PII-35: Preventing HIV Transmission: Use of the Natural Helper Model to Impact Sexual Self-Efficacy Among African American Men

Author List:
Presenting Author: Tiffany N. Scott
Additional Author:

Presenting Author: Tiffany N Scott

Address: 1700 Red River St.
Austin, Texas 78701
United States
Ph: 512-471-7311
Fax:
Email: tscott@mail.utexas.edu
Institution: The University of Texas at Austin

Presentation Preference: Student poster submission

Abstract Categories:
Thematic Areas: Health Disparities

Abstract:
Introduction: While HIV and AIDS prevention have been extensively researched using numerous theoretical frameworks, models and intervention, there is a paucity of research that considers cultural norms and sexual self-efficacy as an influence on the sexual behaviors and practices of African American men. Grounded in the concepts of social networks (Barnes, 1954) and social support (Cassel, 1976), the natural helper model [NHM; (Eng & Parker, 1994)] is a promising approach to holistic health promotion among vulnerable populations. The purpose of this research is to explore the extant literature for evidence to support the use of the NHM among sexually active African American men.

Method(s): A comprehensive theoretical analysis of the origins and uses of the natural helper model and a systematic review of the literature regarding the influences of concepts within the NHM on HIV transmission among African American men was done.

Results: Evidence in the literature suggests that health promoting interventions grounded in the concepts of NHM, e.g. social networks and social support, are designed to recognize and value the social networks already in place within many African American communities. These may influence the sexual self-efficacy, sexual beliefs, and behaviors of African American men in a way that encourages responsible sexual practices. Responsible sexual practices, such as increased condom use, are likely to have a direct impact on the prevalence and incidence of HIV and AIDS among African American men. A conceptual model detailing the proposed relationships is provided based upon this review.
Discussion & Conclusions: The concepts with the NHM might have a direct influence on the sexual self-efficacy of African American men. Specifically, it is posited that the NHM may provide African American men with the necessary tools to increase their sense of sexual self-efficacy and subsequent condom usage. The conceptual model created from the extant literature should serve as the next step in a program of work investigating risky sexual behaviors among this population. It is theorized that natural helper based interactions will provide African American men with the necessary tools to decrease the rates of HIV transmissions.

Abstract History:
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

Financial Disclosure:
No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation.

FDA Disclosure:
I will not be describing any pharmaceutical and/or medical device.

Non-Exclusive License:

Submitted by:
tscott@mail.utexas.edu