

# 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

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## Recent heterosexual anal intercourse found associated with STI in some clinic samples

In contrast to men who have sex with men, less is known about the prevalence of anal intercourse (AI) among heterosexuals. AI is commonly practiced among heterosexual partners. Studies show that the percentage of men and women reporting heterosexual AI, including unprotected AI, has increased since the early 1990s.

Although AI has high risk for STI transmission, data on correlates of AI are mixed. Further, information on STI prevalence among heterosexuals reporting recent AI is limited.

This study sought to identify demographic and behavioral correlates of AI and associations with STI outcomes among a diverse sample of clients attending public STD clinics.

### Methodology

Data were from a cross-sectional study of clients attending 13 public STD clinics in Los Angeles, CA. Women reporting only having female sex partners were excluded. Heterosexual men were defined as men reporting only female sex partners in the past twelve months.

Data for this analysis were abstracted from existing medical record and data collection systems

in place at the STD clinics. Data included information on demographics, types of sexual contact, substance abuse, other risk behaviors and STI results.

### Outcomes of the Study

The sample was 28,184 clients: 61% men, 39% women. Mean age was 32.5 years and 30.3 years for men and women, respectively. Major findings include:

- 10% of men and women reported AI with an opposite sex partner in the 90 days preceding their clinic visit.
- Among men, AI was highest among Hispanics (14%) and lowest among Asians (6%) and African Americans (7%).
- Among women, AI was highest for whites and Hispanics (14% and 13%, respectively) and lowest among African Americans (8%).
- Women who engaged in AI were more likely to report exchange of drugs or money for sex and substance use.
- Men who engaged in AI were more likely to report exchanged of drugs or money for sex, anonymous sex, and sex with an injection drug user.
- Among women, an association was found between AI and STIs

among Hispanics and whites, but not African Americans.

- White women diagnosed with early syphilis were more than five times as likely to report AI.
- A higher prevalence of early syphilis was found among men who reported sexual contact with men and women.

### Implications for Prevention

This study is one of few that examined heterosexual AI among a large and diverse sample attending STD clinics. As similar to other studies, those of this study reporting AI were more likely to report risky behaviors such as exchange of drugs or money for sex and substance use. Among women, AI was associated with STI among Hispanic and white women, but not African American women.

The results highlight the need for rectal screening for women and condom use for heterosexual AI.

### SOURCE:

Javanbakht, M., et al. (2010). Prevalence and correlates of heterosexual anal intercourse among clients attending public sexually transmitted disease clinics in Los Angeles County. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, 37, 369-376.

### Some bisexual men would disclose same-sex behavior

This study explored several sex-related factors including the disclosure of same-sex behaviors among Black bisexual men. Interviews were conducted with 38 Black men in Atlanta, GA, who reported sex with men and women in past 6 months.

Some men reported full disclosure of same-sex behavior to both men and women for moral reasons or honesty. Others stated that full disclosure depended on degree of partner intimacy, the situational setting, or perceived stigma from family members. Some noted that they would not actively disclose same-sex behavior unless asked. Non-disclosure to female partners was sometimes rationalized on basis of consistent condom use.

All agreed that coworkers did not need to know "their business." The most common cited reason for total secrecy was stigma, the fear of losing family members, community status, their jobs, or female sexual partners.

SOURCE: Malebranche, D., J., et al. (2010). Exploring the "bisexual bridge": A qualitative study of risk behavior and disclosure of same-sex behavior among Black bisexual men. *American Journal of Public Health, 100*, 159-164.

### Rectal douching appears ingrained in MSM who do it

Many men who have receptive anal-penile sex use rectal douches, yet specific aspects of douching are poorly understood. This study explored the onset age of rectal douching among MSM and reasons for douching.

For study stage 1, qualitative methods were used to assess 20 MSM. A structured questionnaire was used for 105 MSM for stage 2.

More than half of stage 1 men douched during trial despite having been advised not to do so. Of stage 2 men (all HIV-), 51% reported using rectal douches in the prior 6 months; 47% douched before and 25% after receptive anal intercourse.

Most participants reported douching frequently or always. On average, men reported douching about 2 hours prior or 1 hour following intercourse. Onset of douching was late 20s. Most reported douching to be clean or from being encouraged by partner. Some thought douching after sex prevented STIs.

Douching appeared to be very ingrained by those who practiced it.

SOURCE: Carballo-Diequez, A., et al. (2010). Why rectal douches may be accepted rectal-microbicide delivery vehicles for men who have sex with men. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 37*, 228-233.

### One-third of girls, ages 13-17, got HPV vaccination

Using the 2008 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and 2000 U. S. Census, data from 1709 girls, ages 13-17, nested within 274 counties and six states were analyzed. 71% were white and 75% were uninsured. Overall, 34.4% were vaccinated for HPV. Compared to girls in the highest-income families, girls in the lowest-income families were more likely to be vaccinated.

SOURCE: Pruitt, S. L., & Schootman, M. (2010). Geographic disparity, area poverty, and human papillomavirus vaccination. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 38*, 525-533.

### Condom use is increasing in U. S.

Data from the most recent CDC National Survey of Family Growth shows that the percentage of women whose male sexual partner used the male condom increased from 52 to 93 from 1982 to 2006-2008. In 2006-2008, 93% had ever had a partner use the condom.

SOURCE: Mosher, W. D., & Jones, J. (2010). Use of contraception in the United States: 1982-2008. National Center for Health Statistics. *Vital Health Statistics, 23*(29).

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

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