

SEXUALLY RELATED BELIEFS AND BEHAVIOR AMONG MEXICAN ADOLESCENTS

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According to Kirby, Lepore, & Ryan (2005), teens, emanating from poor communities are more likely to engage in sex earlier have higher rates of pregnancy. In Mexico, seventeen percent of all live births are to women under 19 years of age (Consejo Nacional de Población, 1997). The purpose of this study is to examine sexually related beliefs and behavior among Mexican adolescents. Specifically, the study examines: Beliefs and knowledge about sex; sexually related behaviors; and rates of STDs and pregnancy. Sexual knowledge may be associated with STD's and unwanted pregnancies (e.g., Becerra & Fielder,1985). Another purpose is to test the hypothesis that sexually related knowledge will be negatively related to risky sexual behaviors (e.g., Daniyam et al., 2006)