



Tailoring HIV Prevention to the needs of African American Older Adults

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What do these individuals have in common?





- African American
- Over age 50

AND.....



HIV +

HIV among individuals age 50 and above



General Population

Increase in proportion of HIV cases that are over 50 (Yarborough, 2006)

In 2004, 50+ age group accounted for

- 15% of HIV diagnoses
- 18% of AIDs diagnoses
- 33% of HIV/AIDS related deaths

HIV and older African Americans



Among women over age 50, African American Women are:

11% of population

50% of *AIDS cases*

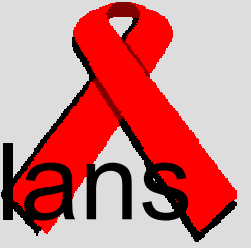
65% of *HIV cases*

Source: CDC (2001, 2002)



Older Americans often ignored in
the research on HIV prevention

Reasons to include older individuals in HIV prevention plans



- Two thirds of African American women over 50 report they have been sexually active in past five years (Willingham et al., 2004)
- Continue to engage in risky sexual behaviors (Willingham et al., 2004)
- Subgroup of late onset crack users (Johnson & Sterk , 2003) (understudied)

Misconceptions about HIV transmission among older Americans



- Misconceptions about transmission evident in interviews with 500 women over age 50 (Henderson et al., 2004)

Where do older women get their HIV information



Henderson et al., (2004)

- 85% TV
- 54% Friends
- 51% newspapers
- Only 38% ever received information from a health care professional

Older people have less information about HIV transmission



- Coleman (2003)
- Paniagua et al, (1999)
- McGorry & Lasker (2001) (Hispanic)
- Im-Em (2002) (Thailand)

Beliefs about HIV among African American women over age 50



54% believed the causes (risk factors) of AIDS are unknown (Jackson, 2005)

Other beliefs



Beliefs about HIV among a subgroup of African Americans (Belenko et al., 2005)



- Man made
- Cure being withheld
- Government not telling the truth



First issue

Examine age differences in
knowledge about HIV
transmission

Second issue



- Gender differences in knowledge about HIV transmission
- Findings in previous studies have been inconsistent

Gender differences in HIV transmission knowledge



Females

- Oser et al., (2006)(white probationers)

Males

- Allen et al., (2005)
- Loue et al., (2003) (Hispanics)

Second objective



- Examine gender differences in knowledge of HIV transmission (generally) and across age groups

Purpose



- Compare knowledge of HIV transmission among older vs younger African American males and females

Background



- Crossroads Center received a planning grant from CSAP
- Local match from the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati

Survey



Focus of survey was on :

- (1) Preferences among African American respondents on how HIV prevention services should be structured
- (2) Survey included a component on the knowledge of the transmission of HIV

Sampling Plan



- Stratified random sampling
- 16 neighborhoods of the Empowerment Zone were stratified on:
 - (1) Level of unemployment
 - (2) Racial diversity

Sampling Plan (cont.)



- One neighborhood randomly selected from each group
- 20 streets & then 20 blocks randomly selected from each neighborhood
- All houses on block approached to participate
- Oversampling in senior citizen housing projects in targeted areas
- Final sample included 448 respondents age 18-70+

HIV knowledge



Scale: Boscarino & DiClemente AIDs Knowledge Scale

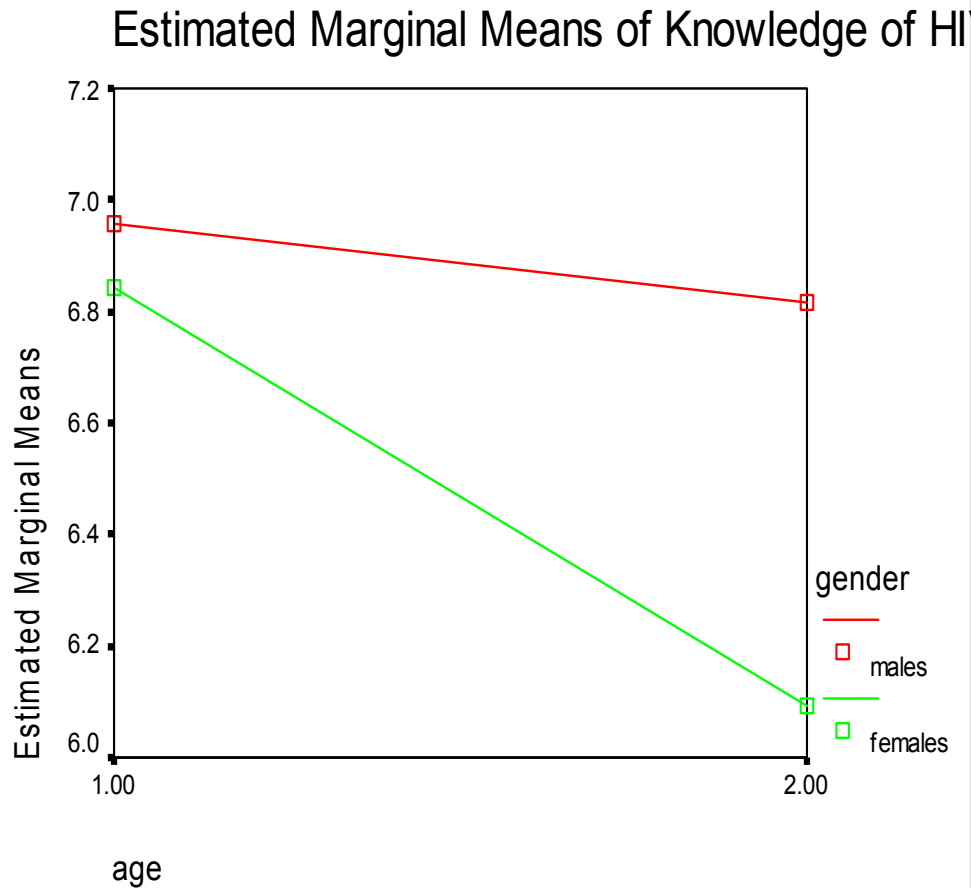
Sample items

HIV can be contracted by:

- (1) Touching an infected person
- (2) Exchange of bodily fluids during sexual contact

9 true-false items (scores range from 0-9)

Findings



A 2 way ANOVA revealed

- Age differences
- Gender differences
- Age by Gender differences (trend)

Counseling Efforts for Seniors



HIV Prevention Programs with Demonstrated Efficacy for African American Adults



Women

- SISTA Project (DiClemente & Wingood)
- Empowerment Intervention (Shain et al)
- Enhancing motivation to reduce risk of HIV infection (Carey et al.,)
- Culturally Tailored HIV/AIDS risk reduction (Kalichman et al.,)
- Context Framing to Enhance HIV Antibody testing (Coley)
- Cognitive Skills Training Group (Kelly et al.,)
- WiLLOW (Wingood et al.,)

Men

- Brother to Brother (Peterson)
- HIV Risk Reduction (Peterson)

Men and Women

- AID and Antibody Testing (Wenger et al.)
- Project COPE

What do we know about the risk factors in the older African American age group?



- Less knowledge about transmission than younger adults
- Other studies

Willingham et al., (2004)

209 African American women over age 50 living in rural counties in S. Carolina

Francis Jackson (2005)

106 African American women and 48 African American men over age 50 randomly selected from a health maintenance list responded to a mail survey

Risk Factors to consider in tailoring HIV Counseling to older African Americans



Willingham

Among the sexually active, 60% engaged in at least one sexual risk behavior in past 5 years (>1 sexual partner, partner had other sexual partners, partner engaged in sex with other men, exchanged sex for something of value, sex with HIV+ partner)

Jackson

- 61% of the older men in the Jackson survey reported that they never use condoms
- 26% of the older men reported a history of some IV drug use

Both

- Perceived their own HIV risk as low (despite engaging in risky behaviors)

What can we learn from the sexually active women who engaged in safer behaviors?

(Willingham et al., 2004)



Factors that increase likelihood of safer behaviors

- (1) self efficacy for condom use
- (2) comfort in communicating with sexual partners about sex

Factors which decrease the likelihood of safer sexual behaviors

- (1) Discussion of HIV risk behaviors among peers

Conclusions



What are the issues?

- More prevention research is needed on older African Americans (esp women)

What do we know?

- Some important differences exist between older & younger African American adults that need to be considered when tailoring counseling programs for older African Americans
- Knowledge of HIV transmission is more of an issue among older African Americans
- (2) Older African Americans assess their personal risk as lower even when they engage in some of the same risky behaviors as their younger counterparts
- Older African Americans who are less likely to engage in risky sexual behaviors report more self efficacy for condom use and more social confidence in communicating with sexual partners about sex

What do we need to know?

- What are some older African American women saying to each other that discourages safer sexual behaviors? How can these be replaced with healthier messages?
- What prevention packages (among the existing set or new ones) best address the counseling needs of older African Americans?