

## ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Evaluation of the ATBEF Youth Centre in Lomé, Togo

Ilene S Speizer<sup>1\*</sup>, Kodjovi Kouwonou<sup>2</sup>, Stephanie Mullen<sup>3</sup> and Emilien Vignikin<sup>4</sup>

Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at Virginia Commonwealth University<sup>1</sup>; Statistician/demographer for African Population Advisory Council, Lomé, Togo<sup>2</sup>; Evaluation researcher with John Snow, Inc<sup>3</sup>; Director of Unité de Recherche Démographique, Lomé, Togo<sup>4</sup>

\*For Correspondence: Ilene S. Speizer, 610 Horsepen Road, Richmond, VA 23229, USA

## Abstract

In 1998, the Association Togolaise Pour le Bien Etre Familiale launched a youth centre in Lomé, Togo. To evaluate the centre, a three-year panel study was undertaken. Three years after being launched, about 10% of surveyed youth had visited the centre. Youth who lived close to the centre had contact with a peer educator and were exposed to television were more likely to have visited the youth centre than all others. Visiting the youth centre and having contact with a peer educator were associated with greater contraceptive use in the matched sample. Youth centre clinical users were younger, less likely to be married and less likely to have ever been pregnant than clinical users of other sites. The youth centre is meeting its goal of providing services to high-risk youth in Lomé. To increase youth centre access for all youth, it will be necessary to increase the number of youth centres. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 2004; 8[3]:38-54)

**Keywords:** Adolescent, youth, evaluation, contraception

## References

1. Population Reference Bureau. The World's Youth 2000 and World's Youth 2000 Data Sheet. Washington DC: PRB, (2000).
2. Bongaarts J and Cohen B. Introduction and overview. *Stud FamPlann* 1998; 29(2): 99-105.
3. Singh S. Adolescent childbearing in developing countries: a global review. *Stud FamPlann* 1998; 29(2): 117-136.
4. Blanc AK and Way A. Sexual behavior and contraceptive knowledge and use among adolescents in developing countries. *Stud FamPlann* 1998; 29(2): 106-116.
5. Speizer IS, Magnani RJ and Colvin CE. The effectiveness of adolescent reproductive health interventions in developing countries: a review of the evidence. *J Adol Health* 2003; 33(5).
6. Zielinski Gutierrez E, Magnani RJ, Lipovsek V and Belmonte LR. *Who Can We Trust With Our Problems? Barriers to Adolescent Use of Reproductive Health Services in 3 Bolivian Cities*. Washington DC: FOCUS on Young Adults Program/Pathfinder International, 2000.
7. Bhuiya I, Rob U, Khan ME and Al Kabir A. Reproductive health services for adolescents: Recent experiences from a pilot project in Bangladesh. Paper presented at the International Conference on Adolescent Reproductive Health: Evidence and Programme Implications for South Asia, Mumbai, India, 14 November, 2000.
8. Kouye P, Longfield K, Mullen S, Speizer IS and Tambashe BO. *Les Services de Sante Reproductive: Une Evaluation de l'Utilisation Clinique et des Besoins parmi les Jeunes en Cote D'Ivoire*, New Orleans: FOCUS on Young Adults, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire: Sante Familiale et Prevention du SIDA, 2000.
9. Nelson K, MacLaren L and Magnani R. Assessing and planning for youth-friendly reproductive services, Workbooks 14. FOCUS Tool Series #2. Washington, D.C.: FOCUS on Youth Adults, 2000.
10. Glover EK, Erulkar AS and Nerquaye-Tettah J. *Youth Centres in Ghana: Assessment of the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana Programme*. New York: Population Council, 1998.
11. Erulkar AS and Mensch BS. *Youth Centres in Kenya: Evaluation of the Family Planning Association of Kenya Programme*. New York: Population Council, 1997.
12. Phiri A and Erulkar AS. *A Situation Analysis of the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council's Youth Centres: Baseline Assessment*. Nairobi: Population Council, 1997.
13. Marques M. Gentejoven: Undialogosobre la sexualidad con adolescentes mexicanos, *Quality/Calidad/Qualité* 5. New York: Population Council, 1995.
14. Speizer IS, Mullen SA and Amégee K. Gender differences in adult perspectives on adolescent reproductive health behaviors: Evidence from Lomé, Togo. *Inter FamPlannPersp* 2001; 27(4): 178-185.
15. Kouwonou K and Mukahirwa P. *Enquête Evaluation du Centre des Jeunes de l'ATBEF à Lomé: Connaissances, Attitudes, et Pratiques des Jeunes de Lomé, Lomé, Togo: Unité de Recherche Démographique, New Orleans: FOCUS on Young Adults/Tulane University School of Public Health, 2000.*