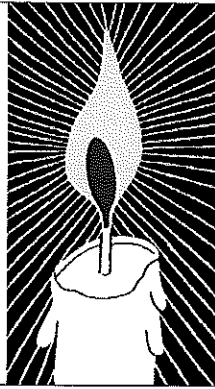


# RAP\* Time



RURAL CENTER *for*  
AIDS/STD PREVENTION

DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCE

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH-BLOOMINGTON

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

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## Sexual reasons for meeting partner online related with risk behavior and chlamydia

Research shows mixed results as to whether seeking sexual partners on the internet is an indicator of risky sexual behavior or if it itself increases one's risk for STI.

Young people represent the highest STI prevalence and are early adopters of new technologies and the most active internet users. Meeting romantic and sexual partners online have become more common among young people.

This study estimated the prevalence of reporting online romantic and sexual activities among Norwegian adolescents, including internet partners, and the reason for meeting them. It also examined differences in sexual behavior, partnership characteristics and chlamydia prevalence among those reporting internet partners versus with only offline partners.

### Methodology

All 123 classes in 5 of the 10 public schools in Finnmark County, Norway were invited participated.

Schools were purposively selected to be representative of the adolescent population relative to geography, ethnic mix, and number of students.

Sexually experienced girls (n=562) and boys (n=461) com-

pleted electronic questionnaires and provided urine samples for *Chlamydia trachomatis*. Each answered: "Have you ever met someone on the internet who you later met and had sex with in real life?"

### Outcomes of the Study

Median age was 17.2 years with range of 15-20 years.

Major findings include:

- 278 girls and 351 boys reported ever having used the internet in relation to love and sexuality.
- More boys than girls looked online for someone to flirt with (27% vs 15%), for a girlfriend/boyfriend (10% vs 6%), viewed erotica (34 vs 5%) and pornography (53% vs 11%) and visited contact sites (8% vs 4%).
- More girls than boys reported reading erotica (11% vs 7%) and seeking sexual information/advice online (14% vs 6%).
- 31% of girls and 32% of boys met someone on the internet that led to a real-world sexual encounter. Mean number of partners for both girls and boys was about 2.
- One-third of girls and two-thirds of boys stated that their original intention of meeting their most recent partner was to have sex, with remainder citing wanting to

start a romantic relationship.

- Both genders reporting internet partners were more likely to report: early sexual debut, two or more sexual partners in past 6 months, non-use of condom at first sex with most recent partner, and to have taken a chlamydia test prior the study.
- Chlamydia infection was 7% for girls and 4% for boys.
- Chlamydia prevalence was twice in both genders for those meeting their most recent partner for sex vs those wanting to start a romantic relationship.

### Implications for Prevention

This study suggests internet-partners are common among adolescents in Norway, and the reasons for meeting them was more strongly related to reporting greater sexual risk behavior and prevalent chlamydia infection than internet itself as a meeting venue.

### SOURCE:

Gravningen, K., et al. (2016). Meeting sexual partners online: Associated sexual behavior and prevalent chlamydia infection among adolescents in Norway: A cross-sectional study. *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 92, 97-103.

### HIV+ among black MSM driven by more than risk behavior

Data from 32 YRBS conducted by 17 large urban school districts during 2009-2013 were combined. 1,681 male students reported having sex with males.

MSM black students had higher prevalence than white students of ever having sexual intercourse (89% vs 67%) and using a condom during last sexual intercourse (among sexually active students) (47% vs 25%). Black students had a higher history than Hispanic students of ever having sexual intercourse (89% vs 79%). No other significant differences in high risk behavior were identified.

Findings do not provide that differences in HIV-related risk behaviors alone are driving the higher HIV+ diagnoses among black MSM compared to white and Hispanic MSM. Differences may be: high HIV+ prevalence, undiagnosed HIV, other STI, higher risk networks, less health insurance, lower adherence to ART, suppressed viral load and social determinants of health.

SOURCE: Kann, L. (2016). HIV-related risk behaviors among male high school students who had sexual contact with males--17 large urban school districts, United States, 2009-2013. *MMWR*, 65, 106-109.

### High rate of detectable HPV DNA found among transsexual persons

Detectable human papillomavirus (HPV) DNA is the most common sexually transmitted infection. About 75% of sexually active adults acquire one or more HPV types during their lifetime. Data on the prevalence of HPV DNA in transsexuals (not sex workers) is scarce.

This study determined the prevalence of detectable HPV DNA in a clinic sample of transsexual individuals. Clinical samples (oral, anal, vaginal, cervicovaginal and penile scraped cells) were collected from 35 transsexual patients in medical clinic in Bari, Italy.

HPV DNA was collected in 14 of 35 patients (40%): 38% in anal tested samples, 9% in vaginal tested samples, and 8% in penile tested samples. Oncogenic HPV genotypes have been detected in 93% of HPV-positive transsexuals.

36% of the HPV-positive transsexuals were infected with at least one of the four vaccine-preventable genotypes: 6, 11, 16 and 18.

SOURCE: Loverro, G., et al. (2016). Prevalence of human papillomavirus infection in a clinic sample of transsexuals in Italy. *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 92, 67-69.

### Trichomoniasis found in 15% of STD clinic female attendees

1704 women participating in a randomized control trial in U.S. STD clinics underwent STI testing. Prevalence of trichomoniasis was 15%, chlamydia 9%, gonorrhea 3%, herpes simplex virus 2 48%, and HIV 0.4%. Cumulative 6-month TV incidence was 8%. Almost 50% of incident TV cases had TV at baseline and had received treatment. Factors associated with TV incidence were having chlamydia TV and HIV at baseline.

SOURCE: Alcaide, M. L., et al. (2016). The incidence of *Trichomonas vaginalis* infection in women attending nine sexually transmitted diseases clinic in the USA. *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 92, 58-62.

### Congenital syphilis increased

The rate of congenital syphilis in the US reached a low of 8.4 cases per 100,000 live births in 2012, after 4 years of steady decline. During 2012-2014 the rate of CS increased 38%, coinciding with 22% increase of rate of P&S among women.

SOURCE: CDC. (2016). Increase in incidence of congenital syphilis--United States, 2012-2104. *MMWR*, 64, 1241-1245.

**RAP\* Time** is a monthly AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases prevention bulletin published by the Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention (RCAP) at Indiana University, Bloomington.

RCAP is located within the Department of Applied Health Science, Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington. The major focus of RCAP is the promotion of AIDS/STD prevention in the American rural communities, with the goal of reducing HIV/STD incidence. RCAP began operations on March 1, 1994.

**Senior Director**  
William L. Yarber, HSD  
Indiana University, Bloomington

**Co-Directors**  
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IU School of Medicine, Indianapolis  
Richard A. Crosby, PhD  
University of Kentucky  
Beth Meyerson, MDiv, PhD  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
Mohammad R. Torabi, PhD  
Indiana University, Bloomington

#### Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention

Indiana University  
801 East Seventh Street  
Bloomington, Indiana  
47405-3085

Phone, Fax, E-mail, web page:  
Voice and TDD: (812) 855-7974  
(800) 566-8644  
FAX line: (812) 855-3936  
aids@indiana.edu  
<http://www.indiana.edu/~aids>