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## Titre : Adolescents' knowledge and attitudes about sexually transmitted infections

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### Introduction:

Adolescents are the most vulnerable to the risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections (STIs), mainly because of lack of education.

### Objective:

The aim was to identify adolescents' knowledge and attitudes of sexually transmitted infections.

### Methods:

It was a descriptive study, conducted from February to March using a self-administrated questionnaire among students of High school IBN SINA Msaken, Sousse, Tunisia.

### Results:

A total of 90 students participated.  
The mean age was  $16.97 \pm 1.59$  years.  
The sex ratio = 0.6. (figure1) .

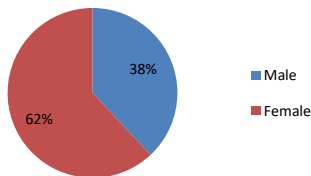


Figure1: Distribution of students by sex

The majority of students (28.9%) were enrolled in the 1<sup>st</sup> academic year and for 96.7% of them, their parents were living together.

Eighteen students reported having sexual intercourse, among them 66.7% used a condom.

More than 2/3 of respondents (76.7%) had knowledge about STIs.

AIDS was the most known STI (90.6%) followed by syphilis (20%), herpes (9.41%) hepatitis 5.9% and Chlamydia (1.2%). (Table)

Table: Distribution of the participants according to their knowledge about the STIs

	N	(%)
AIDS	82	90,6
Syphilis	18	20
Herpes	8	9,41
Hepatitis	5	5,9
Chlamydia	1	1,2

Only 13.3% knew the signs of STIs and itching was the most known symptom (58.3%).

Two-thirds of the students (65.6%) had no idea about the causes of STIs or their possible complications (90%), or about the prevention methods (45.6%).

More than 2/3 (67.8%) were unaware of the existence of AIDS testing centers.

The principal sources of information about STIs were the internet (70%), the media (55.6%) and friends (51.1%).

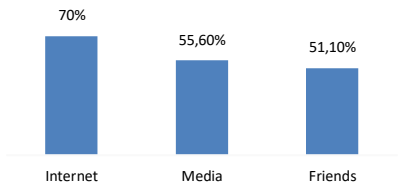


Figure2: The sources of information about STIs according to participants

Almost all students (97.9%) reported that the school nurse never approached the subject of STI with them.

The majority (84.4%) of participants have not attended any STIs awareness sessions.

Two thirds of students (66.7%) wanted to include a chapter of STIs in education programs.(Figure3)

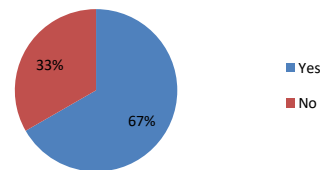


Figure3: Distribution of the students according to their opinions about including the chapter of STIs in education programs

### Conclusion:

It seems to be necessary to introduce sexual health education programs in schools in order to improve STIs prevention.