

# RAP\* Time



## RURAL CENTER *for* AIDS/STD PREVENTION

A JOINT PROJECT OF  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO,  
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\*Rural AIDS/STD prevention. rap (rap) v. *Slang*. To talk freely and openly. Vol. 10, No. 8, August 4, 2006

## Many southern women with STDs, especially those from rural areas, are found in jails

Since the beginning of the HIV epidemic in the United States certain groups, such as blacks and Latinos/as, drug users, and women, have increasing been impacted. Also, regional shifts in HIV/AIDS cases have occurred with larger proportions of cases being in the south -- an estimated 44% of AIDS cases and 39% of persons living with AIDS in 2001.

The growth of HIV and other STDs in rural settings, particularly in the south, has received greater attention by researchers and prevention specialists. Patterns of incarceration may be an important contributor to increased HIV/STD transmission.

This study explored the relationships between incarceration and emerging increases of HIV/STDs in the rural south, particularly among black women of low socioeconomic status.

### Methodology

This study used secondary data from the Bureau of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice Statistics, on correctional populations, incarceration rates (per 100,000 population), admissions to correctional facilities (prisons and jails), HIV and STD prevalence

among inmates, and national and state HIV surveillance data.

The analysis examined the prevalence and burden of HIV/AIDS and STDs among inmates by gender and region; incarceration rates by region, race, gender and rural vs urban residence; and the diagnosis and reporting of HIV among women inmates in the southern part of the United States.

### Outcomes of the Study

Major findings include:

- Nationally, increasing proportions of inmates are women, and blacks and Latinos/as of low socioeconomic status are disproportionately represented.
- Incarceration rates are higher in the south (790 per 100,000) than in other regions, and within the south, rates are similar for rural areas (1194) and urban areas (1160).
- The prevalence of HIV and STDs is greater among female inmates than males inmates: for HIV at the national level, about 3% to 2%.
- Among the highest regional burdens of HIV are found among releases from southern correctional facilities (26% of all people living with HIV in the

south in 1999 were released from a prison or jail that same year) and among southern women releases (15% of all women with HIV were correctional releases).

- Only small percentages of newly reported cases of AIDS among women in the south are diagnosed in correctional facilities (0.6-7%, depending on the state).

### Implications for Prevention

The findings suggest that many southern women with HIV/AIDS and STDs, especially poor black women from rural areas, are found in prisons and jails, perhaps more than other parts of the country.

Prisons and jails are important venues for HIV/STD prevention programs, diagnosis and treatment. These interventions, as well as others in rural communities themselves, would benefit inmates, releases, and the larger public.

### SOURCE:

Hammett, T. M., & Drachman-Jones, A. (2006). HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and incarceration among women: National and southern perspectives. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, 7, S17-S22.

### Sexual minority teens report higher HIV risk behavior

Gay/lesbian and bisexual adolescents are disproportionately more likely to acquire HIV. This study explored HIV risk behaviors, sexual orientation, and sexual abuse among five school-based cohorts in Seattle, Washington.

Gay/lesbian and bisexual adolescents in all five cohorts engaged in greater number of serious HIV risk behaviors compared with heterosexual and mostly heterosexual students. The higher likelihood of HIV risk behaviors among sexual minority students appears to be associated in part with a higher prevalence of sexual victimization. Generally, male adolescents in each sexual orientation category had higher HIV risk scores compared to adolescent females.

Greater community awareness of the risk for sexual victimization among gay/lesbian and bisexual youth is needed. School sexual health education should assume sexual diversity among students and should address specific needs of diverse groups.

SOURCE: Saewyc, E., et al. (2006). Sexual orientation, sexual abuse, and HIV-risk behaviors among adolescents in the Pacific northwest. *American Journal of Public Health*, 96, 1104-1110.

### Consistent male condom use reduces women's risk of HPV

Studies have suggested that the use of condoms by men offers little if any protection against human papillomavirus infection. This study evaluated whether the use of male condoms reduces the risk of male-to-female transmission of HPV.

82 female university students who reported their first sexual intercourse with a male partner were followed. Cervical and vulvovaginal samples were collected at gynecological examinations every four months. Every two weeks, women used electronic diaries to record their daily sexual behavior.

The incidence of genital HPV infection was 37.8 per 100 patient-years at risk among women whose partners always used condoms for intercourse during eight months prior testing compared to 89.3 per 100 patient-years at risk for women whose partners used condoms less than 5 percent of the time.

Among newly sexually active women, consistent condom use by their partners appears to reduce the risk of cervical and vulvovaginal HPV infection.

SOURCE: Winer, R. L., et al. (2006). Condom use and the risk of genital human papillomavirus infection in young women. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 354, 2645-2654.

### HSV acquisition is relatively common in adolescent women

Acquisition of herpes simplex virus 1 and 2 was studied among 100 adolescent women. During the study, 4 subjects acquired HSV-1 antibody and 7 acquired HSV-2 antibody, but no cases of symptomatic HSV infection were identified. Acquisition of HSV-1 and HSV-2 is relatively common in adolescent women, although symptomatic infection is uncommon. HSV 2 is shed in the genital tract despite no symptoms.

SOURCE: Fife, K. H., et al. (2006). Incidence and prevalence of herpes simplex virus infections in adolescent women. *Sexually transmitted diseases*, 33, 441-444.

### HSV related to more genital symptoms

In patients with no history of genital herpes, HSV-2 was associated with increased "sores, blisters, ulcers, crusts, or small cuts/splits" in men and "redness, irritation, or a rash" among women. HSV 2 was not related to other types of genital symptoms.

SOURCE: Fleming, D. T., et al. (2006). Herpes virus type 2 infection and genital symptoms in primary care patients. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases* 33, 416-421.

**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, University of Colorado, and University of Kentucky. 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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