

## Representações De Adolescentes Sobre Ist E Aids: uma revisão de literatura

REPRESENTATIONS OF ADOLESCENTS ON STI AND AIDS: A literature review  
REPRESENTACIONES DE ADOLESCENTES SOBRE IST Y SIDA: una revisión de literatura

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### RESUMO:

Este estudo teve como objetivo identificar as representações de adolescentes em relação às Infecções Sexualmente Transmissíveis e aids, bem como os enfoques presentes nos artigos. Foram utilizadas as seguintes bases de dados para realização da pesquisa: Literatura Latino-Americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde (LILACS) e National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health (PubMed). Essas bases de dados foram selecionadas devido à relevância nacional e internacional em publicações científicas em saúde. Foi utilizado o operador booleano "AND" para o cruzamento entre os descritores que foram encontrados nos Descritores em Ciências da Saúde (DECS) e no Medical Subject Headings (MESH), nomeados como HIV, Saúde Sexual, Doenças Sexualmente Transmissíveis, Sexualidade e Adolescente, assim como seus sinônimos e suas respectivas versões em inglês e espanhol. Utilizou-se a palavra-chave representações como parte da estratégia de busca. Para elaboração dessa revisão foram selecionados 12 artigos. Essa revisão de literatura mostrou que há baixa produção científica relacionada à temática, mas pode-se verificar que as representações dos adolescentes têm muitos pontos comuns, apesar de haver locais, populações, ambientes, momentos e objetivos distintos dos estudos. Os modos de vida dos adolescentes nos dias atuais são diferentes dos adolescentes das décadas passadas, o que contribui para uma readaptação das ações relacionadas a esse grupo populacional. Compreendendo como esses jovens pensam e agem, é possível traçar ações de prevenção e promoção à saúde mais efetivas.

**Palavras-chave:** Saúde sexual; HIV; Doenças sexualmente transmissíveis; Sexualidade; Adolescente; Representações.

### ABSTRACT:

This study aimed to identify the representations of adolescents in relation to Sexually Transmitted Infections and AIDS, as well as the approaches present in the articles. The following databases were used to carry out the research: Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences (LILACS) and National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health (PubMed). These databases were selected because of their national and international relevance in scientific publications on health. The Boolean operator "AND" was used to cross the descriptors found in the Health Sciences Descriptors (DECS) and the Medical Subject Headings (MESH), named HIV, Sexual Health, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Sexuality and Adolescent, as well as their synonyms and their respective versions in Portuguese and Spanish. We used the keyword representations as part of the search strategy. To compile this review, 12 articles were selected. This literature review showed that there is a low scientific production related to the subject, but it can be verified that the representations of the adolescents have many common points, although there are different places, populations, environments, moments and objectives of the studies. The way of life of adolescents in the present day are different from the adolescents of the past decades, which contributes to a readaptation of the actions related to this population group. By understanding how these young people think and act, it is possible to devise more effective prevention and health promotion actions.

**Keywords:** Sexual health; HIV; Sexually transmitted diseases; Sexuality; Adolescent; Representations.

**RESUMEN:**

Este estudio tuvo como objetivo identificar las representaciones de adolescentes en relación a las Infecciones Sexualmente Transmisibles y sida, así como los enfoques presentes en los artículos. Se utilizaron las siguientes bases de datos para la realización de la investigación: Literatura Latinoamericana y del Caribe en Ciencias de la Salud (LILACS) y National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health (PubMed). Estas bases de datos fueron seleccionadas debido a la relevancia nacional e internacional en publicaciones científicas en salud. Se utilizó el operador booleano "AND" para el cruce entre los descriptores que fueron encontrados en los Descriptores en Ciencias de la Salud (DECS) y en el Medical Subject Headings (MESH), nombrados como VIH, Salud Sexual, Enfermedades Sexualmente Transmisibles, Sexualidad y Adolescente, así como sus sinónimos y sus respectivas versiones en inglés y español. Se utilizó la palabra clave representaciones como parte de la estrategia de búsqueda. Para la elaboración de esta revisión se seleccionaron 12 artículos. Esta revisión de literatura mostró que hay baja producción científica relacionada con la temática, pero se puede verificar que las representaciones de los adolescentes tienen muchos puntos comunes, a pesar de haber locales, poblaciones, ambientes, momentos y objetivos distintos de los estudios. Los modos de vida de los adolescentes en los días actuales son diferentes de los adolescentes de las décadas pasadas, lo que contribuye a una readaptación de las acciones relacionadas a ese grupo poblacional. Comprender cómo estos jóvenes piensan y actúan, es posible trazar acciones de prevención y promoción a la salud más efectivas.

**Palabras-chave:** Salud sexual; VIH; Enfermedades sexualmente transmisibles; Sexualidad; Adolescentes; Representaciones.

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## I. Introduction

AIDS is a syndrome acquired through Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection, which occurs through sexual contact or contaminated blood. Infection affects people of all age groups, because transmission can occur vertically at birth, during childbirth, or by breastfeeding, when the mother is infected with HIV, and through sexual use or use of syringes and materials contaminated by HIV. blood of infected persons<sup>(1)</sup>.

About 36.7 million people live with HIV worldwide, with 2.1 million new infections per year<sup>(2)</sup>. From the beginning of the AIDS epidemic until June 2017, 882,810 cases were registered in Brazil<sup>(1)</sup>.

More than 70% of the AIDS detection rate in Brazil is among people aged 20 to 39 years, but a considerable portion of these individuals contracted the virus during adolescence<sup>(3)</sup>. There has been an increase in AIDS detection rates among 15-24 year-old males, and almost tripled among 15- to 19-year-olds, at which stage sexual maturation and sexual initiation occurs<sup>(3)</sup>.

The data from the MS show that from 2006 to 2016, the rate of AIDS detection in women tended to fall in almost all age groups, except among 15-19 year-old girls, which increased by 13.9%<sup>(3)</sup>.

The challenges for HIV control are many, considering, above all, that AIDS is a disease that remains incurable and that mortality has increased in Brazil<sup>(4)</sup>. The epidemiological picture therefore warns of the importance of health promotion and prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), especially for adolescents.

Adolescence is a stage of life of great biological, psychic and social transformations, a moment in which changes occur in the body and sexual maturation, with consequent stimulation to the beginning of sexual life. The discovery of adolescent sexuality is broad in character, includes beliefs, changes in childish attitudes and attitudes toward society, and is part of their growth and development as an individual and social subject. Sexual activities with partners constitute a normal milestone in the development of people of this age group, but they can bring increased vulnerability to STIs, including AIDS, if relationships are unprotected<sup>(5)</sup>.

If, on the one hand, adolescence is a phase of greater vulnerability to HIV infection, due to the adolescent's need to explore what is new to him / herself (6), often moving away from precaution that could free oneself. The risk of getting infected on the other hand, the possibility of developing a healthy sexuality, also emotionally, is a right of adolescents that must be protected.

The promotion of sexual health is, therefore, both necessary for the construction of healthy behaviors that include the protection of STI and AIDS infection, and desirable for the knowledge and self-knowledge of adolescents in their sexual discoveries<sup>(7)</sup>.

Questions, doubts and unstable behaviors regarding affectivity, sex life, drug experimentation can accompany adolescents, in the exercise of their uniqueness. These are conflicts that will be potentiated in adolescents infected with HIV, as they include the fear and experience of stigma, discrimination and prejudice associated with HIV / AIDS<sup>(3)</sup>.

The waysofactingand making decisions are theexpressionofwaysofthinkingaboutthe world as a social construction<sup>(8)</sup>. In the case ofadolescents, who are buildingthemselves more intenselythan in other age groups, theyneedinteractionsthatconsidertheir doubtsandsingularities, which are reflectiveandknowledge-building. However, healthpromotionactionsoffered in institutions, whetheratschoolor in healthservices, still tendto bealmostinformativeandprescriptive, withoutconsideringtheconstructionofthinkingthe world, the point ofviewaboutobjects, therepresentationsaboutthem.

The representations are characterizedbyunveilingthis social construction, theresultoftheintegrationbetweenwhat isalreadyknownwithwhat ispresented as new, iswhatallowspeopletoorientthemselves in their social context, because it defines what isvisible, whatonehastorespondorwhatconnectsappearancetothe reality ofpeople, groupsandsociety. In thisway, it enables communication among its membersbyoffering a “codetounambiguouslynameandclassifythevariousaspectsoftheir world andtheir individual and social history”<sup>(9, p. 21)</sup>.

Whatrepresentationsabout STI and AIDS are presentamongadolescents? What in thescientificliteratureisproduced?

Toanswerthesequestions, anintegrativeliterature review wasattemptedto identifytherepresentationsofadolescents in relationtoSTIsand AIDS, as well as the approaches present in thearticles

## II. Metodology

The studyisanIntegrativeLiterature Review (RLI). Suchmethodallowstosystematicallyanalyzetheresultsofpreviousstudieson a certaintheme, withthepurposeofcontributingtodecision making, improvementofclinicalpractice, deepeningofthethemeanddetectionofknowledgegaps<sup>(10)</sup>.

To performthe NIL, thefollowingsteps werefollowed: elaborationoftheguidingquestion, literaturerearch, data collection, criticalanalysisofthestudies, discussionofresultsandpresentationoftheintegrativereview<sup>(11)</sup>.

Thisstudywasdevelopedbysearching for nationalandinternationalscientificproductionsabouttherepresentationsofadolescentsrelatedtoSTIsand AIDS, from 2011 to 2016, andfocusedonthe followingguidingquestion: what are therepresentationsofadolescentsaboutSTIsand AIDS analyzed in thehealthliterature?

The searchprocess in thebibliographicdatabases tookplace in January 2017. The followingdatabaseswereusedtoconducttheresearch: Latin American andCaribbean Health SciencesLiterature (LILACS) andNational Library of Medicine NationalInstitutesof Health (PubMed). Thesedatabaseswere selectedduetotheirnationalandinternationalrelevance in healthscientificpublications. The Booleanoperator “AND” wasusedtocrossbetweenthedescriptorsfound in the Health SciencesDescriptors (DECS) and Medical SubjectHeadings (MESH), named as HIV, Sexual Health, SexuallyTransmittedDiseases, SexualityandAdolescent, as well as theirsynonymsandtheirrespectiveEnglishand Spanish versions. The keywordrepresentationswereused as partofthesearchstrategy. The descriptorswerecrossed in ordertoselectarticlesthataddressedtherepresentationsofadolescentsabout sexual healthandsexuallytransmittedinfections.

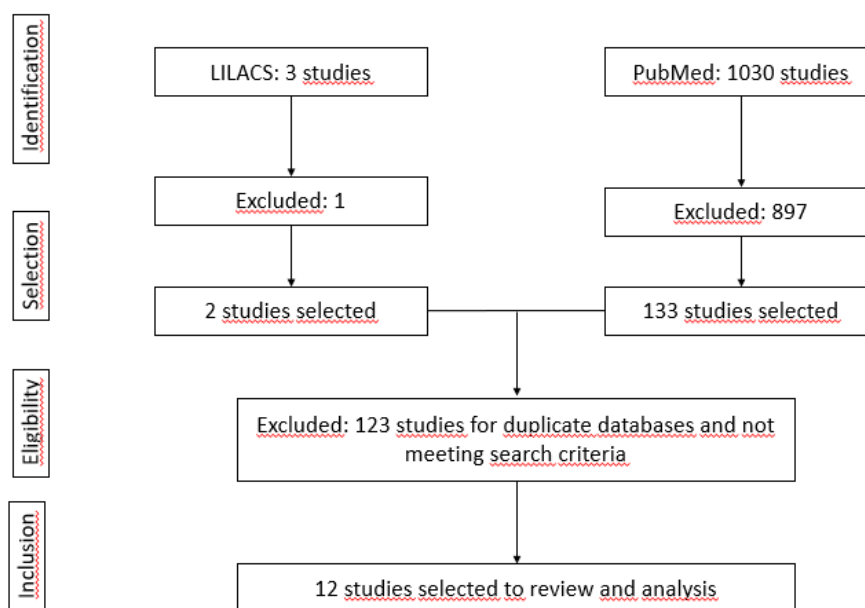
Inclusioncriteriawere: original studies, available in full in electronicformat, in Portuguese, Englishand Spanish, publishedbetween 2011 and 2016 andwhichaddressed in the titleand abstract therepresentationsofadolescentsabout STI and AIDS, which totaled 1033 articles, excludingduplicatearticles.

Fromtheexploratoryreadingofthe abstractsofthesescientificarticles, 135 publicationswerefoundthatwere close tothetheme in question. The publicationswereread in their entiretytoconfirmthatthesubjectsaddressedthequestionofinterest. Thisresulted in 12 studies thatwererevised tocompose thepresentintegrative review, twolocated in the LILACS databaseand 10 in thePubMeddatabase, as shownin Figure 1.

The readingoftheselectedarticleswasperformedcriticallyandinterpretively, whichallowedtheexplorationandsynthesisoftheresults in anidentificationinstrumentthatcontainedthefollowingparameters: title, authors, yearofpublication, method, place, participants, objectives, mainresultsandconclusionsofthestudies.

The resultsextractedfromeachstudywereanalyzeddescriptivelyandpresented in a synoptictable, gatheringtheknowledgeproducedonthetopicaddressed.

FIGURE 1: Study search and selection of studies



Source: Prepared by the authors

### III. Results

Of the 135 articles initially selected, those who addressed adolescent representations of sexual health and sexually transmitted infections and AIDS were selected after a full reading, leaving 12 primary studies selected for analysis, as shown in Figure 1.

Of the 12 articles included in this integrative review, eight were published in English and four in Portuguese. The largest number of articles was found in 2011 (n = 6), followed by 2015 (n = 2) and 2013 (n = 2). In 2014 and 2016, only one article was selected from each year.

Regarding the study design, four articles (33.33%) were found in which the quantitative, descriptive and exploratory methodology was used, with frequency analysis and word evocation order, which allowed the identification of representations. The other eight articles (66.67%) had a qualitative approach with thematic, content, narration and discourse analysis of the collective subject.

As for the place where the research took place, there was a predominance in the African continent (n = 8), followed by studies conducted in Brazil (n = 3) and a study conducted in Portugal.

The 12 scientific productions selected for this integrative review were numbered 1 to 12 and organized in Table 1, with the objective of assisting in the analysis process. This table presents the following parameters: authors, year and title of the publication, main results, representation of adolescents about HIV and AIDS.

Table 1 - Overview of articles included in the integrative review

Nº	Authors, year and title of the publication	Review and impact factor (FI)	Main results	Adolescent representations of HIV and AIDS
1	Abubakar et al. 2016 <sup>(12)</sup> .  ‘Everyone has a secret they keep close to their hearts’: challenges faced by adolescents living with HIV infection at the Kenyan coast.	BMC Public Health.  FI: 2,420	The results pointed to six major difficulties adolescents face in rural Kenya: poverty, deficiencies in mental and physical health, lack of a school system that responds to their needs, challenges in dealing with peers and family members; high levels of stigma and challenges in adhering to medical treatment.	Adolescents' representations about AIDS are centered on the fear and insecurity of a diagnosis of positive HIV being revealed in the school environment.
2	Gomes; Nunes. 2015 <sup>(13)</sup> .  Representação social do sexo nos jovens adultos portugueses.	Psicologia, reflexão e crítica.	The results suggest a social representation of romanticized sex, with a central core based on the idea of love and pleasure, in which risk-related aspects, such as condoms or sexually transmitted infections, belong only to the peripheral	Representations are centered on relationships involving love and pleasure. Pleasure is primarily tied to affection, but it also has links to desire, intimacy, orgasm and STI. Love also presented links with passion,

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			system, considering that they are integrated in it as a way of preserving the core, but without interfering with how participants live their sexual experiences.	girlfriend (s) and condom.
3	Le Roux-Rutledge et al. 2015 <sup>(14)</sup> .  It's harder for boys? Children's representations of their HIV/aids-affected peers in Zimbabwe.	AIDS Care: Psychological And Socio-Medical Aspects Of Aids/Hiv FI: 1,994	When comparing representations of boys and girls, it is observed that boys have less support from family members and teachers. It is also possible to determine a number of challenges due to the culture of gender inequality.	Male adolescents present negative representations about AIDS due to the belief that this disease can interfere with their work routine and care with their family.
4	Kenu et al., 2014 <sup>(15)</sup> .  Knowledge and disclosure of HIV status among adolescents and Young adults attending an adolescent HIV clinic in Accra, Ghana.	BMC Research Notes	The results showed that 85% of survey participants were aware that young people of their age could have AIDS, 91% had heard of HIV, 70% knew someone with HIV and 45% thought that adolescents were not at risk of contracting HIV. HIV Regarding the modes of HIV transmission, 66.7% knew that HIV was transmitted sexually. 53% know their HIV status (positive or negative), 50% were on antiretroviral treatment.	Representations of the forms of HIV transmission are centered on knowledge considered correct and incorrect about HIV and AIDS. Adolescents consider AIDS to be a serious disease, but it can be prevented.
5	Arraes et al. 2013 <sup>(16)</sup> .  Masculinidade, vulnerabilidade e prevenção relacionadas às doenças sexualmente transmissíveis/HIV/aids entre adolescentes do sexo masculino: representações sociais em assentamento da reforma agrária.	Revista Latino-Americana de Enfermagem. FI: 1,686	Three categories emerged: perception of vulnerability, gender and vulnerability, and prevention and vulnerability related to sexually transmitted diseases / HIV / AIDS. In their speeches, the adolescents showed lack of knowledge about the way to prevent STI / HIV and AIDS.	Adolescents feel vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections, anchored in representations favorable to male hegemony, and leave women responsible for contraceptive methods.
6	Watermeyer. 2013 <sup>(17)</sup> .  "Are we allowed to disclose?": a healthcare team's experiences of talking with children and adolescents about their HIV status.	Health Expectation. FI: 2,173	The results confirm the complexity of the HIV positive outcome disclosure process. We highlight confusion, hesitation and ethical dilemmas regarding disclosure. Tensions were observed within the health care team, which appear to be linked to professional hierarchies.	Adolescents' representations of AIDS differ according to their support network. When diagnosed with HIV positive, adolescents may react positively in order to follow treatment, or negatively, with dangerous attitudes, including drug abuse.
7	Rodrigues et al. 2011 <sup>(18)</sup> .  Representações sociais de adolescentes e jovens vivendo com HIV acerca da adolescência, sexualidade e aids.	Revista Eletrônica de Enfermagem.	Three categories were found: "being a teenager: I think so ..."; "Adolescence and AIDS: Limits and Possibilities" and "Sexuality of Adolescents Living with HIV: Between Normality and Frustration". Despite internal conflicts and restrictions, being in adolescence or youth living with HIV, the maturation process, brought by the very condition of seropositivity, drives the adolescent to seek strategies that provide better coping with sexuality.	The representations about adolescence and AIDS indicated negative aspects, with expressions of fear, discrimination, prejudice, sadness, lack of social support and guilt.
8	Reis; Santos. 2011 <sup>(19)</sup> .  Relações desiguais de gênero no discurso de adolescentes.	Ciência & Saúde Coletiva. FI: 0,757	Adolescents talk about the existence of differences in gender relations, demonstrating that adolescents bring with them an old view that men, from the reproductive age group, can freely exercise their sexuality, unlike women. The idea of naturalization of this practice as masculine causes disadvantage for women, who when they assume it,	Maintenance of macho ideas when it comes to sex and vulnerability to STIs. Thus, women are to blame for not protecting themselves during sex, being susceptible to early pregnancy and STIs.

			are considered of bad behavior. However, issues such as homosexuality are naturally seen by teenagers.	
9	Winskell; Hill; Obyerodhyambo. 2011 <sup>(20)</sup> .  Comparing HIV-related symbolic stigma in six African countries: social representations in Young people's narratives.	Social Science & Medicine.  FI: 3,007	The association of HIV with "outsiders" (foreigners, outsiders) and concern about the circumstances of infection are more common in countries with low HIV prevalence, but vary depending on the socio-cultural context. The highest proportion of moralizing narratives and pessimistic narratives come from Southeast Nigeria and, to a lesser extent, Kenya, countries with prevalence levels of 3.9 and 6.1%, respectively, where Christian evangelical movements, including Pentecostalism, have many followers.	Adolescents hold representations that at AIDS is linked to homosexuality, considering it as risky behavior. They also associate AIDS with sex workers and their clients.
10	Riley; Baah-Odoom, 2011 <sup>(21)</sup> .  Do stigma, blame and stereotyping contribute to unsafe sexual behaviour? A test of claims about the spread of HIV/aids arising from social representation theory and the aids risk reduction model.	Social Science & Medicine.  FI: 3,007	The results indicate that the stigmatization of some groups of people about STIs is still present, as well as the intention of sexual risk behavior. On the other hand, there is no stigmatization of factual sexual risk behavior.	Adolescents present in their speeches representations related to the stigma present in society about AIDS, in which the behaviors considered as risky and reduced perceptions of vulnerability are present.
11	Winskell et al. 2011 <sup>(22)</sup> .  Making sense of abstinence: social representations in Young Africans' HIV-related narratives from six countries.	Culture Health & Sexuality.  FI: 1,742	Abstinence was considerably more prominent as a theme in the samples from Southeast Nigeria, Kenya, and present-day Swaziland. It was articulated in relation to conservative Christian sexual morality and in opposition to condom use in particular in southeastern Nigeria, with stigmatizing implications for non-abstainers. However, the similarities were more striking than the differences. There were messages that highlighted the appeal of romantic love speeches and future plans in every country.	As a method of AIDS prevention, sexual abstinence is considered a structural, normative and relational feature for girls. On the other hand, for boys, sexual abstinence can be seen as a normative pressure on masculinity. In any case, sexual abstinence is not considered as a good prevention method against HIV infection.
12	Winskell; Obyerodhyambo; Stephenson. 2011 <sup>(23)</sup> .  Making sense of condoms: social representation in young people's HIV-related narratives from six African countries.	Social Science & Medicine.  FI: 3,007	Differences were observed in various contexts in the use of condoms, in the evaluation of their effectiveness, with survey of aspects that hinder and facilitate their use. Morality emerged as a fundamental impediment to condom use, while humor was an attractive means of normalizing it. Social representations in narratives point to communication needs in scenarios that can provide ideas and perspectives focused on future intervention efforts.	There is still a representation that condom use does not protect against HIV infection, which may be anchored in misinformation circulating about correct condom use. It was also identified that women who carry condoms in their bags are "judged by society".

This literature review showed that there is low scientific production related to the theme, but it can be seen that the representations of adolescents have many common points, although there are different places, populations, environments, moments and objectives of the studies. With the reading,

analysisandsynthesisoftheresultsoftheselectedarticles, it waspossibletoelaboratethreecategories, presented in Table 2.

**Table 2 - Summarycategoriesoftheselectedstudies.**

Category / Emphasis	Top Finds	Studies
Knowledgeabout AIDS andtheRisksof HIV Infection	The adolescents, participantsofthestudiesfound, haveknowledgerelatedto HIV and AIDS. However, it is still foundthatadolescents are atrisk for HIV infection, andthisisoftenrelatedtogenderissues, which include differences in behaviorbetween girls and boys. Teenagers are still influencedbyconceptionsofpastgenerations. Boys are seen as having more freedom for sex. Theytendtobelievethy are lessvulnerabletoSTIsthan girls.	2, 4, 5 e 8.
SeropositivityDiagnosisand Experience with HIV in Adolescence	Whenadolescents are diagnosedwithseropositivity for an STI, especially AIDS, theymayexperiencevariousreactions, such as anger, guilt, anddenial, whichmaycontributeto feelings offearandisolation. Thus, it isimportant for HIV-infectedadolescentstohavesupportfromtrustedpeople. Whentese teenagers go toschoo, they are afraidthattheirpeersandteacherswillbeawareoftheir HIV status andthattheywilldriftawayduetothestigmathat still exists in theinfectedperson.	1, 3, 6, 7, 9 e 10.
Use ofPreventiveMethods	Sexual abstinenceandcondom use havebeenidentified as methodsofpreventing HIV infection. However, studies show that a significantpartofadolescents, whenstartingtheir sexual life, do not use condoms. Theyclaimthatthismethodofpreventiondisrupts sexual intercourseandreducespleasure, andquestions its effectiveness. Teenagers alsoconsiderthatthere are social barrierstocondom use, feeling judgedwhenbuyingorhaving a condomwiththem.	2, 5, 11 e 12.

#### IV. Discussion

##### Knowledgeabout AIDS andtheRisksof HIV Infection

AccordingtotheNationalSchool Health Survey, about 90% ofadolescentswhoattendschoolreceiveinformationrelatedtoSTIs in AIDS<sup>(24)</sup>. However, it isobservedthatthisinformationiscentered in biology classes, butsuperficially<sup>(25)</sup>.

STIscanraiseconcernsandfears in adolescents. AdolescentsmaybeafraidandworriedaboutthedangerousnessofSTIs, waysof living andtreatmentagainsttheseinfections, andthefearofparentsknowingthattheyhavealreadystartedtheir sex life<sup>(26)</sup>.

However, in general, adolescentsconsiderthatmostpeople in their age group are notconcernedwithSTIsbutwiththepossibilityof a teenagepregnancy. In oursociety, pregnancyhas come tobeseen as a major concern for adolescents, whichcontributestothe preventionofsexuallytransmittedinfections in thebackground<sup>(27)</sup>.

The riskofnotusingcondomsisusuallyassociatedwithillnessandpregnancyamongadolescents, andthe major concernisrelatedtopregnancy, especially girls, who are consideredtoberesponsible for reproductionandwhoselives are mostaffectedbytheresponsibilitiesof a child. adolescence<sup>(27; 26)</sup>.

##### SeropositivityDiagnosisand Experience with HIV in Adolescence

Afterbeinginfectedwith some STI, such as AIDS, adolescentstendtobeafraidofbeingdiscriminatedagainstorisolatedbysociety, as well as havingdifficultiesrelatingtotheir ownseropositivity<sup>(18; 12)</sup>, facingchallengesrelatedto stress andthepossibility self extermination<sup>(12; 17)</sup>.

At the time ofdiagnosisofseropositivity, adolescentsmayhaveseveralreactions, whichmaybegood, especiallywhentheyhavethesupportof a trustedperson, or bad, such as feelings ofanger, guilt, denial, whichmaycontributetodevelopmentofdangerousbehavioralissuesuch as drugabuse<sup>(17)</sup>.

Eventhoughthere are waystopreventandtreat HIV / AIDS, adolescents still carrythe negative stigmaofthedisease, as well as thefearofreactionfromtheir social circle.

Fearof AIDS prejudiceandstigma in societymaycontributetothe social isolationofadolescents<sup>(18; 12)</sup>, andthesefactors, associatedwithotherissuesuch as lackof social supportandlackofspecializedservices, canbeconsideredbarriers. for non-adherencetotreatment<sup>(18)</sup>.

When HIV positive adolescentsattendschool, they are still afraidthattheirteacherswilldisclosetheir diagnosis toothers, which makes themunsureabouttheschoolenvironment, whichneedstobepreparedtoreceivethisstudentwhomayhavetoskiping classes a few times for antiretroviral treatment<sup>(12)</sup>.



Thesereactionsofadolescents are linkedtothestigmaint present in society'sdiscourseson HIV / AIDS, in whichriskybehaviorsand reducedperceptionsofvulnerability are associated<sup>(21)</sup>.

### **Use of Preventive Methods**

Althoughadolescentsrecognizetherisksthey face whenhaving sex withoutthe use ofcondoms, theperceptionof individual riskdiminisheswhenrelatingtheir ownexperiences<sup>(13)</sup>, besides thebeliefthatsomethingbadwillnothappen, as well as the sensationimmunityagainsttherisks ofunprotected sex<sup>(28)</sup>.

The literaturealso points tothetrustestablishedbetweenboyfriends, as oneofthefactors for notusingcondomsduringadolescent sexual relations. These, atthebeginningoftherelationship, tendto use condoms, buttheyabandonthehabit over time<sup>(13; 27)</sup>.

In addition, there are cultural issues that are barrierstocondom use, such as themisrepresentationthatcondomsreduce sexual pleasure<sup>(29; 16)</sup>, as well as beliefsrelatedto sexual impotenceanddiscomfortatcondom use<sup>(29)</sup>. Anotherbarriertocondom use isthe negative imagesocietyhasof girls whocarrycondoms in theirbags<sup>(23)</sup>.

Gender-relateddifficultiesalsoarise in thediscussionaboutcondom use, which are definedaccordingtothepowerandculturerelectionsofthesocietywheretheadolescentisinserted, whichwill interfere withthedecisiontoinitiate sexual intercoursewithorwithoutcondoms<sup>(29)</sup>.

In thesediscussions, it ispresentedthattheresponsibilities for methodsofpreventing a possibleteenagepregnancyor STI fallto girls, whooften still havetonegotiatewiththeirpartnersaboutcondomuse<sup>(29; 27)</sup>.

It canbeobservedthatadolescentshavetodealwithdifferentsituationsto define whetherornotto use condoms in sexual relations. However, theimportanceofusingcondoms as a wayofpreventingSTIsandpregnancyisknown. Therefore, discussionsaboutthisthemeshouldbestimulated in schools, whichistheenvironmentwhereadolescents are inserted, andat home, whereparentscanguidetheirchildrenandaskquestionsaboutsexuality.

## **V. Conclusion**

Throughthe review, it wasfoundthatthere are fewstudiesthatproposetostudytherepresentationsofadolescentsaboutsexuallytransmittedinfectionsand AIDS. Theserepresentations are relevant for understandingwhatadolescentsthinkabouttheseinfections, as well as verifyingthewaysadolescentsexperiencesexualityandthewaysthey use topreventSTIs.

The lifestylesofadolescentstoday are differentfromthoseofpastdecades, whichcontributes to a readaptationofactionsrelatedtothispopulationgroup. Understandinghowthese youngpeoplethinkandact, it ispossibletodraw more effectivepreventionandhealthpromotionactions. In this sense, it isessentialto reinforce thatthepublic policies ofEducationand Health havetheresponsibilitytotrainededucatorsandhealthprofessionalstowork in schools, in healthservices, includingwithfamiliesthroughtheUnified Health System, to improve theircommitmentstothe promotionof sexual health.

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