

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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Families are an important source of condom information and condoms for teen boys

Condom use is an important component of STI prevention for adolescent boys. For most effectiveness, condoms should be used consistently and correctly. For those using condoms, correct use often does not occur resulting in exposing partners to STI. Developmental trajectory impacts decisions about condom use.

Prior condom use studies among adolescent males have rarely included sexually inexperienced boys or those recently becoming sexually active. Effective condom promotion programs for this group must account for boys' condom-related information sources, attitudes, and behavior.

This goal of this study was to identify and describe key concepts and processes in how younger adolescent boys learn about, acquire, and use condoms.

Methodology

Thirty boys, ages 14 - 16 years, were recruited from a teen clinic serving an area with high STI rates.

Open-ended questions about condoms were asked, such as "Where did you learn about condoms?" and "In what situations would you/would you not, use condoms?" Interviews were

recorded, transcribed and coded. Shared social cognitions and key concepts were derived via qualitative analysis.

Outcomes of the Study

Mean age was 14.9 years. 27 were African American, 2 Caucasian, and 1 Latino. 16 were sexually experienced and all had used a condom at least once (14 at last intercourse). Major findings include:

- Family members were identified as their primary source of information about condoms, primarily from male relatives.
- Information from family members focused primarily on pregnancy prevention and secondarily on STI prevention.
- Family members were the primary source for obtaining condoms.
- Family members discussed safe sex but not the decision to have sex in the first place.
- Other information sources were peers and school sex ed. Most felt these were less trustworthy.
- School information about condoms varied markedly in scientific accuracy (e.g. "They can only protect you from getting babies.")
- Several linked beliefs about

condoms' lack of effectiveness with non-use.

- Participants held a practical approach to condoms, describing neither strong nor negative feelings about using condoms.
- Regardless of sexual history, most said that sex feels or would feel different with condoms: pleasure and decreased sensitivity were most often mentioned.

Implications for Prevention

This sample clearly identified family members, particularly male relatives, as their primary and most trusted source of condom information and source of condoms. Many associated decreased sensitivity to condom use.

The researchers suggest that efforts to increase condom use among boys should utilize a family-targeted intervention. Further, stressing the value of condoms for pregnancy prevention would have a positive impact on STI prevention.

SOURCE:

Rosenberger, J. G., et al. (2010). Condoms and developmental contexts in younger adolescent boys. *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 86, 400-403.

Rural MSM willing to complete Internet HIV/AIDS intervention

Two-thirds of Americans have access to the Internet and most have used the Internet to search for health-related information. Rural MSM are geographically and socially isolated. Recent research suggested that the Internet may be an effective venue for delivery of health information to rural MSM.

This study assessed rural MSM's satisfaction with an Internet-delivered HIV/AIDS intervention, the Wyoming Rural AIDS Prevention Project. Data were collected from 300 rural MSM.

The study found that rural MSM participants significantly increased their HIV-related knowledge, positive condom use outcome expectancies, and use self-efficacy across time and when compared to a wait-listed group. Results indicated that rural MSM are willing to enroll in and complete an Internet delivered HIV/AIDS risk reduction intervention.

SOURCE: Williams, M., et al. (2010). An evaluation of the experiences of rural MSM who accessed an online HIV/AIDS health promotion intervention. *Health Promotion Practice, 11*, 474-482.

Weekly drinking and drug use found related to sexual risk

Sexual risk behavior is common among college students, sometimes leading to adverse outcomes such as STIs and unintended pregnancy. Many college students also report alcohol and drug use prior to sexual behavior.

This study utilized responses from 310 undergraduate psychology students aged 18 to 23 to examine personality, sexuality, and substance use predictors of sexual risk behaviors over a six-month period.

For men, greater alcohol and recreational drug use, high extraversion, and lower agreeableness were related to sexual risk taking. For women, greater alcohol and drug use, higher sexual excitation, and lower sexual inhibition were predictive of sexual risk taking. For women, but not men, sensation seeking mediated the relationship between the four significant use, personality, and sexuality variables and sexual risk taking.

Programs for college students, for both men and women, should stress the effects of substances and arousal on sexual behavior.

SOURCE: Turchik, J. A., et al. (2010). Personality, sexuality, and substance use as predictors of sexual risk taking in college students. *Journal of Sex Research, 47*, 411-419.

1 in 22 African Americans will acquire HIV

CDC analyzed HIV surveillance data, vital statistics on HIV specific mortality, and U.S. census data from 2007 to estimate lifetime risk (ELR) of HIV infection. ELR was 4.65% (one in 22) for blacks/African Americans. ELR was 1.92% (one in 52) for Hispanics/Latinos and 0.59% (one in 170) for whites. Risk behavior reduction and more HIV testing and care are needed to combat these high rates.

SOURCE: CDC. (2010). Estimated lifetime risk for diagnosis of HIV infection among Hispanics/Latinos -- 37 states and Puerto Rico. *MMWR, 59*, 1297-1301.

Oral HPV infection linked to oral sex

The risk of developing oral HPV infection increased with increases in lifetime oral or vaginal sex partners. Open-mouthed kissing has been associated with oral HPV infection. Oropharyngeal cancers are the second-most common cancer linked to HPV. Cases of mouth and throat cancers are increasing.

SOURCE: Ramqvist, T., et al. (2010). Oropharyngeal cancer epidemic and human papillomavirus. *CDC's Emerging Infectious Diseases, 16*(11) doi: 10.3201/eid1611.100452.

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

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