

RAP* Time



RURAL CENTER *for* AIDS/STD PREVENTION

A JOINT PROJECT OF
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*Rural AIDS/STD prevention. rap (rap) v. *Slang*. To talk freely and openly. Vol. 9, No. 10, October 7, 2005

Indiana residents support education about correct condom use in public high schools

Condom use among sexually active adolescents is not universal and research reveals frequent condom use errors among young adults. Several factors may account for these findings, such as conflicting cultural messages about condom use and condom effectiveness. A consistent public policy concerning condoms may reduce barriers.

Given that public opinion can be a powerful determinant of public policy, this study assessed public opinion concerning condoms in a Midwestern state.

Methodology

A random telephone survey of 517 Indiana residents was conducted from July through October 2003 to assess public opinion about Indiana public high school education on correct condom use for HIV and STD prevention; condom availability in Indiana public high schools; and issues related to condom use, effectiveness and promotion. The Indiana University Center for Survey Research conducted the interviews utilizing the Genesys-list assisted method which allows for unpublished numbers and new listings to be included in the sample. Any person 18 or older who resided in

a household with a selected telephone number was eligible.

Outcomes of the Study

The response rate was 28% and the margin of error of results was plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.

Major findings include:

- A majority agreed (strongly agree and somewhat agree combined) that all teenagers need information about condoms (83%), high schools in Indiana should educate about how to use a condom to help spread HIV (77%), classroom instruction should include condoms so students can see and touch them (71%) and only medically accurate information should be given (94%).
- 55% agreed that classroom instructor should include objects (e.g. banana) so students can learn to apply condoms.
- Fewer than one-fifth agreed that instruction claiming condoms reduce AIDS risk is a lie, and fewer than one-third believed that promoting condoms is the same as promoting sex..
- More than eight of ten agreed that teenagers who use condoms are being responsible.
- The vast majority agreed that condoms are somewhat or very

effective in preventing HIV and other STDs (92% for each).

- 70% agreed that the federal government should promote condoms.
- 48% agreed that condoms should be made available to teens in public high schools without parental permission.
- Non-Republican party affiliation, younger age and condom use within the prior five years were each associated with having positive opinions on many items.

Implications for Prevention

The findings suggest that Indiana residents strongly support correct condom use education in their public schools and condom use among teens. Given that public opinion is one criterion for determining curriculum, Indiana public high schools should consider providing information on correct condom use.

SOURCE:

Yarber, W. L., Milhausen, R. R., Crosby, R. A., & Torabi, M. R. (2005). Public opinion about condoms for HIV and STD prevention: A Midwestern state telephone survey. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 37, 148-154.

HAART reduces heterosexual HIV transmission

A reduction in the sexual transmission of HIV after HAART introduction would indicate effectiveness of this treatment to prevent new infections.

Researchers analyzed 393 steady heterosexual couples of which one partner had prior HIV diagnosis (index case) and where the nonindex partner reported the sex relationship as the unique risk exposure.

HIV prevalence among partners of index cases who had not received antiretroviral therapy was 8.6%, whereas no partner was infected in couples in which the index had been treated with HAART. HIV prevalence among nonindex partners declined from 10.3% during the pre-HAART period to 1.9% during the later HAART period.

When HAART became widely available, a reduction of about 80% in heterosexual transmission of HIV was observed, irrespective of changes in other factors that affect transmission.

SOURCE: Castilla, J., et al. (2005). Effectiveness of highly active antiretroviral therapy in reducing heterosexual transmission of HIV. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*, 40, 96-101.

Teens who recently moved more likely to have coitus

Research shows frequent residential mobility during childhood can have adverse outcomes for adolescent development and behavior. Data from about 5000 adolescent respondents to the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) were used to examine the mechanisms that facilitate the timing to first premarital sexual intercourse.

Analyses indicated that adolescents who have recently moved are about one-third more likely than nonmobile adolescents to experience first premarital intercourse between the first two waves of Add Health.

The difference between teen movers and stayers in the onset of premarital sexual intercourse was found to be attributable to the greater propensity for delinquency behavior and the weaker academic performance among members of mover's school-based friendship networks. Further, the teen's own delinquent behavior and academic performance also helped to mediate the association between residential mobility and the transition to first sexual intercourse.

SOURCE: South, S. J., et al. (2005). Residential mobility and the onset of adolescent sexual activity. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 67, 499-514.

Viagra use related to HIV risk behavior among MSM

A telephone sample of MSM in San Francisco found that 29% reported recent Viagra use. Use was associated with HIV serostatus, more male sexual partners, greater unprotected anal sex, and higher levels of illicit recreational drug use. Viagra use was not associated with age, race, or socioeconomic status. Viagra appears to have become a regular stable fixture of the sexual culture of MSM

SOURCE: Paul, J. P., et al. (2005). Viagra (Sildenafil) use in population-based sample of U.S. men who have sex with men. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, 32, 531-533.

Routine hospital STD screening uncommon

Routine STD screening is recommended for sexually active young adult women. Analysis of outpatient clinic visits to about 500 hospitals was conducted. 4% of visits included an STD test; 13% of visits by women with genitourinary symptoms and 2% by asymptomatic women.

SOURCE: Huppert, J. S., et al. (2005). Sexually transmitted infection testing and screening in hospital-based primary care visits by women. *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 105, 390-396.

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

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