ulcer	
<b>Age</b>										
15-24	3.2	7.1	5.0	10.8	2,320	2.5	2.7	3.7	6.2	1,636
15-19	3.4	6.9	3.6	9.9	691	0.9	1.9	3.0	4.8	522
20-24	3.2	7.2	5.6	11.2	1,630	3.3	3.1	4.0	6.9	1,114
25-29	5.0	7.3	4.8	11.0	1,416	4.2	3.4	5.4	8.0	1,025
30-39	5.3	6.3	5.6	10.4	2,037	3.9	4.3	5.6	8.2	1,534
40-49	3.8	5.8	6.2	10.0	1,286	2.2	5.5	3.9	8.0	875
<b>Marital status</b>										
Never married	3.8	4.6	5.0	8.6	559	2.2	2.2	3.4	5.3	1,611
Married or living together	3.8	6.7	4.7	10.2	5,141	3.3	4.4	4.7	7.9	3,132
Divorced/separated/widowed	6.3	7.5	8.2	13.1	1,360	7.2	5.4	10.2	13.7	327
<b>Male circumcision</b>										
Circumcised	na	na	na	na	na	2.8	5.1	4.6	8.8	601
Not circumcised	na	na	na	na	na	3.3	3.6	4.6	7.3	4,456
<b>Residence</b>										
Urban	4.4	5.6	4.1	8.5	2,580	2.7	2.8	3.5	5.8	2,110
Rural	4.2	7.3	6.1	11.8	4,480	3.6	4.5	5.4	8.7	2,960
<b>Province</b>										
Manicaland	4.0	6.0	7.2	11.2	842	4.8	8.7	10.2	14.8	526
Mashonaland Central	3.9	8.6	6.6	12.2	705	2.8	3.2	6.9	8.9	538
Mashonaland East	4.8	9.4	5.5	12.9	596	2.5	2.1	2.8	5.3	394
Mashonaland West	3.9	7.5	3.9	10.1	698	2.9	6.3	4.9	9.2	542
Matabeleland North	3.0	3.3	3.7	6.2	450	2.6	2.2	1.6	3.7	329
Matabeleland South	1.6	5.5	3.0	7.2	343	2.9	2.3	1.8	4.4	194
Midlands	4.8	6.1	6.2	10.8	944	3.0	2.9	2.7	5.4	691
Masvingo	5.5	7.3	6.9	14.0	911	4.9	3.6	5.5	8.0	554
Harare	5.0	7.8	4.5	10.5	1,082	2.6	3.1	4.6	7.1	941
Bulawayo	3.5	2.0	3.0	4.8	489	3.0	1.6	1.8	3.7	362
<b>Education</b>										
No education	2.8	4.9	4.1	8.5	377	3.2	6.1	6.6	8.3	79
Primary	5.3	8.0	6.9	13.0	2,560	3.8	4.8	6.5	9.7	1,353
Secondary	4.0	6.3	4.7	9.7	3,890	3.2	3.6	4.0	6.9	3,280
More than secondary	1.3	0.8	1.2	2.3	233	1.0	1.7	3.0	4.1	358
<b>Wealth quintile</b>										
Lowest	3.8	7.2	6.9	12.8	1,343	4.1	5.6	6.6	9.8	807
Second	3.6	8.8	5.1	12.1	1,263	4.0	5.1	5.5	9.5	834
Middle	5.5	6.9	6.9	11.6	1,241	3.4	3.8	6.4	9.3	778
Fourth	5.8	7.7	5.7	11.9	1,635	3.1	3.4	3.8	6.6	1,481
Highest	2.7	3.2	2.8	5.3	1,577	2.1	2.1	2.5	4.3	1,171
Total 15-49	4.3	6.7	5.4	10.6	7,059	3.2	3.8	4.6	7.5	5,070
Total 15-54	na	na	na	na	na	3.2	3.9	4.5	7.4	5,381

Note: Total includes 13 cases for which information on circumcision status was missing.  
na = Not applicable

Among both women and men, the prevalence of STIs and STI symptoms was higher among the divorced, separated, or widowed than among those who were married or never-married but sexually active. Rural residents were more likely than urban residents to have had an STI or STI symptoms. Among women, the prevalence of STIs or STI symptoms was highest in Masvingo (14 percent) while, among men, self-reported STI prevalence peaked among Manicaland residents (15 percent).

Six in ten women and men who had an STI or STI symptoms sought advice or treatment from a clinic/hospital/private doctor or other health professional (Figure 13.1). Men were around three times as likely as women to seek treatment from a traditional healer (9 percent and 3 percent, respectively). Around one-third of women and one-quarter of men did not seek any treatment when they had an STI or STI symptoms.

**Figure 13.1 Source for Treatment or Advice for STI or STI Symptoms**



Note: Percentages do not total to 100 because more than one response allowed.

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### 13.10 INJECTIONS

Injection overuse in a health care setting can contribute to the transmission of blood-borne pathogens because it amplifies the effect of unsafe practices, such as reuse of injection equipment. As a consequence, the proportion of injections given with reused injection equipment is an important prevention indicator in an initiative to prevent and control HIV/AIDS. To obtain data for this indicator, ZDHS respondents were asked if they had had any injections given by a health worker in the six months preceding the survey, and if so, whether their last injection was given with a syringe from a new, unopened package. It should be noted that medical injections can be self-administered (e.g., insulin for diabetes). These injections were not included in the calculation.

Table 13.13 shows the reported prevalence of injections and of safe injection practices. Women were more than twice as likely as men to report receiving an injection from a health worker during the six months prior to the survey (14 percent and 6 percent, respectively). Looking at differentials, injection prevalence was highest among women from Matabeleland South (19 percent) and women with more than a secondary education (20 percent). The highest rates among men were observed in the 30-39 year age group (19 percent) and in Manicaland and Mashonaland West (9 percent each).

Table 13.13 Prevalence of injections

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 who received at least one medical injection in the last 6 months, the average number of medical injections per person, and, among those who received an injection, the percentage of last medical injections for which the syringe and needle were taken from a new and unopened package for the last injection, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Women					Men				
	Percentage who received a medical injection in the past 6 months	Mean number of medical injections per year	Number of women	For last injection, syringe and needle taken from newly opened package	Number of women receiving injections from a health worker in the past 6 months	Percentage who received a medical injection in the past 6 months	Mean number of medical injections per year	Number of men	For last injection, syringe and needle taken from newly opened package	Number of men receiving injections from a health worker in the past 6 months
<b>Age</b>										
15-24	13.0	0.3	4,104	96.5	531	5.1	0.1	3,358	94.0	172
15-19	10.8	0.2	2,152	96.3	232	4.2	0.1	1,899	91.8	80
20-24	15.3	0.3	1,952	96.7	299	6.3	0.1	1,459	95.8	92
25-29	16.2	0.4	1,466	97.3	238	5.7	0.1	1,082	81.0	62
30-39	16.2	0.4	2,050	95.6	332	9.0	0.3	1,545	83.6	139
40-49	12.1	0.3	1,287	95.4	156	7.4	0.5	878	95.8	65
<b>Residence</b>										
Urban	14.0	0.4	3,502	95.5	490	7.5	0.3	2,767	91.9	208
Rural	14.2	0.3	5,405	96.8	767	5.6	0.2	4,096	86.6	230
<b>Province</b>										
Manicaland	13.7	0.4	1,043	95.9	143	9.3	0.4	793	91.7	74
Mashonaland Central	16.2	0.4	825	95.0	133	7.1	0.2	681	(91.7)	48
Mashonaland East	14.9	0.3	714	97.4	106	2.9	0.1	570	*	17
Mashonaland West	15.3	0.2	829	93.1	127	8.5	0.3	691	91.1	59
Matabeleland North	13.6	0.3	536	99.2	73	3.2	0.1	416	*	13
Matabeleland South	19.3	0.5	439	92.8	85	2.0	0.0	306	*	6
Midlands	12.1	0.2	1,193	99.3	145	5.0	0.2	956	(86.6)	48
Masvingo	16.6	0.4	1,137	95.0	189	8.4	0.2	771	82.0	65
Harare	13.3	0.3	1,492	97.6	198	6.8	0.3	1,219	90.9	83
Bulawayo	8.4	0.2	697	98.8	59	5.6	0.2	460	(89.1)	26
<b>Education</b>										
No education	8.2	0.1	380	(89.7)	31	2.4	0.1	88	*	2
Primary	14.0	0.3	2,902	96.2	405	7.4	0.2	1,782	80.2	131
Secondary	14.3	0.3	5,355	96.5	768	6.0	0.2	4,588	93.7	274
More than secondary	19.6	0.4	270	(97.9)	53	7.6	0.3	405	(85.2)	31
<b>Wealth quintile</b>										
Lowest	12.4	0.2	1,552	98.8	193	5.4	0.2	1,042	75.7	56
Second	14.8	0.3	1,500	96.6	222	6.3	0.2	1,137	89.3	72
Middle	14.4	0.4	1,546	95.3	222	4.2	0.1	1,194	92.1	50
Fourth	15.6	0.4	2,006	94.7	313	7.4	0.3	1,892	91.7	140
Highest	13.4	0.3	2,304	96.9	308	7.5	0.3	1,599	91.0	120
Total 15-49	14.1	0.3	8,907	96.3	1,257	6.4	0.2	6,863	89.1	438
Total 15-54	na	na	na	na	na	6.4	0.2	7,175	89.1	457

Note: Medical injections are those given by a doctor, nurse, pharmacist, dentist, or other health worker. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.  
na = Not applicable

Ninety-six percent of recent injections among women were given with a syringe taken from a newly opened package while, among men, 89 percent reported the syringe used for the last injection they received was taken from a newly opened package. With respect to differentials, nine in ten or more women in all subgroups who had had a medical injection reported that the syringe used for the last injection came from an unopened package. Among men, there was greater variation across subgroups in the indicator. For example, only 76 percent of men in the lowest wealth quintile reported that the syringe used in the last injection came from a newly opened package, which was substantially less than for the population of men as a whole.



## **13.11 HIV/AIDS-RELATED KNOWLEDGE AND BEHAVIOUR AMONG YOUTH**

This section addresses HIV/AIDS-related knowledge among Zimbabwean youth age 15-24 and also assesses the extent to which Zimbabwean youth are engaged in behaviours that may place them at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

### **13.11.1 Knowledge about HIV/AIDS and Source for Condoms**

Knowledge of how HIV is transmitted is crucial to enabling people to avoid HIV, especially for young people, who are often at greater risk because they may have shorter relationships with more partners or engage in other risky behaviours. Table 13.14 shows the level of comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS among youth and the percentage of youth who know about a source for condoms. As discussed earlier in the chapter, comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS is defined as knowing that use of condoms and having just one uninfected faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting HIV, knowing that a healthy-looking person can have HIV, and rejecting the two most common local misconceptions about HIV transmission.

Table 13.14 shows that less than half of youths have comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS. Among both sexes, the proportion with comprehensive knowledge tends to increase with increasing levels of education and increased wealth and to be higher among urban youth than rural youth. Among both young women and young men, the level of comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS is greatest in Bulawayo.

Although many youth lack comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS, knowledge of a source for condoms is relatively common. Seventy percent of young women and 73 percent of young men know a place where they can obtain a condom. Knowledge of a source for condoms is higher among urban than rural residents, especially among young women. Looking at provincial differentials, around nine in ten young women in Bulawayo know a source for condoms, compared with just half of young women in Manicaland. Among young men, those living in Harare (81 percent) are the most likely to know a condom source, while those living in Manicaland (61 percent) are the least likely to know where to go for a condom.

Table 13.14 Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and of a source of condoms among youth

Percentage of young women and young men age 15-24 with comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and percentage with knowledge of a source of condoms, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Women 15-24			Men 15-24		
	Percentage with comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS <sup>1</sup>	Percentage who know a condom source <sup>2</sup>	Number of women	Percentage with comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS <sup>1</sup>	Percentage who know a condom source <sup>2</sup>	Number of men
<b>Age</b>						
15-19	41.4	62.5	2,152	43.5	73.5	1,899
15-17	39.2	56.1	1,233	41.2	69.2	1,165
18-19	44.3	71.0	919	47.0	80.4	734
20-24	46.3	78.2	1,952	48.4	73.3	1,459
20-22	46.4	76.7	1,212	46.3	74.5	928
23-24	46.2	80.6	740	51.9	71.3	531
<b>Marital status</b>						
Never married	45.5	63.9	2,195	45.7	71.8	2,988
Ever had sex	49.9	79.9	414	47.0	65.2	1,266
Never had sex	44.5	60.1	1,781	44.7	76.7	1,722
Ever married	41.7	77.0	1,909	44.9	86.5	370
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	49.9	75.6	1,711	51.1	76.9	1,279
Rural	39.3	65.9	2,392	42.2	71.3	2,079
<b>Province</b>						
Manicaland	47.9	50.0	457	42.2	60.9	407
Mashonaland Central	42.7	71.5	363	41.8	74.0	343
Mashonaland East	41.4	58.9	299	47.5	65.1	265
Mashonaland West	31.2	68.2	351	47.1	79.9	310
Matabeleland North	42.0	72.6	243	43.3	68.2	207
Matabeleland South	39.6	57.6	205	61.4	69.0	174
Midlands	51.2	85.3	546	45.4	77.0	479
Masvingo	35.3	73.6	534	43.9	78.8	392
Harare	39.9	67.3	758	36.4	81.3	547
Bulawayo	67.1	87.8	348	68.0	68.4	234
<b>Education</b>						
No education	*	*	19	*	*	10
Primary	30.1	60.3	1,077	33.0	67.0	852
Secondary	48.5	73.2	2,947	49.4	75.9	2,400
More than secondary	59.5	91.9	60	65.1	71.1	97
<b>Wealth quintile</b>						
Lowest	31.0	66.5	660	37.1	72.6	498
Second	38.6	66.2	679	40.6	70.3	550
Middle	44.0	63.7	715	42.2	70.4	710
Fourth	46.0	71.9	905	51.7	74.7	828
Highest	52.1	76.6	1,146	51.2	77.5	773
Total 15-24	43.7	70.0	4,104	45.6	73.4	3,358

Note: An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

<sup>1</sup> Comprehensive knowledge means knowing that use of condoms and having just one uninfected faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting HIV, knowing that a healthy-looking person can have HIV, and rejecting the two most common local misconceptions about HIV transmission or prevention. The components of comprehensive knowledge are presented in Tables 13.2, 13.3.1, and 13.3.2

<sup>2</sup> Friends, family members, and home are not considered sources for condoms.

### 13.11.2 First Sex

Age at first sex for both men and women is an important indicator of exposure to risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Young people who initiate sex at an early age are typically at higher risk of becoming pregnant or contracting an STI than youth who initiate sex later and, thus, have a shorter duration of exposure to these risks. Consistent condom use can reduce these risks.

In Zimbabwe, comparatively few youth initiate sexual activity before age 15, with only 5 percent of women and men in the 15-24 year age group reporting having sex before the age of 15 years (Table 13.15). More than one-third of young women age 18-24 and more than one-quarter of young men age 18-24 indicate that they first had intercourse before their 18th birthday.

Table 13.15 Age at first sexual intercourse among youth

Percentage of young women and young men age 15-24 who had sexual intercourse before age 15 and percentages of young women and young men age 18-24 who had sexual intercourse before age 18, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Women 15-24		Women 18-24		Men 15-24		Men 18-24	
	Percentage who had sexual intercourse before age 15	Number of women	Percentage who had sexual intercourse before age 18	Number of women	Percentage who had sexual intercourse before age 15	Number of men	Percentage who had sexual intercourse before age 18	Number of men
<b>Age</b>								
15-19	4.9	2,152	36.1	919	5.2	1,899	31.7	734
15-17	4.5	1,233	na	na	6.2	1,165	na	na
18-19	5.5	919	36.1	919	3.5	734	31.7	734
20-24	5.8	1,952	37.0	1,952	3.6	1,459	26.2	1,459
20-22	6.0	1,212	36.7	1,212	3.3	928	26.3	928
23-24	5.4	740	37.4	740	4.1	531	26.0	531
<b>Marital status</b>								
Never married	1.2	2,195	11.2	1,118	4.4	2,988	26.4	1,824
Ever married	10.0	1,909	53.0	1,753	5.3	370	36.1	369
<b>Knows condom source<sup>1</sup></b>								
Yes	5.5	2,871	37.4	2,179	4.3	2,465	27.0	1,660
No	4.8	1,232	34.4	692	4.9	893	31.2	534
<b>Residence</b>								
Urban	2.4	1,711	24.0	1,264	3.6	1,279	26.9	946
Rural	7.4	2,392	46.7	1,606	5.0	2,079	28.9	1,248
<b>Province</b>								
Manicaland	5.0	457	37.0	318	3.0	407	22.3	231
Mashonaland Central	14.9	363	57.1	218	9.1	343	33.5	237
Mashonaland East	3.2	299	36.9	219	1.0	265	19.2	173
Mashonaland West	7.6	351	50.2	243	5.4	310	34.5	224
Matabeleland North	7.0	243	51.6	168	4.6	207	40.0	127
Matabeleland South	5.7	205	47.1	126	2.6	174	22.3	104
Midlands	5.7	546	38.8	367	4.4	479	29.4	309
Masvingo	4.3	534	39.0	382	4.5	392	20.8	219
Harare	2.2	758	21.3	582	4.0	547	25.2	399
Bulawayo	1.4	348	19.3	250	5.4	234	36.4	170
<b>Education</b>								
No education	*	19	*	16	*	10	*	8
Primary	12.7	1,077	62.9	700	6.7	852	37.6	466
Secondary	2.6	2,947	28.5	2,096	3.7	2,400	25.6	1,626
More than secondary	0.0	60	6.2	59	2.6	97	22.1	94
<b>Wealth quintile</b>								
Lowest	9.9	660	58.5	461	6.8	498	30.8	283
Second	6.4	679	50.9	456	5.6	550	30.3	339
Middle	7.0	715	37.4	460	3.3	710	27.0	398
Fourth	4.5	905	35.4	654	4.4	828	28.2	614
Highest	1.6	1,146	17.7	840	3.3	773	25.8	560
Total 15(18)-24	5.3	4,104	36.7	2,871	4.5	3,358	28.0	2,193

Note: An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

na = Not available

<sup>1</sup> Friends, family members, and home are not considered sources for condoms.

As expected, the proportion of youth initiating sex early is higher among ever-married youth than among those who were not yet married at the time of the survey. Rural youth are much more likely than urban youth to have initiated sex before age 15 or age 18, a pattern that is partly owed to the greater prevalence of earlier marriage among rural than urban residents. Among women, Mashonaland Central had the highest proportions who began to have sex before age 15 and age 18 (15 percent and 57 percent, respectively) and Bulawayo had the lowest proportions (1 percent and 19 percent, respectively). Among men, the proportion initiating sexual intercourse before age 15 was also highest in Mashonaland Central (9 percent) and lowest in Mashonaland East (1 percent), while Matabeleland North had the highest proportion of young men initiating sexual intercourse before age 18 (40 percent) and Mashonaland East the lowest (19 percent). The likelihood of an early sexual debut declines with both education and wealth, especially among young women.

To assess the extent of condom use from the beginning of sexual exposure, sexually active youth were asked whether they had used condoms the first time they had sex. Table 13.16 shows that young men were nearly three times as likely as young women to have used a condom during the first sexual encounter (16 percent and 44 percent, respectively). Never-married young women were almost four times as likely as ever-married young women to have used a condom when they first had sex, while the difference in condom use between ever-married and never-married young men was considerably smaller (47 percent among never-married and 33 percent among ever-married). Urban youth were much more likely than rural youth to have used a condom the first time they had sex. Looking at provincial patterns, young women in Bulawayo and young men in Harare had the highest levels of condom use at first sex (40 percent and 60 percent, respectively). The likelihood that a condom was used the first time a respondent had sex increased with both educational level and wealth.

Table 13.16 Condom use at first sexual intercourse among youth

Percentage of young women and young men age 15-24 who used a condom the first time they had sexual intercourse, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Women 15-24		Men 15-24	
	Percentage who used a condom at first sexual intercourse	Number of women who have ever had sexual intercourse	Percentage who used a condom at first sexual intercourse	Number of men who have ever had sexual intercourse
<b>Age</b>				
15-19	22.8	691	38.4	522
15-17	28.0	228	27.0	199
18-19	20.2	463	45.5	323
20-24	13.7	1,630	46.2	1,114
20-22	15.2	963	46.7	655
23-24	11.6	666	45.5	459
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married	42.2	414	46.8	1,266
Ever married	10.8	1,906	33.3	370
<b>Knows condom source<sup>1</sup></b>				
Yes	18.2	1,800	38.0	1,145
No	10.5	520	57.2	491
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	23.7	829	57.9	657
Rural	12.4	1,491	34.2	979
<b>Province</b>				
Manicaland	14.0	265	46.5	150
Mashonaland Central	10.2	247	44.0	203
Mashonaland East	13.9	184	46.0	99
Mashonaland West	14.7	220	44.1	164
Matabeleland North	26.2	159	24.9	122
Matabeleland South	36.2	113	43.9	70
Midlands	9.6	302	38.5	222
Masvingo	9.5	310	29.4	180
Harare	16.6	376	60.4	287
Bulawayo	40.1	145	47.4	139
<b>Education</b>				
No education	*	16	*	4
Primary	10.6	738	29.0	437
Secondary	19.1	1,533	48.1	1,133
More than secondary	30.3	34	67.8	63
<b>Wealth quintile</b>				
Lowest	9.6	455	24.0	263
Second	10.5	445	26.7	259
Middle	13.4	416	44.0	305
Fourth	19.1	550	49.2	446
Highest	28.8	454	63.3	363
Total 15-24	16.4	2,320	43.7	1,636

Note: An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

<sup>1</sup> Friends, family members, and home are not considered sources for condoms.

### 13.11.3 Premarital Sex

The period between age at first sex and age at marriage is often a time of sexual experimentation. Table 13.17 presents information on the patterns of sexual activity among never-married youth age 15-24 in Zimbabwe including the percentage of never-married youth who have never had sexual intercourse, the percentage who engaged in sexual intercourse in the 12 months before the survey, and, among the recently sexually active, the percentage who used condoms during last sex.

Table 13.17 Premarital sexual intercourse and condom use during premarital sexual intercourse among youth

Among never-married women and men age 15-24, the percentage who have never had sexual intercourse, the percentage who have had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, and, among those who have had premarital sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, the percentage who used a condom at the last sexual intercourse, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Never-married women 15-24					Never-married men 15-24				
	Percentage who have never had sexual intercourse	Percentage who have had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months	Number of never-married women	Among women who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months		Percentage who have never had sexual intercourse	Percentage who have had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months	Number of never-married men	Among men who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months	
				Percentage who used condom at last sexual intercourse	Number of women				Percentage who used condom at last sexual intercourse	Number of men
<b>Age</b>										
15-19	88.9	8.2	1,640	40.9	134	73.0	17.5	1,886	53.8	330
15-17	93.1	5.1	1,077	43.4	55	83.0	11.0	1,164	41.5	127
18-19	81.0	14.0	563	39.2	79	56.9	28.0	723	61.5	203
20-24	58.0	26.9	555	39.9	149	31.3	46.2	1,101	76.0	509
20-22	60.9	23.9	408	34.8	98	35.3	43.5	774	72.1	336
23-24	49.9	35.4	146	49.4	52	21.8	52.6	327	83.7	172
<b>Knows condom source<sup>1</sup></b>										
Yes	76.4	16.9	1,402	46.7	237	61.5	21.5	2,145	47.3	462
No	89.5	5.8	793	8.1	46	47.7	44.8	843	91.7	377
<b>Residence</b>										
Urban	80.3	13.8	1,098	52.0	151	54.0	28.4	1,153	83.3	328
Rural	82.0	12.0	1,097	27.1	132	59.9	27.8	1,835	57.0	511
<b>Province</b>										
Manicaland	89.3	6.9	215	*	15	69.3	21.7	372	77.8	81
Mashonaland Central	88.9	10.1	130	*	13	50.7	32.9	278	79.4	91
Mashonaland East	82.4	8.9	139	*	12	68.7	18.3	242	(72.2)	44
Mashonaland West	83.2	9.3	157	*	15	55.2	23.7	263	77.1	62
Matabeleland North	60.3	33.8	140	14.6	47	46.7	45.2	182	35.9	82
Matabeleland South	61.4	26.0	150	28.5	39	62.7	27.2	166	65.2	45
Midlands	86.3	8.7	281	*	25	59.4	25.7	431	53.0	111
Masvingo	86.9	5.4	258	*	14	58.9	29.9	359	47.5	108
Harare	84.3	10.3	453	(48.2)	47	54.7	24.8	476	89.1	118
Bulawayo	74.6	21.0	271	54.5	57	43.4	44.1	218	77.7	96
<b>Education</b>										
No education	*	*	7	*	2	*	*	10	*	1
Primary	81.6	13.5	415	26.5	56	55.8	30.4	744	44.9	226
Secondary	81.5	12.6	1,735	42.9	218	59.1	26.9	2,143	74.9	577
More than secondary	(67.4)	(19.5)	39	*	8	37.5	39.1	91	(84.4)	36
<b>Wealth quintile</b>										
Lowest	77.2	16.1	264	(22.6)	42	53.6	34.4	438	35.8	151
Second	82.6	11.5	283	(27.3)	32	62.2	24.6	467	51.4	115
Middle	83.9	10.3	354	(28.0)	37	62.3	25.7	650	71.3	167
Fourth	79.1	14.5	448	47.1	65	54.2	29.2	705	76.3	206
Highest	81.7	12.6	846	51.6	107	56.3	27.6	728	87.2	201
Total 15-24	81.1	12.9	2,195	40.4	283	57.6	28.1	2,988	67.3	839

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

<sup>1</sup> Friends, family members, and home are not considered sources for condoms.

Never-married female youth are much more likely than never-married male youth to report that they have never engaged in sexual intercourse (81 percent and 58 percent, respectively). Among both women and men who have never married, abstinence is very common in the 15-19 year age group. Though the percentage of never-married youth who have never had sex declines rapidly with age, among 23-24 year olds, 50 percent of never-married women and 22 percent of never-married men reported that they had not yet had sexual intercourse.

Considering the pattern of recent sexual activity, 28 percent of never-married male youth reported that they had intercourse during the 12 months prior to the survey, compared with 13 percent of never-married female youth. Among never-married sexually active youth, condom use at last sex was more common among males than females (67 percent and 40 percent, respectively).

The largest differentials in Table 13.17 are observed in the percentages of sexually active never-married youth using condoms at last sex. Condom use is much more prevalent among urban than rural youth, and it increases with both the youth's educational level and the wealth quintile. For example, 87 percent of sexually active never-married male youth in the highest wealth quintile used a condom the last time they had sex in the 12 months before the survey, compared with 36 percent in the lowest quintile.

#### **13.11.4 Higher-risk Sex**

The most common means of transmission of HIV in Zimbabwe is through unprotected sex with an infected person. To prevent HIV transmission, it is important that young people practice safe sex. Tables 13.18.1 and 13.18.2 present data on the percentage of young people who had engaged in sexual intercourse during the 12-month period before the survey with at least one higher-risk partner, i.e., a nonmarital, noncohabiting partner, and the rate of condom use in these higher-risk sexual encounters.

Young men were much more likely than young women to report a recent higher-risk sexual activity (78 percent and 16 percent, respectively). This is at least in part due to the fact that young women are more likely than young men to be married or living together with a partner. Among youth who were ever-married, only 4 percent of women reported having a higher-risk sexual encounter, compared with 27 percent of men. The increasing proportion married with age also is a factor in the lower prevalence of higher-risk sex among both young women and men in their early twenties compared with those under age 20. Looking at the other differentials in Tables 13.8.1 and 13.8.2, higher-risk sex is most prevalent among young women in Matabeleland South (49 percent) and among young men in Matabeleland South and Bulawayo (87 percent each).

Condom use during high-risk sex varied markedly between young women and men; 42 percent of women used a condom the last time they had sex with a high-risk partner, compared with 68 percent of young men. Among both young women and young men, the likelihood of a condom being used during higher-risk intercourse generally increased with education and the wealth quintile and was more common among urban than rural residents.

Table 13.18.1 Higher-risk sexual intercourse among youth and condom use at last higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months: women

Among young women age 15-24 who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, the percentage who had higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, and, among those having higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months, the percentage reporting that a condom was used at last higher-risk intercourse, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Women 15-24 who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months		Women 15-24 who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months	
	Percentage who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months <sup>1</sup>	Number of women	Percentage who reported using a condom at last higher-risk intercourse	Number of women
<b>Age</b>				
15-19	24.3	609	40.7	148
15-17	26.0	205	47.1	53
18-19	23.4	404	37.0	95
20-24	13.0	1,423	43.7	185
20-22	14.1	830	37.8	117
23-24	11.6	592	53.9	69
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married	91.6	283	43.8	259
Ever married	4.2	1,748	37.3	74
<b>Knows condom source<sup>2</sup></b>				
Yes	17.8	1,589	48.1	283
No	11.3	442	9.7	50
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	25.6	705	51.2	180
Rural	11.5	1,326	31.9	153
<b>Province</b>				
Manicaland	8.2	226	*	18
Mashonaland Central	8.6	234	*	20
Mashonaland East	8.4	159	*	13
Mashonaland West	8.8	197	*	17
Matabeleland North	29.0	142	(17.4)	41
Matabeleland South	48.8	90	31.0	44
Midlands	11.8	270	(25.6)	32
Masvingo	8.3	261	*	22
Harare	19.6	319	49.5	63
Bulawayo	47.7	131	56.1	63
<b>Education</b>				
No education	*	10	*	2
Primary	11.8	662	26.5	78
Secondary	18.4	1,333	46.7	246
More than secondary	(28.2)	27	(65.8)	8
<b>Wealth quintile</b>				
Lowest	13.2	398	23.8	52
Second	9.9	402	(36.4)	40
Middle	10.9	372	(31.8)	40
Fourth	15.7	488	49.0	76
Highest	33.4	371	51.5	124
Total 15-24	16.4	2,031	42.4	333

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

<sup>1</sup> Sexual intercourse with a partner who neither was a spouse nor who lived with the respondent

<sup>2</sup> Friends, family members, and home are not considered sources for condoms.

Table 13.18.2 Higher-risk sexual intercourse among youth and condom use at last higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months: men

Among young men age 15-24 who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, the percentage who had higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, and, among those having higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months, the percentage reporting that a condom was used at last higher-risk intercourse, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Men 15-24 who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months		Men 15-24 who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months	
	Percentage who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months <sup>1</sup>	Number of men	Percentage who reported using a condom at last higher-risk intercourse	Number of men
<b>Age</b>				
15-19	96.5	342	54.4	330
15-17	100.0	129	41.5	129
18-19	94.4	213	62.6	201
20-24	69.9	854	75.6	597
20-22	76.5	484	71.1	371
23-24	61.2	369	83.0	226
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married	98.9	839	67.8	830
Ever married	27.2	356	70.0	97
<b>Knows condom source<sup>2</sup></b>				
Yes	69.5	770	50.7	535
No	92.0	426	91.7	392
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	81.1	448	84.0	363
Rural	75.3	748	57.7	563
<b>Province</b>				
Manicaland	76.4	117	79.3	89
Mashonaland Central	68.3	153	79.3	105
Mashonaland East	71.5	65	(68.8)	47
Mashonaland West	70.9	108	78.7	77
Matabeleland North	79.7	107	38.7	85
Matabeleland South	86.9	53	64.3	46
Midlands	79.0	158	53.4	125
Masvingo	83.4	139	46.8	116
Harare	76.6	183	91.0	140
Bulawayo	86.7	112	75.4	97
<b>Education</b>				
No education	*	1	*	1
Primary	74.5	330	47.0	246
Secondary	78.2	823	74.9	644
More than secondary	87.4	42	(87.4)	36
<b>Wealth quintile</b>				
Lowest	75.2	209	36.0	157
Second	68.4	195	52.9	133
Middle	79.9	226	73.4	181
Fourth	75.4	321	76.2	242
Highest	87.2	246	87.1	214
Total 15-24	77.5	1,195	68.0	927

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

<sup>1</sup> Sexual intercourse with a partner who neither was a spouse nor who lived with the respondent

<sup>2</sup> Friends, family members, and home are not considered sources for condoms.



### **13.11.5 Age-mixing in Sexual Relationships**

In many societies, young women have sexual relationships with men who are considerably older than they are. This practice can contribute to the wider spread of HIV and other STIs, because if a younger, uninfected partner has sex with an older, infected partner, this can introduce the virus into a younger, uninfected cohort. To investigate this practice, in the 2005-06 ZDHS women age 15-19 who had sex with a nonmarital, noncohabiting partner in the 12 months preceding the survey were asked whether the man was younger, about the same age, or older than they were. If older, they were asked if they thought he was less than 10 years older or 10 or more years older. The results show that in the year prior to the survey, 5 percent of women age 15-19 who had higher-risk sex had intercourse with a man 10 or more years older than themselves (not shown in table).

### **13.11.6 Drunkenness during Sexual Intercourse**

Sexual intercourse when one or both partners are under the influence of alcohol is more likely than otherwise to be unplanned, and couples are therefore less likely to use condoms. Respondents who had sex during the preceding 12 months were asked if they or their partners drank alcohol the last time they had sex, and if so, whether they or their partners were drunk. Table 13.19 shows the prevalence of sexual intercourse while drunk. Less than 1 percent of female youth and 4 percent of male youth reported that they themselves were drunk at least once when they had intercourse during the 12 months prior to the survey. Five percent of youth reported that they and/or their partner had been drunk when they had intercourse during the year before the survey.

Table 13.19 Drunkenness during sexual intercourse among youth

Among all young women and young men age 15-24, the percentages who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months while being drunk, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Women 15-24			Men 15-24		
	Percentage who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months when drunk	Percentage who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months when drunk or with a partner who was drunk	Number of women	Percentage who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months when drunk	Percentage who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months when drunk or with a partner who was drunk	Number of men
<b>Age</b>						
15-19	0.2	2.5	2,152	1.8	1.9	1,899
15-17	0.0	1.5	1,233	1.8	1.8	1,165
18-19	0.5	3.9	919	1.8	2.1	734
20-24	0.7	6.8	1,952	7.5	7.9	1,459
20-22	0.9	6.1	1,212	5.5	6.0	928
23-24	0.4	7.8	740	10.9	11.2	531
<b>Marital status</b>						
Never married	0.3	1.3	2,195	3.4	3.7	2,988
Ever married	0.6	8.3	1,909	10.9	11.3	370
<b>Knows condom source<sup>1</sup></b>						
Yes	0.7	5.3	2,871	3.3	3.5	2,465
No	0.0	2.8	1,232	7.0	7.4	893
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	0.7	4.5	1,711	5.1	5.4	1,279
Rural	0.3	4.6	2,392	3.7	4.0	2,079
<b>Province</b>						
Manicaland	0.0	2.9	457	4.6	4.7	407
Mashonaland Central	1.0	4.7	363	6.5	7.0	343
Mashonaland East	0.7	5.6	299	2.4	2.4	265
Mashonaland West	0.0	3.3	351	2.1	2.1	310
Matabeleland North	0.3	1.6	243	2.1	2.1	207
Matabeleland South	0.6	3.0	205	1.0	1.0	174
Midlands	0.3	5.8	546	3.5	3.9	479
Masvingo	0.2	7.1	534	5.5	5.5	392
Harare	1.1	4.1	758	5.7	6.4	547
Bulawayo	0.2	4.8	348	6.0	6.0	234
<b>Education</b>						
No education	*	*	19	*	*	10
Primary	0.4	6.0	1,077	3.5	3.6	852
Secondary	0.4	3.9	2,947	4.4	4.8	2,400
More than secondary	5.5	8.3	60	7.0	7.0	97
<b>Wealth quintile</b>						
Lowest	0.3	6.4	660	3.8	4.1	498
Second	0.4	4.4	679	1.9	2.1	550
Middle	0.1	3.0	715	5.2	5.4	710
Fourth	0.5	5.7	905	6.1	6.3	828
Highest	0.8	3.5	1,146	3.4	3.7	773
Total 15-24	0.5	4.5	4,104	4.3	4.5	3,358

Note: An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

<sup>1</sup> Friends, family members, and home are not considered sources for condoms.

### 13.11.7 Coverage of HIV Testing Services

Seeking an HIV test may be more difficult for youth than adults, because many youth lack experience in accessing health services for themselves and because there are often barriers to youth obtaining services. Table 13.20 presents data on the percentage of sexually active youth being tested and receiving the results within the past year.

Overall, there was very low uptake of HIV testing among men and women in the 15-24 year age range. Female youth are slightly more likely than male youth to have been tested for HIV and received the results of the test (7 percent and 5 percent, respectively). Urban youth, particularly those living in Bulawayo and Harare, youth with more than secondary education, and youth in the highest wealth quintile were more likely than other youth to have had a test and received the results. There is an increase in the percentage of young women and men who got tested for HIV and received the results in the past 12 months with age, education, and wealth.

Table 13.20 Coverage of HIV testing services among youth

Among young women and young men age 15-24 who have had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, the percentage who have had an HIV test in the past 12 months and received the results of the test, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Women 15-24		Men 15-24	
	Percentage who have been tested for HIV and received results in the past 12 months	Number of women	Percentage who have been tested for HIV and received results in the past 12 months	Number of men
<b>Age</b>				
15-19	4.7	2,206	2.8	1,935
15-17	3.1	1,251	2.0	1,186
18-19	6.8	954	4.2	750
20-24	8.5	2,084	8.0	1,574
20-22	8.4	1,286	8.1	984
23-24	8.6	798	7.7	590
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married	6.4	2,223	5.2	3,097
Ever married	6.6	2,067	5.0	412
<b>Knows condom source<sup>1</sup></b>				
Yes	7.7	3,023	5.1	2,551
No	3.6	1,267	5.2	959
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	10.6	1,788	8.4	1,349
Rural	3.6	2,502	3.1	2,161
<b>Province</b>				
Manicaland	8.7	471	4.4	426
Mashonaland Central	6.0	380	2.6	367
Mashonaland East	4.8	315	2.8	272
Mashonaland West	3.2	362	4.0	316
Matabeleland North	5.6	247	2.3	211
Matabeleland South	4.2	211	2.2	175
Midlands	2.5	577	4.4	498
Masvingo	4.8	572	5.4	413
Harare	10.8	789	8.4	583
Bulawayo	11.0	364	12.2	248
<b>Education</b>				
No education	*	21	*	10
Primary	1.7	1,142	1.6	882
Secondary	7.9	3,062	5.8	2,514
More than secondary	26.5	65	20.0	104
<b>Wealth quintile</b>				
Lowest	3.1	702	1.7	518
Second	4.1	708	3.0	561
Middle	3.2	737	3.3	749
Fourth	6.7	956	5.3	880
Highest	11.9	1,186	10.4	802
Total 15-24	6.5	4,290	5.1	3,510

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

<sup>1</sup> Friends, family members, and home are not considered sources for condoms.