

Contextual Influences on Sexual Risk Behavior Among Rural Adolescents

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Purpose

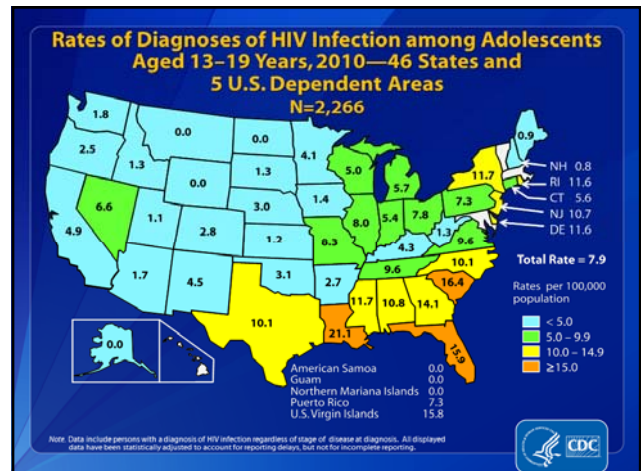
- Identify sociocontextual factors associated with HIV risk among rural adolescents and HIV prevention needs that will inform the development of prevention interventions.

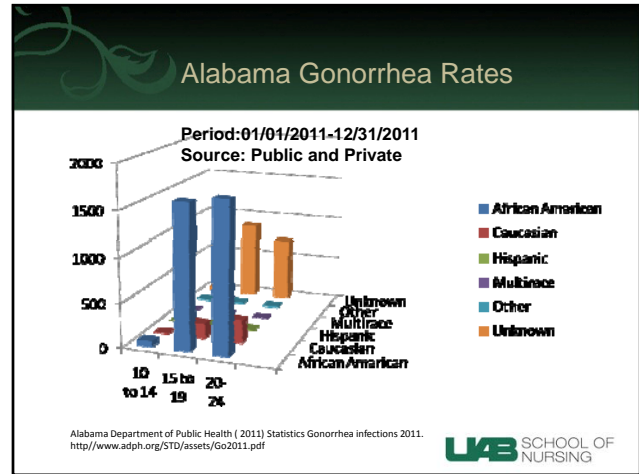
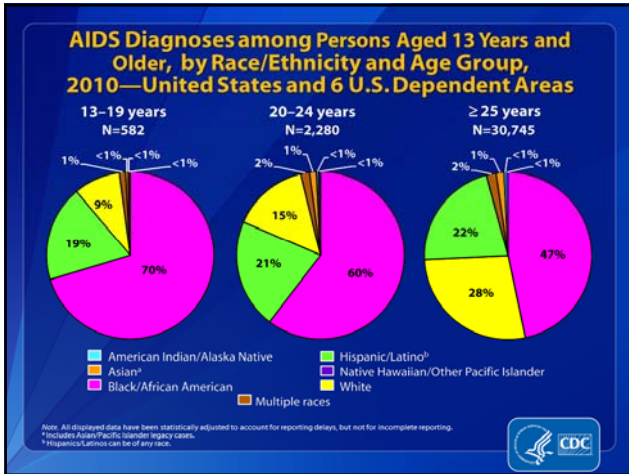


Background

- Increasing disparities in HIV risks in adolescence
 - One third (35%) of all new HIV infections among young people age 13-29, and approximately 14% of HIV diagnoses are among people age 13-24*
 - Impact in minority adolescents
 - Although African American adolescents (ages 13-19) represent 17% of the U.S. adolescent population, they accounted for 68% of new AIDS diagnoses 2009*
 - Impact in southern minority adolescents
 - Furthermore, high rates of other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unintended pregnancies among minority adolescents the need for risk reduction interventions*

* CDC (2011) from <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/surveillance/resources/reports/2009report/>





HIV Related Risk Behavior

- Progress in reducing HIV related risk behaviors among high school students did not change significantly in the past decade*
- New calls for renewed prevention efforts that seek to delay onset of sexual activity, increase condom use among those who are sexually active*

*Kann, Lowry, Eaton & Wechsler (2012) MMWR 61(29), 556-560

Background

- Persistent geographical variations and ongoing health disparities in the impact of HIV on racial and ethnic minorities are evident in recent national reports of HIV rates*
- In comparison to other areas of the nation, the South has the highest number of adults and adolescents living with and dying from AIDS and the highest percentage of new AIDS cases among people living in rural areas**

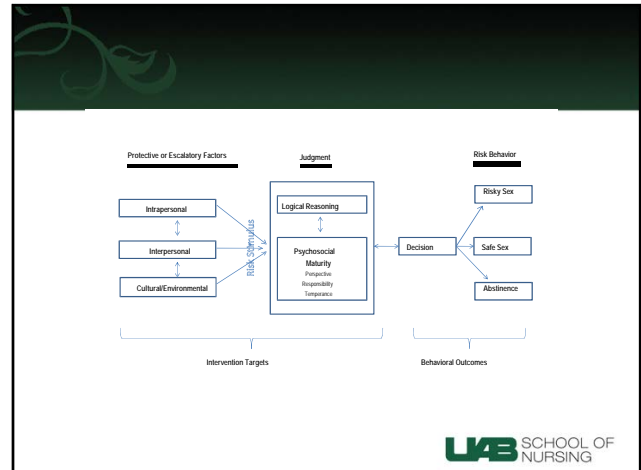
*Enah et al. (2012) Journal of Nurses AIDS Care. In press
** Southern AIDS Coalition (2008). The Southern Manifesto

Background

- Recent research in disproportionately affected rural communities in the South suggests that HIV prevention interventions targeting these communities need to emphasize contextual factors that perpetuate health disparities*
- Environmental conditions and perceived norms are strongly associated with sexual risk behavior among African American youth**

*Cené et al. (2011). *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 26(7), 737-44.

**Romero, Gailbraith, Wilson & Gloppen. (2011). *AIDS Behav* 15:976-991



Methodology

- Descriptive qualitative inquiry using focus groups
- Participants were recruited from the service area of a collaborating community-based HIV/Service organization
- Rural adolescent participants, ages 12-16 participated in one of four focus groups.
- Groups segmented by age (12-14, 15-16) and gender (male, female)

Sample

- Mean age: 14.2 (± 1.5) years
- 55% female
- 7- 11 per group
- 52% lived with both parents
- 76% of reported household incomes were below \$30,000 per year.

Findings: HIV Prevention Knowledge

- Only 30% accurately responded to all questions
- Accuracy of knowledge questions increased with age
- Areas of lack of knowledge included:
 - Manifestations of HIV
 - Possibility of transmission

Findings: Major Themes

- Individual Influences
- Interpersonal Influences
- Environmental/societal influences
- Situational Influences

Themes: Individual

- Across all focus groups, participants identified several areas of individual Influences on risk
 - Motivation and self esteem

“The person that ah, experienced it earlier they’ll probably easy to be persuaded and the person that is doing it later, they probably have a mind of their own. Think for their self.” (16year old female)
 - Goal orientation

“Because the one’s that’s waiting[until they are older] they try to think about their future and the ones that’s not they really don’t care. They just want to do it to fit in with everybody.” (16 year old male athlete)
 - Emotional attachment

“They can be the sweetest girl in the whole world but when they meet that one boy and he starts telling her that he love them and everything, and they are going to leave everything behind just for that one boy” (15 year old female)

Themes: Interpersonal

- Interpersonal Influences: Parents and peers
 - Parents: monitoring, nature of relationship, expectations, values

“Some you know some guys don’t have and some girls don’t have the time and the opportunity. You know their parents might be more on them, like not let them out of house, you know what I’m saying.”(14 year old male)

“The type of person that would wait will be the type of person that say, like, the type of person who talks to their momma about it and talk to somebody about it, and the one that would do it are the ones that are around it.(14 year old female)
 - Peers: peer pressure, perceived peer norms

“If you’re a dude and you are popular, you know what I’m saying, you probably already gonna be having sex. But if you ain’t, then the attention that you’ll get from different females, especially like if they are fine or something like that, and they got that body and stuff..... you ain’t going to know how to respond to it. You ain’t gonna say no because most girls these days probably call you scared or something like that. So, you ain’t gonna want to say no. So, you’ll probably just do it.” (16year old male athlete)

“They think it’s cute. They think just because they got children other girls should go out and have children.”(14 year old female)

Themes: Environmental

- Environmental/Societal Influences: Home , school, rural area
 - Neighborhood disorganization and poverty: “Living projects”, “gangs”, “unemployment”, “lack of activities for youth”, “single parent households”
 - School: low levels of monitoring, empty classrooms, Perceptions of “teachers don’t care”
 - Family/household: role models (being and having)
 - Rurality: denial and fear of stigma, transportation issues, lack of recreational activities

Findings: Themes

- Situational influences: given an opportunity what influences likelihood and level of risk behavior
 - Level of attractiveness of potential partners
 - Time and opportunity (low monitoring from parents or authority figures)
 - Lack of preparation for safer sex behaviors
 - Level of experience
 - Religion/values, goal orientation

Conclusions

- Implications
 - Practice
 - Comprehensive assessments
 - Counseling and education
 - Role models
 - Research
 - Intervention Development
 - Comparative effectiveness

Conclusions



- Emerging themes support the theoretical model and revealed modifiable contextual (intrapersonal, interpersonal, and environmental/cultural), situational, decision-making factors, and related consequences that can be used in the development of an HIV prevention game

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Questions



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