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Emerging Social Issues Division

Social Policy and Population Section

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Article **Knowledge and Beliefs about HIV/AIDS among Young People in Urban Nepal**

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Abstract A survey conducted in 2000 among the population aged 14 to 22 in urban Nepal shows that married young people are generally less knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), their modes of transmission and preventive measures than are their unmarried counterparts. Furthermore, among both single and married persons, females are considerably less informed than males. Overall, married females are the most disadvantaged with respect to knowledge about HIV/AIDS and other STIs. For the unmarried, friends are the primary source of information—seeking and —sharing, while spouses are the primary source for those who are married. Education and the regular reading of print materials have the most consistent associations with correct and relevant information. Findings point to the need to reduce the large gaps that exist between the sexes and marital status, develop more effective communication skills between friends and between spouses and reach out through alternative approaches to the uneducated and those without access to print media.

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