

RAP* Time



RURAL CENTER *for* AIDS/STD PREVENTION

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

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

Vol. 16, No. 3, March 2, 2012

Risky sexual behavior found related to current depression among adult women

Studies have examined the association between depression and risky sexual behaviour in adolescence and young adulthood. The majority of studies have found that the two are related in samples of young persons, ages 12-24.

Research examining the relationship between depression and risky sexual behavior in adults older than 25 years are not common except studies focusing on high-risk populations, such as men who have sex with men and injecting drug users.

This study examined the association of depression and self-reported risky sexual behaviors in a nationally representative sample of US adults aged 20-59 years.

Methodology

Data from the 2005-2008 National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES) were analyzed. Risky sexual behaviors assessed were age at first sex, number of lifetime sex partners and number of sex partners in the past year. Antibodies to HSV-2 were tested using the enzymatic immunodot assay. Current depression was measured by the Patient Health Questionnaire-9.

Participants (N = 5273) were first interviewed in their home and then underwent interviewing and a health examination at Mobile Examination Center.

Outcomes of the Study

Major findings include:

- The prevalence of depression was 7%.
- Depression was more common in women than in men and in persons 50-59 years as compared to with persons aged 20-29 years.
- Among persons who had their first sexual experience before age 15, 15% had current depression as compared with 6% of persons who were older at initial sex.
- Participants with one to three lifetime sex partners were less likely to be depressed than those with more lifetime partners.
- Persons with one sex partner in past year were less likely to be depressed than those with zero or two or more sex partners in past year.
- Having 10 or more lifetime sex partners (reported by 36%) was the most common prevalent risky sexual behavior.
- Only 3% reported all three risky sexual behaviors and 13% reported two behaviors.

- 55% reported no risky sexual behaviors.
- Persons with depression were more likely to report risky sexual behavior than those without depression.
- For women, not men, the number of lifetime partners and age of first sex were associated with depression.
- The prevalence of HSV-2 was 19% and increased with the number of lifetime sex partners.

Implications for Prevention

This analysis found that in women, ages 20-59 years, sexual behaviors that occurred in adolescent (early sexual initiation), as lifetime sexual behaviors (lifetime partners), and recent risky sexual behavior (past-year partners) were related to current depression.

Healthcare providers should incorporate knowledge of the study findings in order to provide more effective STD prevention.

SOURCE:

Pratt, L. A., et al. (2012). The association of depression, risky sexual behaviours and herpes simplex type 2 in adults in NHANES, 2005-2008. *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 88, 40-44.

Condom use errors and problems are common worldwide

A systematic literature review dealing with the frequency of various condom use errors and problems was conducted for peer-reviewed articles, published in English-language journals between 1995 and 2011. Fifty articles representing 14 countries met inclusion criteria.

Condom use errors and problems found included: late application (17% to 51%), early removal (13% to 45%), failure to fully unroll the condom, incorrect storage, condom re-use, completely unrolling before applying to the penis (25%) rather than unrolling on the penis, failure to leave space for semen collection (24% to 46%), inside-out application that is then reversed (4% to 30%), and exposure to sharp objects like teeth during package removal (2% to 11%).

Condom use errors and problems were found common worldwide occurring in numerous populations. Addressing these condom use errors and problems is crucial to closing the gap between perfect use and typical use of condoms.

SOURCE: Sanders, S. A., Yarber, W. L., et al. (2012). Condom use errors and problems: A global view. *Sexual Health*, 9, 81-95.

Most men with HPV disclosed to main female partner

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is common, but the disclosure of known HPV infection by men has rarely been studied. This analysis determined factors associated with men's HPV test result disclosure and HPV-related information sharing with partners.

Participants were men enrolled from 2007 to 2010 in a HP study who reported having a main sexual partner (N=251).

Most men disclosed their test results to a main partner (82%). Self-reported HPV-negative test result, a high school education and a higher commitment to a sexual partner were associated with increased disclosure. Men who disclosed (versus those who did not) were significantly more likely to provide their partners with HPV-related information. Among men who disclosed to their main partner, nearly half reported that partner asked them questions about HPV.

This study highlights the role men infected with HPV can play in educating their sexual partners.

SOURCE: Marhefka, S. L., et al. (2012). HPV-related information sharing and factors associated with US men's disclosure of an HPV test result to their female sexual partners. *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 88, 171-176.

Few sexually active young women get chlamydia test

The CDC reports that just 38% of sexually active young women (ages 15 to 25) were screened for chlamydia in the previous year. Testing was most common among African-American women, those who had multiple sex partners, and those who received public insurance or were uninsured. Chlamydia is the most commonly reported infectious disease in the US. CDC recommends annual screening for all sexually active women aged 25 and under.

SOURCE: CDC. (2012, March 13). National estimate shows not enough young women tested for chlamydia. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/stdconference2012pressrelease.html>

HIV rate falls among injecting drug users

The CDC reports that HIV prevalence among US injecting drug users has fallen by half in the past decade from 16% in the 1990s to 9% in 2009. However, 45% of those found to have HIV had been unaware that they were infected.

SOURCE: CDC. (2012). HIV infection and HIV-associated behaviors among injecting drugs users - 20 cities, United States, 2009. *MMWR*, 61(1), 133-138.

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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