

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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Black women had less intention to vaccinate themselves and their daughters for HPV

Black women in the United States are disproportionately impacted by cervical cancer: they are 50% more likely, than white women, to be diagnosed with cervical cancer and twice as likely to die from it. Further, women in rural areas, especially in the Southern part of the United States, have more severe outcomes (morbidity and mortality) from cervical cancer than urban women.

The vaccine against human papillomavirus (HPV), the major cause of cervical cancer, has the potential to reduce racial and geographic disparities in cervical cancer.

This study examined whether rural black and white women have different knowledge and attitudes about HPV, cervical cancer and the HPV vaccine.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Person County, North Carolina, a rural county with one of the highest cervical cancer mortality rates in the state.

Researchers interviewed 91 black and 47 white women who were recruited in 2006 from the waiting rooms of a public health clinic and an OB/GYN office.

Eligibility criteria were being female, 18 years of age or older, and able to read English.

Outcomes of the Study

The mean age was 42 years and 85% were parents with 20% having a daughter aged 11-17. Most had a high school education or greater. Major findings include:

- 24% of black women reported having heard of HPV compared to 57% of white women.
- Black respondents scored lower on an HPV knowledge scale (29% correct) compared to whites (42% correct).
- Blacks were less likely than whites to believe that an HPV infection would be a serious threat to their own or their daughter's health.
- Black women were less likely than white women to say they had any chance of getting cervical cancer. They also were less likely to think that cervical cancer would be a serious threat to their or their daughter's health.
- Only 20% had heard of the HPV vaccination with no difference by race.
- Fewer blacks agreed that vaccines, in general, are beneficial and more agreed that they are unnecessary than whites.

- For the HPV vaccine, there was no race difference in perceptions of its benefit to adolescents.
- Black women perceived higher effectiveness of the HPV vaccine than white women.
- Black respondents reported lower intentions to vaccinate either themselves or their daughters than did white women.

Implications for Prevention

This study found that the black women were less aware and knowledgeable about HPV vaccination than white women. They also perceived less severity of HIV infection and had lower intentions to vaccinate themselves or their daughters.

The researchers recommended that interventions to increase HPV vaccination in rural, Southern United States may need different messages for black parents of adolescent girls.

SOURCE:

Cates, J. R., et al. (2011). Racial differences in HPV knowledge, HPV vaccine acceptability, and related beliefs among rural, Southern women. *Journal of Rural Health*, 24, 93-97.

Rural Canadians were less likely to talk about HIV/AIDS

This study examined HIV/AIDS information exchange among rural and urban people living in Canada. A random-digit dial telephone survey was conducted in three rural regions and matched urban communities in Canada during 2006 and 2007.

1,919 persons (response rate: 22.2%) participated. More persons aged 50 or older participated.

Rural respondents were significantly less likely than their urban counterparts to be personally acquainted with a person living with HIV/AIDS. Just over half of rural persons had ever talked about HIV/AIDS to anyone, significantly less than the 61% of urban residents.

Significantly more rural respondents believed than HIV/AIDS might be transmitted via casual contact with a PHA than did urban residents (25% vs. 19%).

The study confirms reports by PHA that rural communities tend to be silent about HIV/AIDS, a problem that needs addressed.

SOURCE: Veinot, T. C., & Harris, R. (2011). Talking about, knowing about HIV/AIDS in Canada: A rural-urban comparison. *Journal of Rural Health, 27*, 310-318.

Orgasm difficulties found related to early condom removal

Studies have shown that incomplete use of condoms (late application and early removal) is relatively common. However, little is known about why motivated individuals do not use condoms from start to finish of sex. The purpose of this study was to identify associations between incomplete condom use and sexual arousal.

A convenient sample 761 heterosexual men completed a web-based questionnaire. Mean age of the sample was 36 years. 82% identified as white.

Men who scored higher on sexual arousability were more likely (1.5 times) to put a condom on after penetrative sex had begun. Men who reported difficulty in experiencing orgasm were more likely (two times) to report removing condoms before sex was over.

The researchers note that the study findings suggest that sexual arousal may be an important, and under-studied, factor associated with incomplete use of condoms. Further research is needed on sexual arousal and condoms as incomplete use may increase STD risk.

SOURCE: Graham, C. A. et al. (2011). Incomplete use of condoms: The importance of sexual arousal. *AIDS and Behavior, 15*, 1328-1311.

Genital precancerous growth increasing among women

The National Cancer Institute reports that genital precancerous growths among women are rising, with cases increasing fourfold between 1973 and 2000. The form is vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia (VIN) is on the external vulva, labia, clitoris, anus and thighs. These precancers do not always turn into cancer but are recommended removed. Most of the growths are linked to human papillomavirus.

SOURCE: (2011). Committee Opinion No. 509: Management of vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia. *Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology 118*, 1192-1194.

HPV vaccination recommended for boys

CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that the vaccine against cervical cancer should also be given to boys, in part to help prevent the cancer-causing virus through sex. Federal health officials usually adopt the panel's recommendations and ask doctors and patients to follow them.

SOURCE: CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.. (2011, October 25). www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/acip/downloads/mtg-slides-oct11/05/HPV.

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

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