



Health Literacy needs of women Living with HIV/AIDS

Author: Judy Thomson

Email: judythompson09@gmail.com

Women in Sub-Saharan Africa are disproportionately affected by the HIV and constitute 60% of the total HIV/AIDS infections in this region. The study explored the health literacy needs of women living with HIV through semistructured interviews. The findings revealed that the women expressed a need to increase their knowledge about HIV/AIDS. The knowledge they needed ranged from basic pathophysiology about HIV/AIDS, to the impact of HIV/AIDS on their health, to an awareness of the modes of HIV transmission and methods of protecting others from being infected. Other important health literacy needs related to self-care and correct antiretroviral use. A need for psychosocial skills was also identified in order for women to build and maintain their relationships. The involvement of people living with HIV in the development of educational programmes specifically for people living with the virus have proven successful. Recommendations were made for nursing practice, education and further research, based on these findings. Though AIDS case rates among Asian Pacific Islander Americans (APIs) in the United States remain relatively low, the number has been steadily increasing. Scholars, policy makers, and service providers still know little about how confident APIs are in carrying out different HIV risk reduction strategies. This article addresses this gap by presenting an analysis of a survey of API women and youth in Orange County, California a suburban county in southern California with large concentrations of Asian residents.

Having a positive attitude toward one's own sexual and ethnic identity can improve psychological well-being and self-efficacy and may reduce vulnerability to HIV infection. We sought to understand factors associated with having greater self-worth about being Asian and Pacific Islander (API), being gay/bisexual, and being both gay/bisexual and API (dual identity). We conducted serial, cross-sectional surveys of 763 API men who have sex with men (MSM) annually from 1999 to 2002 in San Diego, California and Seattle, Washington. We found (a) sexual and ethnic identity were intertwined and mutually influential;

Multivariate logistic regression models using subsamples of API women and API youth respondents were used. Variations in reported self-efficacy for female respondents were explained by acculturation, comfort in asking medical practitioners about HIV/AIDS, and to a lesser degree, education, household size, whether respondents were currently dating, HIV knowledge, and whether respondents believed that HIV could be identified by physical appearance.

We sought to determine the prevalence, trends, and correlates of recent HIV testing (within the past year) among young Asian and Pacific Islander men who have sex with men (API MSM) in two U.S. cities. We conducted serial, cross-sectional, interviewer-administered surveys of 908 API MSM aged 15-25 years, sampled from randomly selected MSM-identified venues annually from 1999 to 2002. The prevalence of recent testing increased from 63% to 71% between the first and fourth year. Recent testing was most significantly associated with ethnicity and with knowledge of testing sites to which respondents felt comfortable going. Other correlates of recent testing included gay identity, comfort with sexual and API identity, having a main partner, social support, and recent unprotected anal intercourse. API MSM who had ever traded sex for material goods or shelter were as likely to have tested recently. HIV prevention campaigns should increase the awareness and availability of culturally appropriate testing sites and urge more frequent testing by young API MSM.

The HIV epidemic is rising in Asian and Pacific Islander men who have sex with men (API MSM), who are often first diagnosed with HIV at a late stage of disease. We investigated the HIV testing patterns, correlates of prior testing, and awareness of HIV infection.