

RAP* Time



RURAL CENTER *for* AIDS/STD PREVENTION

A JOINT PROJECT OF
INDIANA UNIVERSITY, PURDUE UNIVERSITY,
and UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

*Rural AIDS/STD prevention. rap (rap) v. *Slang*. To talk freely and openly.

Vol. 9, No. 7, July 1, 2005

Sexual risk taking predicted by low condom self-efficacy among migrant Latinos

Research reveals that predominantly Mexican, Latino migrants have high risk for HIV infection due to features of migratory labor in the U.S. Background features of Latino migrants often lead to risk behavior. Migratory labor is often composed of young men far from home, that can result in multiple sex partners, sex with commercial sex workers, and sex between men. Economic vulnerability is linked with survival strategies such as trading sex for money.

This study examined predictors of HIV-related sexual risk taking in a high risk and understudied convenient sample of predominantly Mexican, migrant adults without stable housing.

Methodology

The 366 surveyed participants lived in rural towns and small cities in Central California. Most had limited access to health services due to poverty, limited English, and no immigrant documentation.

Participants were eligible if they engaged in, or had a primary sexual partner that engages in, one or more of the following during the last 90 days: unprotected sex with someone other than primary partner, injection drug use, use of

alcohol to point of intoxication, paid for or received money or goods in exchange for sex, sex between men, being HIV+, or having HIV+ partner.

Outcomes of the Study

Age ranged from 18-39 with mean age of 27 years. The sample included 27% men who have sex with men, 28% injectors of illegal drugs, and 21% sex workers. 6% reported testing positive for HIV and a little less than a quarter reported having an STD in the past.

Major findings include:

- Only 32% of sexually active participants indicated they always used condoms. Consistent condom users reported higher condom self-efficacy, yet carried condoms less frequently.
- Compared with men, women were more likely to carry condoms, had higher self esteem, and drank less alcohol.
- 39% and 18% of men and women, respectively, reported consistent condom use.
- MSM reported higher condom self-efficacy, but were less likely to carry condoms.
- Injectors of illegal drugs carried condoms less frequently.
- 45% of sex workers used

condoms consistently, but carried condoms less than non sex workers.

- Condom self efficacy was the only psychological variable that predicted lower HIV-related sexual risk.
- 49% reported more than one sexual partner during the past 2 months. Of the 42% that had only one sex partner, 82% had a partner who engaged in risky sexual behaviors.

Implications for Prevention

Among this sample, sexual risk taking was predicted by low condom self-efficacy, high risk behavior, and being female. Those who engaged in highest-risk behaviors used condoms more consistently, but carried condoms less often. Results show the importance of increasing condom self-efficacy and consistent use, rather than only emphasizing carrying condoms. Education must reach at-risk, vulnerable women.

SOURCE:

Denner, J., et al. (2005). Predictors of HIV transmission among migrant and marginally housed Latinos. *AIDS and Behavior*, 9, 201-210.

HIV/AIDS conspiracy beliefs are barrier in African Americans

Given the disproportionately high prevalence rates of HIV/AIDS among African Americans, identifying prevention barriers is needed. This study examined endorsement of HIV/AIDS conspiracy beliefs and their relations to condom use among African Americans.

A random telephone survey of 500 African Americans aged 15 to 44 and living in the United States was conducted in 2002 and 2003.

A significant proportion endorsed HIV/AIDS conspiracy beliefs. Among men, stronger conspiracy beliefs were significantly associated with more negative condom attitudes and inconsistent condom use.

HIV/AIDS conspiracy beliefs are a barrier to HIV prevention among African Americans and may explain negative condom attitudes among black men.

Public health entities need to obtain trust of the black community by addressing discrimination within the health care system.

SOURCE: Bogart, L. M., et al. (2005). Are HIV/AIDS conspiracy beliefs a barrier to HIV prevention among African Americans? *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*, 38, 213-218.

HIV+ MSM with greater relationships needs choose steady partner

This study examined the associations among sexual need fulfillment, partner selection, and risky sexual behavior among a sample of 108 HIV-positive gay men.

Participants completed measures of sexual frequency, sexual risk-taking behaviors, and sexual need fulfillment.

These men were more likely to choose a steady partner when they possessed greater relationship needs, while men with higher substitution and pleasure needs were more likely to select non-steady partners. Only men who reported greater substitution needs were more likely to engage in unprotected anal intercourse. Greater pleasure-focused needs decreased the likelihood of UAI, whereas relationship and partner focused needs were insignificant in predicting UAI.

Results suggest that using sex in an attempt to fulfill partner needs or to strengthen a relationship may not influence whether a person will engage in risky sexual behavior. Further, men who use sex to resolve negative emotions may have an increased likelihood of UAI.

SOURCE: Craft, S. M., et al. (2005). Need fulfillment in the sexual relationship of HIV-infected men who have sex with men. *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 17, 215-226.

ART associated with decrease in risky sexual behavior

In a large California clinic population (N=874) at six public health clinics, about one-third of patients reported anal or vaginal sex without a condom and about one-quarter reported antiretroviral therapy. ART users reported lower prevalence of unprotected vaginal or anal sex. Contrary to expectations, users of and adherence to ART was associated with decreased prevalence of self-reported risky sexual behavior.

SOURCE: Diamond, C., et al. (2005). Use of an adherence to antiretroviral therapy is associated with decreased sexual behavior in HIV clinic patients. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*, 39, 211-218.

Wasting increases HIV transmission risks

Weight loss among 957 HIV-1-infected pregnant women in Tanzania was related to increased risk of intrauterine HIV transmission, particularly when it occurred during the 2nd trimester.

SOURCE: Villamor, E., et al. (2005). Wasting during pregnancy increases the risk of mother-to-child HIV-1 transmission. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*, 38, 662-626.

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 the University of Colorado. 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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