

RAP* Time



RURAL CENTER *for* AIDS/STD PREVENTION

A JOINT PROJECT OF
INDIANA UNIVERSITY, PURDUE UNIVERSITY,
and TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

*Rural AIDS/STD prevention. rap (rap) v. Slang. To talk freely and openly. Vol. 4, No. 10, October 6, 2000

STDs and Multiple Sex Partners in Rural Sex Network Enhances HIV Transmission

Although the predominant number of STD cases in the United States occur in large cities, rural communities are also facing the STD problem.

Seven HIV-infected young persons were identified in a small town in rural Mississippi from February through June 1999. The Mississippi State Department of Health and CDC jointly investigated a sex network cluster at this site.

Methodology

HIV-infected persons and uninfected sex partners were interviewed, and a case-control analysis was conducted. Uninfected female social contacts who had not had sex with the infected men also were interviewed and compared with the HIV-infected women to assess risk factors for exposure.

Of the seven HIV-infected persons, two were identified through voluntary HIV testing during STD evaluations, and five were identified subsequently through contact investigation.

Outcomes of the Study

Contact investigation identified sex partners and persons who

shared social surroundings and defined a social network of 122 sex and social contacts. The mean age in the sex network was 21 years and all were black. The network was located in an economically depressed neighborhood with few organized social activities.

Major findings include:

- Of 78 persons tested from the social network, seven (9%) were HIV-infected.
- Interviews with the seven HIV-infected persons (five women) and 22 uninfected sex partners (10 women) indicated that HIV was acquired locally through heterosexual contact.
- Of the 29 persons, 15 (52% [four infected and 11 uninfected]) had a history of other STD, and 28 (97%) reported multiple lifetime sex partners.
- Three of five infected women had STD co-infections when HIV was diagnosed.
- Factors associated with HIV infection in the five women were age, a stated preference for much older sex partners, and having had a sex partner who was at least 10 years older. Infected persons also began having sex at a younger age.
- Alcohol use, drug use, and

exchange of sex for alcohol, drugs, or money were not associated with HIV infection.

- Uninfected female social contacts were similar in age to the infected women.
- Common traits of infected women and social contacts included low socioeconomic status, absentee fathers, truancy, and school failure.

Implications for Prevention

STDs and multiple sex partners in small town sex networks provide a setting for HIV transmission among rural South teens. HIV infection can spread quickly through sex networks in low-prevalence areas. Young women are at risk for HIV infection at an earlier age than are heterosexual men, probably because of having older sex partners.

Routine voluntary HIV counseling and testing during STD evaluations and partner referral services are vital. Age-discrepant relationships should be addressed.

SOURCE: CDC. (2000). Cluster of HIV-infected adolescents and young adults -- Mississippi, 1999. *MMWR*, 49, 861-864.

HIV/STD Number One Concern of Teenagers and Parents

A national survey of teenagers and parents found that both are concerned about HIV/STD. Students Against Destructive Decisions/Students Against Driving Drunk and Liberty Mutual Group surveyed teen and parents views toward sex and other health issues. Surveys were conducted in March 2000 via questionnaires to 687 teenagers in grades 9-12 and via phone to 405 parents.

Both teens and parents ranked HIV/STD as their number one concern. Eighty-one percent and 71% of the teens and parents, respectively, reported that they are extremely, very, or concerned about this issue.

One-third of parents believed their teen will wait until marriage before having sex, but 27% of teens feel the same. Parents were less likely to think their teen will know when it is right to have sex (15%), as compared to teens (26%).

SOURCE: Students Against Destructive Decisions/Students Against Driving Drunk - Liberty Mutual Group. (2000). *Teens Today 2000*. Marlboro, MA: SADD (www.saddonline.com)

Once Initiated, Teen Coitus Found to be Relatively Persistent

Associations among problem behaviors in childhood and early adolescence and health risk behaviors in middle adolescence, including a cumulative index of sexual intercourse risk, were examined. A sample of 1167 10th and 11th grade students were recruited from three homogenous suburban high schools in western New York. Coitus and number of partners were assessed four times at 6-month intervals.

For most adolescents, sexual intercourse, once initiated, was found to be relatively persistent, rather than sporadic. Repeated intercourse experience with multiple partners over the assessed time periods was associated with higher level of externalizing childhood behavior problems, earlier onset of antisocial behaviors and substance use, and higher concurrent substance use. Withdrawal behavioral style in childhood was associated with lower rates of sexual involvement in adolescence.

SOURCE: Tubman, J. G. (2000) Cumulative sexual intercourse patterns among middle adolescents: Problem behavior precursors and concurrent health risk behaviors. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 18*, 182-191.

MSM Want Microbide Gel to Be 84% Effective in Preventing HIV

A sample of men who have sex with men ($n=385$) wanted any future rectal microbicide to be 84% effective in preventing HIV before using it as the only protection. Intention to use was associated with higher efficacy standards for the gel, negative attitudes about condom use, and history of unprotected anal sex.

SOURCE: Marks, G., et al. (2000). Future HIV prevention options for men who have sex with men: Intention to use a potential microbicide during anal intercourse. *AIDS and Behavior, 4*, 279-287.

HIV-Infected Report Risky Sexual Behavior

Data from 4,743 HIV-infected heterosexuals showed that 50% were not sexually active, 13% had a sex partner with HIV, and 60% of the remaining reported at least one heterosexual risk behavior for HIV transmission.

SOURCE: Lansky, A., et al. (2000). More than half of sexually active HIV-infected heterosexuals report risky sexual behavior. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 27*, 483-489.



Indiana University, Bloomington. This publication is made possible through donations from **Pegasus Satellite Television**, the largest distributor of satellite television to rural America.

RAP Time

is a monthly AIDS/STD prevention fax bulletin published by the Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention at

Senior Director

William L. Yarber, H.S.D.
Indiana University, Bloomington

Co-Directors

James G. Anderson, Ph.D.
Purdue University, West Lafayette
Janet N. Arno, M.D.

IU School of Medicine, Indianapolis
Robert J. Buchanan Ph.D.

Texas A&M University, College Station
Stephen R. Byrn, Ph.D.
Purdue University, West Lafayette
Mohammad R. Torabi, Ph.D.
Indiana University, Bloomington

Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention

Indiana University
801 East Seventh Street
Bloomington, Indiana
47405-3085

Phone, Fax, E-mail, web page:
Voice and TDD: (812) 855-1718
(800) 566-8644
FAX line: (812) 855-3717
aids@indiana.edu
<http://www.indiana.edu/~aids>