

**Title:** Condom use in Cuba. Risk sexual behaviour and risk perception of HIV/AIDS.

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## **Abstract**

Cuba has the lowest rate of prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean with 0.1% among people between 15 to 49 years old in 2009 (more than 10 000 inhabitants)<sup>1</sup> according a research in progress.

The epidemic is catalogued of low level, with predominance of sexual transmission, and more frequently among men, and for men who have unprotected sex with other men (MSM). Rates of diagnosed AIDS cases and new cases have been raised in the last years.<sup>2</sup>

Health policies face the challenge of stop this trend of the epidemic<sup>3</sup>, and a critical element for HIV prevention in order to avoid new cases is the use of condom, as has been used in many other countries.<sup>4</sup> To accomplish this goal, several investigations are underway taking the condom use as a key topic related to HIV.

To carry out successful condom promotion programs, studies related with condom use is necessary in targets overall population, and also people at higher risk of HIV exposure, especially, young people, women, people that practice transactional sex (PPTS ) or sex workers and men who have sex with other men.

The aim of this study is in first place look at the tendencies in the condom use; analyze “objective” indicators like sexual high-risk behaviour and “subjective” indicators like risk perception in more exposed population to HIV/AIDS, and the reasons given for not use protection. Secondly, analyze the association between sexual risk behaviour and co-variables: demographic, socioeconomic, knowledge of prevention and transmission forms and risk perception.

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<sup>1</sup> Programa Nacional de Prevención y Control de ITS/VIH/SIDA. Cuba. Mayo 2009. <http://www.sld.cu/servicios/sida>. Epidemiología y estadística

<sup>2</sup> Plan Estratégico Nacional ITS/VIH/SIDA 2007-2011. <http://www.sld.cu/servicios/sida>.

<sup>3</sup> *Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS*. General Assembly, special session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS) 2001.

<sup>4</sup> Condoms and HIV prevention: position statement by UNAIDS, UNFPA, and WHO. 19 march 2009.

Database from the National Survey of Prevention of Infection Indicators HIV/AIDS 2009<sup>5</sup> will be used. Probabilistic sampling of 28 991 inhabitants aged 12-49 were interviewed in this survey. Multivariate methods will be used.

To evaluate the tendency in the condom use among Cubans we will compare data from 2009 with similar surveys carried out in 2001<sup>6</sup>, 2005 and 2006<sup>7</sup>.

The study for 2005 has national scope, but only for urban population, who was residing in the capitals of provinces and in Havana City the Cuban capital, and for individuals between 15 and 49 years old.

The sampling surveys for 2006 and 2009 were extended to satisfy new projects requirements approved between Cuba and the Global Fund. Due to this new methodology, the rest of urban and rural population was considered, keeping the comparability among previous samples.

The advantage of the study rests on the common aspect of the 4 studies, which is that all of them have a sample design that corresponds to strata capitals of provinces.

The surveys used face to face interviews. They were using probabilistic sampling: Stratified Cluster Sampling. With similar design we have 17 020 individuals were interviewed during 2001 in the capitals of province; 24 670 in 2005 ; 22 121 in 2006 and 21 233 in 2009. These samples allowed us to obtain indicators by age and sex with a highly precision.

Among the main results for **2001, 2005 and 2006** surveys was found important changes in the condom use. For instance:

- ❖ The youngest use condom in more proportion that those of higher age, explaining the increase of people with HIV in younger population. (Graph 1)
- ❖ Increased the percentage of people using condoms in all types of relations except in MSM with occasional relation. (Graph 2)
- ❖ Decreased the percentage of people with risk behaviours in all types of relations except in MSM. (Graph 3)

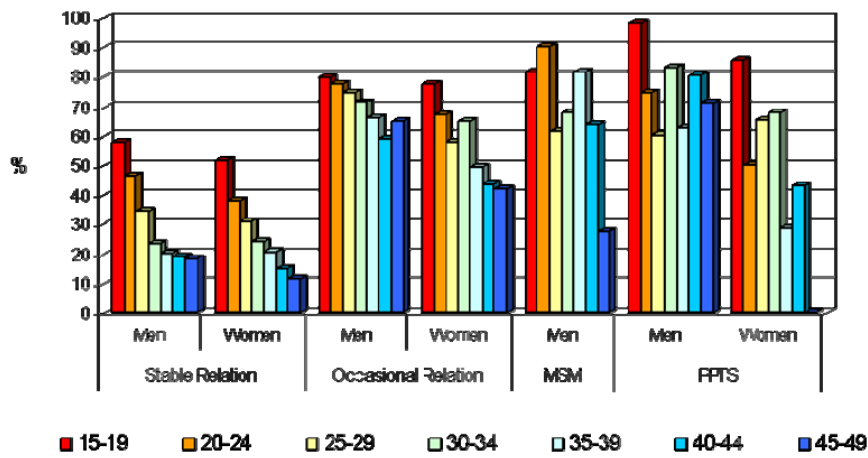
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<sup>5</sup> CEPDE-ONE. Cuba. [www.one.cu](http://www.one.cu)

<sup>6</sup> National Survey of Prevention of Infection Indicators HIV/AIDS 2001. CEPDE-ONE. Cuba. Multicentric Projects of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

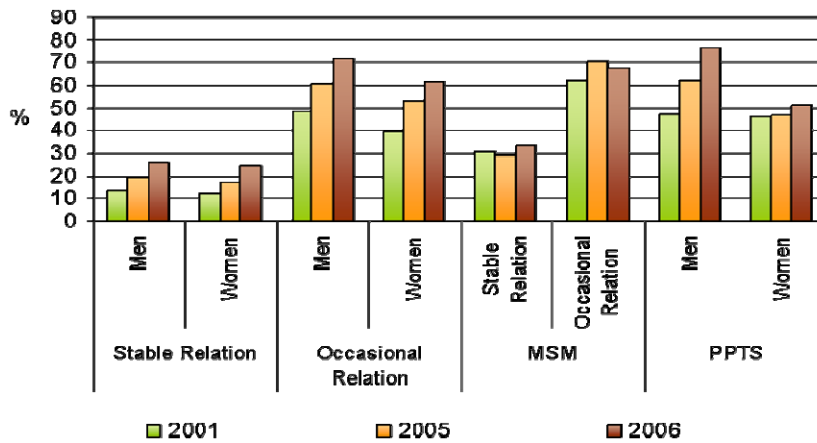
<sup>7</sup> National Survey of Prevention of Infection Indicators HIV/AIDS 2005 and 2006. CEPDE-ONE. Monitoring and Evaluation Project Cuba - Global Fund

**Graph 1. Cuba, capitals of province, use of condom by types of relationship, ages groups and sex, 2006.**



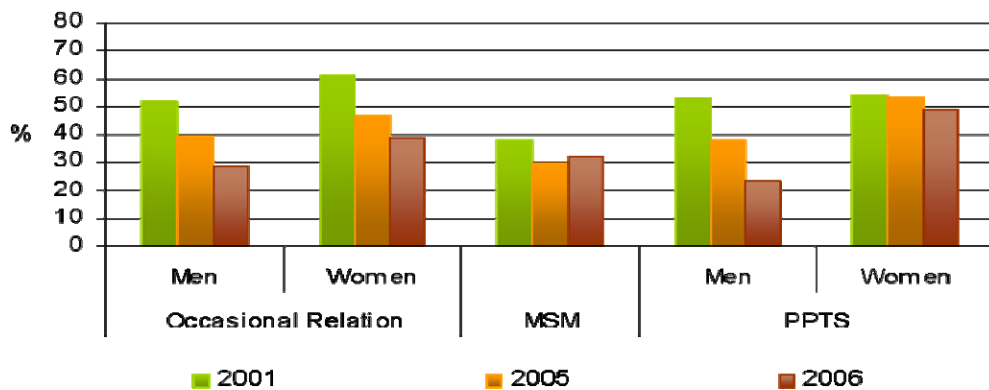
**Source: National Survey of Prevention of Infection Indicators of HIV/AIDS, 2006.**

**Graph 2. Cuba, capitals of province. Use of condom by types of relationships and sex. (15 – 49 years old)**



**Source: National Survey of prevention of infection indicators of HIV/AIDS, 2001, 2005 and 2006.**

**Graph 3. Cuba, capitals of province, percentage of population of 15 to 49 years with risk behaviours by sex and type of relationships.**



**Source: National Survey of prevention of infection indicators of HIV/AIDS, 2001, 2005 and 2006.**

We expect to find advances in the condom use respect to 2009 survey for overall population as well as for most exposed populations to risk infection. Moreover we will present the arguments for not using the condom in People Married / or Consensual Union or with Stable Couple or with Occasional Relationships among others. Describing Risk Sexual Behaviour in relation to Risk Perception of HIV/AIDS and to the association between the risk behaviours and some co-variables will also be discussed.