

Photo credit: UNICEF Malawi



Outcomes Associated with Forced and Early Sexual Debut

Malawi and Nigeria Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS)

Forced first sex and ***early sexual debut*** are associated with sexual risk behaviors.

- These put youth at risk for HIV:
 - Nigerian males were 5.5 times more likely to use condoms infrequently if their first sex was forced.
 - Malawian females were 5.6 times more likely to have multiple sex partners if they had early sexual debut.
- Young people in Nigerian and Malawi need to be given tools to ensure their initial sexual experiences are safe, healthy and positive.
- HIV programming aimed to reduce sexual risk could benefit from understanding how forced and early initial sexual experiences can shape risk-taking later in life.