

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

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Many concurrent sexual partnership pairs among men are unprotected

Sexual partnerships that are concurrent -- those that overlap in time -- accelerate the dissemination of STI/HIV. Consistent condom use with all partners among multiple concurrent partnerships impedes transmission.

Men are more likely than women to have concurrent partnerships. Most studies have focused on higher risk subpopulations of men. A prior analysis of a representative national sample found that about 11% of men in the U.S. from the general population had concurrent sexual partners in the past 12 months.

The goal of this study was to assess condom use and the duration of concurrent sexual partnerships among men in the United States.

Methodology

Data were analyzed from men in the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) who met the criteria for a concurrent sexual partnerships (CSPs).

CSPs were defined as partnerships from the 12 months preceding an interview where the first sexual intercourse with one partner occurred in a calendar month preceding the calendar

month of last intercourse with an earlier partner. Duration of overlap for three types of CSPs -- transitional, contained, and experimental -- was assessed

Outcomes of the Study

430 respondents had 668 concurrent partnership pairs. 52%, 27%, and 21% were white, black and Hispanic. Major findings include:

- Half of the CSPs overlapped for a period of 3 months or less.
- Respondents used condoms during the last sexual intercourse with both partners in 45% of concurrency pairs, with only 1 partner in 27%, and with neither partner in 28%.
- 35% had a pair of CSPs in which the respondent used a condom with neither partner during the last sexual intercourse. Older men, including 50% of men aged 40 to 44 years, were more likely to use condoms at last sex with neither partner.
- Condom use with neither partner was more likely among men who were married or cohabitating.
- Condom use was not associated with drug or alcohol intoxication during last intercourse.
- Having a history of STI diagnosis and receiving medical treatment

for STIs in the past 12 months were not associated with condom use.

- Condoms were used with neither partner in 43%, 19%, and 11% of white men's, Hispanic men's, and black men's CSPs, respectively.
- The proportion of concurrent partnerships pairs that involved condom use was lower among white men's CSPs (36%) than those of black men (60%).

Implications for Prevention

This analysis of data from a representative sample of United States men of the 2002 NSFG found that a substantial proportion of concurrent sexual partnership pairs were unprotected. Blacks in concurrent partnerships used condoms more than any other racial/ethnic group.

The consistent use of condoms by individuals who engage in concurrent partnerships would help mitigate STI transmission.

SOURCE:

Doherty, I. A., et al. (2009). Condom use and duration of concurrent partnerships among men in the United States. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, 36, 265-272.

Fear of abuse found related to inconsistent condom use

This study examined effects of fear of abuse and STI knowledge on sexual risk behaviors among African American women (N=715), ages 15 to 21 and from health clinics in a large southeastern large U.S. city.

206 (29%) tested positive at baseline for at least 1 of 3 STIs. 75% reported inconsistent condom use in past 60 days, and 61% reported unprotected sexual intercourse with most recent main partner. Almost half (47%) aged 18-21 years reported experiencing relationship abuse in their lifetime; 15% reported abused by a main sexual partner in the past 60 days.

Under relatively higher fear levels, participants with high STI knowledge were more likely than were those with low STI knowledge to use condom inconsistently in the past 60 days and during last coitus with a main sexual partner.

Dating violence prevention should be part of STI/HIV prevention programs for young African American women.

SOURCE: Raiford, J. L., et al. (2009). Effects of fear of abuse and possible STI acquisition on the sexual behavior of young African American women. *American Journal of Public Health*, 99, 1067-1071.

Prevalence of gonorrhea increased among teens after hurricane

Populations affected by a natural disaster face increased risk of the spread of communication diseases. This study determined the prevalence of gonorrhea in a student population before hurricane Katrina and after their residential New Orleans neighborhoods were devastated by the hurricane.

Before and after hurricane Katrina, the prevalence of gonorrhea among all participants increased from 2.3% to 5.1%. The prevalence of chlamydia varied only slightly from 12.4% before the hurricane to 14.1% afterwards. Gonorrhea infection was significantly associated with female gender and with chlamydia infection.

Among African American students, the prevalence of gonorrhea was 2.4% before the hurricane and 5.1% after the hurricane.

The analysis found that the odds of testing positive for gonorrhea among this sample of high school students more than doubled after the hurricane. STI screening programs should be conducted as soon as possible following natural disasters.

SOURCE: Nsuami, M. J., et al. (2009). Increases in gonorrhea among high school students following hurricane Katrina. *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 85, 194-198.

High rates of rectal chlamydia found among MSM

A total of 3076 men who have sex with men were screened at four HIV/GUM clinics in London, U.K. The prevalence of chlamydia in the rectum was 8.2% and 5.4% in the urethra. The HIV and rectal chlamydia co-infection was 38.1%. Most rectal infections (69.2%) were asymptomatic and would have not been found if routine screening had not been conducted. Routine screening for rectal chlamydia is recommended for men at risk.

SOURCE: Annan, N., T. et al. (2009). Rectal chlamydia -- a reservoir of undiagnosed infection in men who have sex with men. *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 85, 176-179.

Most young adult AIDS cases were male

Among 541 AIDS cases in youth 13-19 years old reported in 2007, 60% were male. For the 1,888 AIDS cases in 20-24 year olds in 2007, 75% were male.

SOURCE: CDC. (2009). HIV/AIDS surveillance in adolescents and young adults (through 2007). *HIV/AIDS Surveillance slides*. www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm

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

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