

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. 7, No. 5, May 2, 2003

Rap music videos linked to STD risk in non-urban black adolescent females

Rap music videos have become a prominent source of entertainment among U.S. adolescents. Evolving from African American music forms, rap music has as its source rhythm and blues, fusion, contemporary gospel and bebop. The themes and images portrayed in rap music videos have been the subject of much concern and debate. However, limited research focusing on the impact of rap music videos on adolescent risk behavior has been conducted.

This study investigated whether exposure to rap music videos at baseline could predict the occurrence of health risk behaviors and STD infection among African American adolescent females over a 12-month follow-up period.

Methodology

Participants were 522 female teenagers residing in non-urban, lower social-economic-status neighborhoods recruited from school health classes and county health department clinics in Birmingham, Alabama.

African American females between ages 14 and 18 who had been sexually active in the previous six months were eligible to participate. Data was collected between

December 1996 and April 1999. Of those enrolled, 92% completed the 12 month follow-up assessment.

Outcomes of the Study

95% reported ever viewing rap music videos. The median hours of exposure to rap music videos per week at baseline and at 6- and 12-months follow-up were 14 hours, 14 hours, and 12 hours, respectively. The majority of rap music videos viewed were "gangsta," with a minority of videos categorized as "bass" and "hip-hop." Most watched videos with brothers, sisters, cousins, or alone and in the home.

Major findings include:

- Compared to female adolescents who had more exposure to rap music videos, females who had less exposure were almost two times more likely to have had multiple sexual partners.
- Females who had more exposure to rap music videos were 110% more likely to never use condoms than those who had less exposure.
- Females who had more exposure to rap music videos were 1.3 times more likely to have acquired a new STD during the study than those who had less exposure.
- Compared to those who had less exposure to rap music videos,

females who had more exposure were 140% more likely to report ever using drugs and 120% more likely to report using alcohol.

- Females with more exposure to rap music videos were almost two and one-half times more likely to ever been arrested, three times more likely to have ever hit a teacher and 110% more likely to have ever been in a fight.

Implications for Prevention

This study found that more exposure to rap music videos was associated with sexual risk behaviors and STD infection among African American adolescent females. Gangsta rap, which is explicit about sex and violence, rarely illustrates the long-term consequences of risk behaviors. Teenagers may identify with the characters and themes of rap music and model their behaviors. Public health educators should be aware of the risk associated with rap music videos.

SOURCE: Wingood, G M., et al. (2003). A prospective study of exposure to rap music videos and African American female adolescents' health. *American Journal of Public Health*, 93, 437-439.

Child sexual abuse linked to risk behavior among HIV+ MSM

Prior research has shown associations between childhood sexual abuse (CSA) and adult sexual risk practices among women and among men who have sex with men (MSM). No studies have determined if the hypothesis that CSA predicts HIV sexual transmission risk behavior in a known HIV-positive MSM cohort. This study tested this hypothesis among a sample of 456 HIV-positive MSM in New York and San Francisco.

Childhood sexual abuse history was found to be significantly associated with past (in the past 30 days) unprotected anal sex, both insertive and receptive with partners of HIV-negative or unknown status. Anxiety and hostility were significantly associated with insertive behavior, while anxiety, hostility and suicidality were associated with receptive acts.

The results highlight the importance of mental health services for individuals who have been sexually abused.

SOURCE: O'Leary, A., et al. (2003). Childhood abuse and sexual transmission risk behavior among HIV-positive men who have sex with men. *AIDS Care*, 15, 17-26.

Women who apply condoms to their male partners report errors

This study assessed errors and problems in use of male condoms as reported by college women (N=102) who have put condoms on their partners in the past 3 months.

Women applied the condoms almost 50% of the times they were used, with one-third doing so every time. Regardless of how often women applied condoms, they reported numerous errors and problems that could lead to condom failure. 51% put the condom on after starting sex, and 15% took the condom off before ending sex, 46% did leave space at the tip, 30% put the condom on wrong side up, 26% did not use a lubricant, 25% reported their partners lost their erections, and 28% reported breakage, slippage, or both.

Higher error scores were found for those who reported breakage or slippage, partner erection problems, use of another contraception, and not having had instruction on correct condom use. Educating women as well as men about correct condom use may be an important public health strategy.

SOURCE: Sanders, S. A., et al. (2003). Condom use errors and problems among young women who put condoms on their male partners. *Journal of the American Medical Women's Association*, 58, 95-98.

HPV infection common among men visiting an STD clinic

This study assessed the prevalence of HPV among men attending a STD clinic. One-third were infected with HPV. Most of the HPV detected was in forms of the virus that appear unrelated to cancer. HPV positivity was not associated with age. The study showed that HPV infection is common among high risk men but characteristics of the HPV may differ from women.

SOURCE: Baldwin, S. B., et al. (2003). Human papillomavirus infection in men attending a sexually transmitted disease clinic. *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, 187, 1064-1070.

Persistent chlamydia risk for ovarian cancer

In a study of 117 women with ovarian cancer and 171 controls, women with ovarian cancer were more likely than women without to have high levels of chlamydia ED antibodies, and the probability of ovarian cancer was 90% higher among women with the highest level of antibodies.

SOURCE: Ness, R. B., (2003). Serologic evidence of past infection with *Chlamydia trachomatis*, in relation to ovarian cancer. *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, 187, 1147-1152.

RAP Time is a monthly AIDS/STD prevention bulletin published by the Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention (RCAP) at Indiana University, Bloomington. RCAP is a joint project of Indiana University, Purdue University and Texas A&M University. The major focus of RCAP is the promotion of HIV/STD prevention in rural America, with the goal of reducing HIV/STD incidence.

The opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the cooperating universities.

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