

**Supplementary Table 1.** Survey instrument used to assess students' knowledge and awareness of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)\*

| Section A. Informed Consent  | I voluntarily consent to participate in the research.<br>Yes / No   |
|--|---|
| Section B. Sociodemographic Characteristics  | 1. Age (open-ended)<br>2. Gender<br>3. City of origin<br>4. City where you are currently studying<br>5. University<br>6. Department / Faculty<br>7. Academic year<br><br>1st year<br>2nd year<br>3rd year<br>4th year<br>5th year<br>6th year<br>7+ years   |
| Section C. Previous Education on STIs  | 8. Have you received any education on STIs before?<br>Yes / No<br>9. If yes, where did you receive this education?<br>Middle school<br>High school<br>University<br>Non-Governmental Organizations<br>Other (specify):  |
| Section D. Self-Perceived Knowledge  | 10. I am knowledgeable about STIs.<br>(Likert scale: Strongly disagree → Strongly agree)<br>11. I am knowledgeable about ways to prevent STIs.<br>(Likert scale: Strongly disagree → Strongly agree)  |
| Section E. Sources of Information<br>(Multiple selections allowed)                   | 12. From which sources do you acquire information about STIs?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Friends<br><input type="checkbox"/> Family<br><input type="checkbox"/> Social media / Internet<br><input type="checkbox"/> School<br><input type="checkbox"/> Health professionals<br><input type="checkbox"/> Social community organizations<br><input type="checkbox"/> Books / brochures<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |
| Section F. STI Awareness: Recognition of Infections<br>(Multiple selections allowed) | 13. Which of the following do you recognize as sexually transmitted infections?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis A<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis B<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis C<br><input type="checkbox"/> HIV infection<br><input type="checkbox"/> Gonorrhea<br><input type="checkbox"/> Syphilis<br><input type="checkbox"/> HPV infection (Genital warts)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Chlamydia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Genital herpes<br><input type="checkbox"/> Trichomonas vaginalis infection<br><input type="checkbox"/> Chancroid |
| Section G. Knowledge Statements<br>(Likert Scale Items)                              | 14. STIs may not always show symptoms.<br>15. You can get STIs from door handles, toilet seats, or taps.<br>16. HIV is transmitted by kissing.<br>17. Hepatitis C infection can be transmitted through shared razors.<br>18. Hepatitis C has a cure.<br>19. The presence of other STIs facilitates HIV transmission.<br>20. Condom use protects against STI transmission.<br>21. Birth control pills protect against STI transmission.<br>22. STI symptoms may not always be noticed.<br>23. Receiving education on STIs is beneficial and necessary.                     |

Section H. HIV Transmission Risk Behaviors  
(Multiple selections allowed)

- 24. Which behaviors may pose a risk for HIV transmission?
  - Unprotected sexual intercourse
  - Using public swimming pools
  - Holding hands
  - Sharing razors
  - Sharing cups
  - Insect bites
  - Sharing syringes
  - Sharing toothbrushes
  - Breastfeeding
  - Mother-to-child transmission
  - Using public transportation
  - Organ transplantation
  - Blood transfusion
  - Trying on clothes in store dressing rooms
  - Sharing makeup materials
  - Consuming raw meat

Section I. Awareness of HIV Treatment Concepts

- 25. Do you have knowledge of the concept “Undetectable=Untransmittable (U = U)”?

Yes / No

- 26. If yes, please explain what the U = U concept means?

(Open-ended response)

- 27. HPV is a virus that is sexually transmitted and can cause cancer.

Yes / No / I do not know

Section J. HPV Awareness and Vaccination

- 28. Have you been vaccinated against HPV?

Yes / No

- 29. Have you ever been tested for an STI?

Yes / No

Section K. STI Testing and Partner Communication

- 30. Have you ever received treatment for an STI?

Yes / No

- 31. If you were diagnosed with or suspected you had an STI, would you inform your partner?

Yes / No

Section L. Preferred Timing for STI Education

- 32. In your view, what is the appropriate stage to provide STI education?
  - Middle school
  - High school
  - University
  - Such education is not necessary

**Supplementary Table 2.** Sociodemographic characteristics of the participants (n = 424)

|                             |                                  | n     | %     |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| <b>Gender</b>               | Female                           | 234   | 55.2  |
|                             | Male                             | 187   | 44.1  |
|                             | Prefer not to disclose           | 3     | 0.7   |
|                             | Total                            | 424   | 100.0 |
| <b>Region of origin</b>     | Aegean                           | 143   | 33.7  |
|                             | Marmara                          | 70    | 16.5  |
|                             | Central Anatolia                 | 66    | 15.6  |
|                             | Mediterranean                    | 53    | 12.5  |
|                             | Black Sea                        | 35    | 8.3   |
|                             | Eastern Anatolia                 | 20    | 4.7   |
|                             | Southeastern Anatolia            | 21    | 5.0   |
|                             | Cyprus                           | 5     | 1.2   |
|                             | Outside Türkiye                  | 11    | 2.6   |
|                             | Total                            | 424   | 100.0 |
| <b>Current study region</b> | Aegean                           | 256   | 60.4  |
|                             | Marmara                          | 69    | 16.3  |
|                             | Central Anatolia                 | 71    | 16.7  |
|                             | Mediterranean                    | 9     | 2.1   |
|                             | Black Sea                        | 15    | 3.5   |
|                             | Eastern Anatolia                 | 1     | 0.2   |
|                             | Cyprus                           | 3     | 0.7   |
|                             | Total                            | 424   | 100.0 |
| <b>University</b>           | Izmir Demokrasi University       | 188   | 44.3  |
|                             | Dokuz Eylül University           | 18    | 4.2   |
|                             | Izmir Institute of Technology    | 4     | 0.9   |
|                             | Ege University                   | 11    | 2.6   |
|                             | Izmir Katip Celebi Univesity     | 5     | 1.2   |
|                             | Tinaztepe University             | 5     | 1.2   |
|                             | University of Health Sciences    | 1     | 0.2   |
|                             | Ekonomi University               | 13    | 3.1   |
|                             | Karadeniz Technical University   | 11    | 2.6   |
|                             | Bogazici University              | 17    | 4.0   |
|                             | Hacettepe University             | 9     | 2.1   |
|                             | Istanbul Technical University    | 6     | 1.4   |
|                             | Near East University             | 3     | 0.7   |
|                             | Middle East Technical University | 16    | 3.8   |
|                             | Ankara University                | 32    | 7.5   |
|                             | Istanbul University              | 35    | 8.3   |
|                             | Ondokuz Mayıs University         | 4     | 0.9   |
|                             | Adnan Menderes University        | 1     | 0.2   |
|                             | Kırklareli University            | 1     | 0.2   |
|                             | Gazi University                  | 1     | 0.2   |
|                             | Akdeniz University               | 2     | 0.5   |
|                             | Afyon University                 | 6     | 1.4   |
|                             | Çukurova University              | 7     | 1.7   |
|                             | Anadolu University               | 6     | 1.4   |
|                             | Celal Bayar University           | 8     | 1.9   |
|                             | Uludağ University                | 9     | 2.1   |
|                             | Bakırçay University              | 5     | 1.2   |
| Total                       | 424                              | 100.0 |       |
| <b>Faculty / Department</b> | Medical/dentistry                | 239   | 56.4  |
|                             | Nursing faculty                  | 1     | 0.2   |
|                             | Health sciences                  | 27    | 6.4   |
|                             | Faculty of Engineering           | 75    | 17.7  |
|                             | Others                           | 82    | 19.3  |
|                             | Total                            | 424   | 100.0 |
| <b>Academic year</b>        | First                            | 227   | 53.5  |
|                             | Second                           | 77    | 18.2  |
|                             | Third                            | 51    | 12.0  |
|                             | Fourth                           | 29    | 6.8   |
|                             | Fifth                            | 18    | 4.2   |
|                             | Sixth                            | 20    | 4.7   |
|                             | Above sixth                      | 2     | 0.5   |
|                             | Total                            | 424   | 100.0 |

**Supplementary Table 3.** Participants' previous STI education and preferences for training

| Variables                                       |                                 | n   | %     |
|---|---------------------------------|-----|-------|
| Have you received any education on STIs?        | No                              | 317 | 74.8  |
|   | Middle school                   | 4   | 0.9   |
|   | High school                     | 30  | 7.1   |
|   | University                      | 51  | 12.0  |
|   | NGOs                            | 22  | 5.2   |
|   | Total                           | 424 | 100.0 |
| Would you like to receive education about STDs? | Yes                             | 323 | 76.2  |
|   | No                              | 101 | 23.8  |
|   | Total                           | 424 | 100.0 |
| When should STI education be provided?          | Middle school                   | 58  | 13.7  |
|   | High school                     | 292 | 68.9  |
|   | University                      | 69  | 16.3  |
|   | Such education is not necessary | 5   | 1.2   |
|   | Total                           | 424 | 100.0 |

Abbreviations: NGOs = Non-governmental organizations.