

# **PC11 Condom use among the study population in the MDP pilot study Mazabuka, Zambia**

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## **ABSTRACT TEXT**

### **Background:**

It is important to assess the level of condom use in the same study area where microbicides are being tried. During the pilot study, condom use was assessed to ascertain the levels to which condoms were being used among the study population.

### **Objective:**

To measure the level of condom use among the study population.

### **Method:**

Forty women together with their 9 male partners were enrolled in the study. The female participants were asked to keep coital diaries to record details of their sexual behaviour, gel and condom use. The diaries were completed on a weekly basis with diaries given to participants each week. Their male partners were also asked to take part in the In-depth interviews (IDIs) where they were asked about gel and condom use.

### **Results:**

From 38 In-depth interviews which were conducted at week four and summaries made, a total number of 177 sexual acts were recorded and out of these: 38 sexual acts were done whilst using condoms together with gel, 128 sexual acts were done whilst using gel alone and 2 sexual acts were done whilst using condoms alone. Sexual acts in which neither condoms nor gel was used were 9. Of the 9 male participants, 8 did not use condoms and their reasons were that; 5 said that they were faithful to their wives, 2 did not like the condoms, 1 did not feel comfortable to use condoms with the wife and 1 wanted to feel the gel directly.

### **Conclusion:**

In spite of a strong condom promotion during the feasibility and pilot, the above data has shown us that there's still very low condom use within the study area.

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