

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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Significant minority of Midwestern rural adolescents engaged in oral sexual activity

Research has found that a substantial number of adolescents report having participated in oral sex. Nationally representative samples revealed that between 39% and 61% of teens have had oral sex. Studies also indicate that youth are more likely to report oral sex behaviors than sexual intercourse and report more oral sex partners than coital partners. Oral sexual activity is one important risk behavior that can place teens vulnerable to STDs.

Most studies of oral sex among youth have had urban samples. No published studies have assessed oral sex among rural adolescents.

This study examined the prevalence of oral sexual activity in rural Midwestern youth. Further, the correlates of several sexual risk behaviors with oral sex activity were also assessed.

Methodology

A questionnaire based on the CDC YRBS was distributed to 2121 rural middle and high school students in grades 6-12 across 5 rural counties in a Midwestern state. The schools within districts were stratified by grade level and a stratified random selection of schools was used (n = 49). 113

classrooms participated in the study. The questionnaire was administered by a health educator from the Hospital Council.

Outcomes of the Study

2000 students completed the questionnaire. The rural adolescents were male (51%), White (85%) and mean age of 14.7 years. 8% and 39% of middle school and high school students, respectively, had engaged in sexual intercourse.

Major findings include:

- 9% of middle school students reported oral sexual activity and 44% of high school students reported oral sex.
- There was no statistically significant difference in reported oral sexual activity between male and female students.
- 12 risk behaviors associated with oral sex were similar for middle and high school students.
- Adolescents reporting having had coitus were nearly 17 times more likely to have had oral sex than those never having had coitus.
- Having drunk alcohol in past 30 days doubled the risk (2.2 times) of engaging in oral sex.
- Having smoked 1 or more cigarettes in the past 30 days doubled (2.0 times) the risk of

engaging in oral sex.

- Decreased risk of adolescent oral sex was associated with underweight students, lived with both biological parents, had not been in fight in past year, not forced to have coitus, not felt sad/hopeless, did not attempt suicide, and did not drink alcohol or binge drink.
- Decreased risk of oral sex was associated with did not smoke marijuana and never had coitus.

Implications for Prevention

This study of rural adolescents found slightly over one-fourth of the students (9% middle school, 44% high school) reporting ever engaging in oral sex. Ever having sexual intercourse and having drunk alcohol and smoked cigarettes in past 30 days were strongly associated with oral sex. The prevalence of oral sex was 50% to 75% the rate of urban youth.

The study data provides a case of school sexuality education to address alternative sexual behaviors.

SOURCE:

Dake, J. A., et al. (2011). Midwestern rural adolescents' oral sex experience. *Journal of School Health*, 81, 159-165.

Nearly 1 in 10 women reported concurrent partnerships

Concurrent sexual partnerships (partnerships that lap over time) are an important contributor to STI dissemination in a population. This study used sexual partnership data reported by 7643 women in the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth to assess aspects of concurrent sexual partnerships in the past 12 months. Associations between concurrency and other variables were determined.

Prevalence of concurrent partnerships was 5.7% based on reported partnerships and 8.3% after adjustment for possible underreporting. Concurrently was associated with younger age, formerly/never married, Black race/ethnicity, younger age at first intercourse, having a non-exclusive sex partner, having intercourse while “high” on drugs or alcohol, binge drinking and crack for cocaine use.

The association of concurrency with non-exclusive partners and substance use suggests extensive sexual networks that expose persons to HIV/STD.

SOURCE: Adimora, A, a., et al. (2011). Concurrent partnerships, nonmonogamous partners, and substance use among women in the United States. *American Journal of Public Health*, 101, 128-135.

HIV-infected mothers reported stress that impacted parenting

Research has shown that parental HIV infection is associated with negative outcomes for children. This study focused on the relationship between maternal stress, parenting, and child functioning among families with the mother being HIV-positive. 69 HIV+ mothers with at least one child between 6-12 years old completed questionnaires at the baseline assessment.

Data revealed that maternal stress was negatively associated with a broad range of parenting skills and that parenting skills were negatively associated with child problem behaviors. Mothers with HIV who were anxious about their own health and functioning and who were more stressed in their parental role were more likely to exhibit poorer parenting skills, specifically to engage children less often in family routines, poorer parent-child communication, and poorer and less consistent parenting discipline.

Interventions are needed to decrease maternal stress and enhance parenting skills for families affected by HIV.

SOURCE: Murphy, D., A., et al. (2010). Anxiety/stress among mothers living with HIV: Effects on parenting skills and child outcomes. *AIDS Care*, 22, 1449-1458.

Half of parents with boys intend HPV vaccination for them

A national sample of parents of boys (n = 1178) were asked about future intention to vaccinate their sons for HPV. Most parents (90%) believe that male HPV vaccination is generally important, yet only 51% intended to have their sons vaccinated against HPV. Strongest predictors were high perceived benefit of vaccination and low perceived barriers.

SOURCE: Dempsey, A. F. (2011). Factors associated with parental intentions for male human papillomavirus vaccination: Results of a national survey. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*. doi: 10.1097/OLQ.obo13e318211c248.

65% of HIV diagnoses among 20-44 ages

42,959 HIV infection diagnoses in 40 states were estimated for 2009. The highest number was 6,237 cases for ages 20-24. For ages 20-44 a total of 27,959 cases were estimated, a 65% of the total estimated cases. 2,036 cases were estimated for ages 15-19.

SOURCE: CDC. (2011). Diagnosis of HIV infection and AIDS in the United States and Dependent areas, 2009. *HIV Surveillance Report*, Vol. 21.

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

Senior Director
William L. Yarber, H.S.D.
Indiana University, Bloomington

Co-Directors
Janet N. Arno, M.D.
IU School of Medicine, Indianapolis
Richard A. Crosby, Ph.D.
University of Kentucky
Susan L. Dreisbach, Ph.D.
University of Colorado, Denver
Mohammad R. Torabi, Ph.D.
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