

# Knowledge, Perceptions, and Determinants in Prevention of STIs among Undergraduates: An Empirical Review

## Introduction to the Empirical Landscape (2021–2025)

Undergraduate students (often aged 18–24) remain a high-priority population for STI prevention: global burden, high prevalence, and limited access to services.

## Methods for Identifying and Screening Evidence

Databases searched included PubMed/PMC, Web of Science/Scopus, and Google Scholar for empirical studies published between 2021 and 2025.

## Findings by Independent Variable

### A. Knowledge of STIs

Measurement approaches vary: validated instruments (e.g., STD-KQ and adapted knowledge batteries) and self-reported knowledge.

### B. Perceptions of STIs

Studies show heterogeneity: many students report low perceived susceptibility despite risky behaviors; stigma and fear of judgment are common.

### C. Determinants of STI Prevention

Empirical evidence highlights determinants at multiple levels. Individual-level: age, sexual experience, perceived susceptibility, and access to resources.

## Cross-study Synthesis

Convergences include knowledge deficits across settings, stigma undermining testing, and institutional barriers to service access.

## Subgroup Patterns and Temporal Trends

Gender emerged as a consistent moderator: female students often report higher health-seeking but greater barriers to care.

## How This Relates to Your Research

Your variables — knowledge, perceptions, determinants → preventive behaviors — map closely onto the empirical findings.

## Limitations of the Evidence Base (2021–2025)

The evidence base is limited by cross-sectional surveys, convenience samples, measurement heterogeneity, and limited longitudinal data.

## Conclusion

Empirical studies (2021–2025) establish that undergraduates frequently have incomplete STI knowledge and low perceived susceptibility.

## References

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