



PATTERNS OF HIV BEHAVIORS AMONG COLLEGE STUDENT LET'S STOP HIV TOGETHER-KNOWING IS CARING

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PURPOSE

HIV is significant health for the population aged 15 to 35, with the highest infection rate among college students 18 to 35. College students are vulnerable and most likely to be infected with HIV due to the lifestyle changes away from home, new peers, lack of knowledge, and beliefs of being invincible for contracting the virus. In 2018, Memphis was ranked 4th with the highest rates of new HIV infections among all US cities. At the same time, 86% of individuals newly diagnosed with HIV were Black, and 63% were between 15-34 years old. The research investigated the perceptions of HIV risk and factors associated with risk perception among college students, examining the number and kind of partners and consistency of condom use. Condoms are most effective in preventing HIV transmission. Results from this study will provide an insight into the knowledge of self-perception of risk for being HIV infected and condom use. .

DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographics consisted of 200 male and female students ages 18 to 24 from the Memphis/ Shelby County area. Surveys were given to students to obtain levels of knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of patterns of sexual behaviors, beliefs of HIV risks, testing habits, and the use of PrEP.



METHODS

The research methods and procedures were designed to gain valuable perceptions about HIV knowledge, awareness, access to resources and services to reduce rates of new cases of HIV, reduce the number of individuals living with HIV, and increase the uptake of HIV testing and use of PrEP.

The Committee of HIV researchers, stakeholders, and students developed the qualitative survey for the study investigated the perceptions of HIV risk and factors associated with risk perception among college students, examining the number and kind of partners and consistency of condom use.

Flyers, emails, social media, and personal conversations encouraged students to participate in the study. Participants signed a consent form for the IRB-approved research project and received a ten-dollar electronic gift card for completing the survey..

OUTCOMES

The expected outcomes from the research were:

1. While students are knowable about HIV and risk factors, little concern is taken to prevent being infected.
2. The result from the study will move the College to develop effective education strategies to reduce new cases of HIV and increase HIV testing on campus.
3. The campus will become more HIV center, providing HIV education and have access to condom and testing on campus in locations that accessible to all students.

STUDENT'S LESSON LEARNED

Lessons learned from this project.

1. Condoms are the most effective in reducing new cases of HIV and transmission.
2. To reduce new cases of HIV on campuses, college students must develop skills and confidence to discuss with partners HIV risk factors, such as condom use, HIV status, number of partners, and testing.
3. College students must understand the importance of knowing and admitting HIV status with partners and assist in reducing stigmas, fears, and barriers associated with HIV testing.

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