

RAP* Time



RURAL CENTER *for* AIDS/STD PREVENTION

A JOINT PROJECT OF
INDIANA UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO,
AND UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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

Vol. 14, No. 5, May 7, 2010

Having sex with friends or casual partners found more related to being nonexclusive

Concurrent sexual relationships, or nonmonogamy/nonexclusivity, is a major factor of increasing STD prevalence. Epidemiological data have linked concurrent partnerships with STD transmission and greater infection risk. Few studies have assessed respondents' perceptions of their partner concurrency.

This study examined whether both the timing and the type of sexual involvement are associated with respondents' decisions--and their perceptions of their partners' decisions--to engage in concurrent sexual partnerships.

Methodology

Study data were from the 1995 Chicago Health and Social Life Survey, a household survey of adults from Cook County, Chicago, IL. The questionnaire (computer assisted and face-to-face self-administered questions) assessed the respondents' sexual histories and their two most recent sex partners.

Two dependent variables were assessed: respondents' non-exclusivity and their perception of their partners' nonexclusivity. Analysis focused on the respondents' most recent other-sex partnership, defined as mutually

voluntary genital contact with another person.

Outcomes of the Study

The sample was 783 adults aged 18-59 (460, women; 323, men).

Major findings include:

- 10% of both women and men reported that both they and their partners had had other partners.
- Men were more likely than women to have had been nonexclusive (17% vs. 5%), and women were more likely than men to report that their partner had been (17% vs. 8%).
- The chance of having been nonmonogamous was 44% higher for women who were sexual with a friend and 30% higher among those with a casual partner, than those in a serious relationship. The corresponding figures for their partners were 48% and 32%, respectively.
- For men, the probability of having been nonmonogamous was elevated by 25% among those who were sexually involved with a friend and by 43% among those with a casual partner. For their partners, the figures were 27% and 24%, respectively.
- Compared with women and their partners who delayed sex for at

least six months, those who had had sex within the first week were more likely to have had concurrent partners.

- Compared with males reporting courtship of at least six months, those who begun having sex with their partners within one month were more likely to have had concurrent partners.
- Women who never lived with their partners reported more concurrent partners.
- Men's chance of having concurrent partners increased with their number of prior sex partners

Implications for Prevention

This study found that having been nonexclusive with a partner was higher for those who were sexually involved with friends or casual partners than those in more serious relationships.

An increased awareness that nonromantic sexual involvement is associated with partnership concurrency may be valuable.

SOURCE:

Paik, A., et al. (2010). The contexts of sexual involvement and concurrent sexual partnerships. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 42, 33-42.

Sex did not increase after condom machine placed in jail

HIV/AIDS prevalence is much higher among prisoners than the US general population. This project installed and monitored a free condom-dispensing machine in a jail in San Francisco, CA, to examine its feasibility.

Following the installation, increases in prisoners' awareness of access to condoms and their likelihood of obtaining condoms were observed. Increases in condom intake were reported among high-risk groups. Prisoners who were gay, female/transgender/other gender, or those with HIV were more likely to have obtained condoms than heterosexual, male, or HIV-negative prisoners.

Sexual activity did not increase. Custody operations were not impeded and staff acceptance of prisoner condom access grew.

This pilot test provided evidence of acceptance and viability of this method of prisoner condom access.

SOURCE: Syla, M., et al. (2010). The first condom machine in a US jail: The challenge of harm reduction in a law and order environment. *American Journal of Public Health*, Advance online publication: doi:10.2105/AJPH.2009.172452.

Prevalence and factors for increased BV found among WSW

Bacterial vaginosis (BV) is a common cause of vaginitis and for unknown reasons common in lesbian (WSW) and bisexual women.

This study defined risks for prevalent BV in lesbian and bisexual women focusing on detailed sexual history. Women 16-35 years of age reporting sex with at least one woman in the past year completed a computer-assisted interview. BV was defined by Amsel criteria.

Of 335 participants, 6% reported douching, 24% sex with men, and 91% any sex in the prior 3 months. 29% had BV, 40% of whom reported corresponding symptoms.

BV was associated with reporting a partner with BV (39% vs. 12%), vaginal lubricant use (59% vs. 21%), or sharing of sex toys in prior 3 months. No associations were found for age, race, smoking, hormone use, douching, vaginal, and or oral sex, or number of new partners. Lubrication use and shared sex toys were correlated.

BV was found to be associated with behaviors that efficiently transmit vaginal fluid and with vaginal lubrication use.

SOURCE: Marrazzo, J. M., et al. (2010). Prevalence and risks for bacterial vaginosis in women who have sex with women. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, 37, 335-339.

MSM disproportionately impacted by HIV and syphilis

The rate of new HIV diagnosis in MSM is 44 times that of other men and 40 times that of women. The range was 522-989 cases of new HIV diagnosis per 100,000 MSM vs. 12 per 100,000 other men and 13 per 100,000 women. The rate of p&s syphilis among MSM is more than 46 times that of other men and 71 times that of women.

SOURCE: CDC. (2010, March 11). CDC analysis provides new look at disproportionate impact of HIV and syphilis among U.S. gay and bisexual men. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/msmpressrelease.html>

New HPV infections decline with age

A study of 9175 women found that the rate of new HPV infections declines with age. New infections typically do not progress to CIN 2 or worse disease in older women. Hence, benefit of vaccination at older ages is low.

SOURCE: Rodriguez, A. C. (2010). Longitudinal study of human papillomavirus persistence and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia grade 2/3: Critical role of duration of infection. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, 102, 315-324.

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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