

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN SEXUAL DECISION-MAKING AMONG AFRICAN-AMERICAN ADOLESCENTS

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Purpose: The purpose of this pilot study is to examine differences between African American adolescent males and females in sexual decision-making based on behavioral capability (sexual knowledge) and sexual self-efficacy. The proposed pilot study will elicit information about the behavioral capability (HIV/STD knowledge), spirituality, sexual self-efficacy, and sexual decision-making skills. Because few studies have addressed gender differences in sexual decision-making, the findings of this study will contribute to the development of a culturally and gender-sensitive HIV/STD prevention intervention.

Methodology: A descriptive, comparative design will be used in this study. A convenience sample of 30 participants will be drawn from African American adolescents aged 12 to 18 years living in a low-income housing development. Exclusion criteria will include adolescents who are married and/or are unable to read. After receiving parental consent and participant assent, the following questionnaires will be administered: (1) HIV Prevention Knowledge Test for Teenagers, (2) The Juhasz-Schneider Sexual Decision-Making Questionnaire, (3) Sexual Self-Efficacy Scale, and (4) Spiritual Perspective Scale. The data will be analyzed using simple descriptive statistics to detect correlations between the independent variables (HIV knowledge, sexual self-efficacy, and spirituality/religiosity) and the dependent variable (sexual decision-making). Data will also be analyzed using *t*-test to test differences between males and females in sexual decision-making. The Statistical Analytical System (SAS) version 8.0 will be employed.

Findings: Research in progress. To be completed by January 2005.

Nursing Implications: The proposed pilot study will elicit information about the behavioral capability (sexual knowledge), spirituality, sexual self-efficacy, and sexual decision making skills of African American adolescents. Because few studies have addressed gender differences in sexual decision-making, the findings of this study will contribute to the development of culturally and gender-sensitive HIV/STD prevention interventions.