

more likely to use condoms regularly [$p=0.002$, $X^2=8.94$, $CI=1.38-4.94$].

Conclusion The rates of sexual exposure and unprotected sex are still high among our youths. We need to invest in treatment and prevention programs regarding STI's in the young and identify the barriers that prevent access to care such as a lack of appropriate and effective STI control programs. STIs are preventable and significant reductions in new infections are possible and needed. Prevention can minimise their negative impact and reduce healthcare costs.

P4.38

"I MET HIM ON JACK'D" – EXPLORING HIV RISK PERCEPTIONS AND RISK MITIGATION STRATEGIES OF YOUNG BLACK MSM MEETING SEX PARTNERS ON GEOSOCIAL NETWORKING APPS"

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Introduction Young Black MSM (YBMSM) continue to experience HIV disparities in the US. Increasingly evidence suggests these disparities are perpetuated by exposure to sexual networks with higher HIV incidence and untreated prevalence. In Baltimore, there is high use of geosocial networking (GSN) apps to meet sex partners among newly diagnosed HIV-infected YBMSM, yet little is known about how they navigate these potentially risky environments. We interviewed app users to explore perceptions of and strategies to mitigate HIV risk in these spaces.

Methods We actively recruited YBMSM ($n=17$) age 18–24 (mean=21.5/ $SD=1.8$) from the most frequently reported GSN-app among new MSM HIV cases in Baltimore. Participants were recruited by direct messaging while logged-on in high HIV transmission venues or census tracts identified using surveillance and community viral load data. Participants completed 60–90 min in-depth interviews which were audio-recorded and transcribed. Transcripts were analysed using categorical analysis including a 3-stage analytic coding strategy and were double-coded until consistency was achieved.

Results Participants perceived a high risk of acquiring HIV from partners met on the app but also described strategies they felt mitigated those risk. Some participants described direct sexual health communication with potential partners – often involving a discussion of HIV status. A second more commonly described strategy was to presume a potential partner was safe or not safe based on social cues or profile characteristics. The third strategy involved limiting numbers of partners or limiting sex to activities believed to involve less HIV risk.

Conclusion Sexual networks are an important driver of HIV risk among YBMSM and GSN apps are increasingly becoming a central node in these networks. We found that young men are aware of their risk while navigating these social spaces, but may be using ineffective strategies to mitigate those risk. Future research examining strategies to reach youth in these spaces to help them make healthier sexual connexions is needed.

P4.39

EFFECTIVENESS OF PEER EDUCATION INTERVENTIONS FOR STIS PREVENTION AMONG FEMALE PRISONERS IN NORTHEAST OF IRAN

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Introduction Sexually Transmitted Infections (STDs) have become an important medical problem in prisons all around the world. Peer education interventions are a frequently utilised strategy for preventing Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) worldwide. Our study was aimed to examine the effectiveness of the peer education method in knowledge, attitudes, and practices, regarding to STIs.

Methods A peer education intervention was conducted in a female prison in the northeast of Iran. A cohort of 1098 students was surveyed ($n=534$ intervention group, $n=567$ control group) through anonymous questionnaires, both pre- and post-intervention.

Results There were significant differences over time and between intervention and control groups associated with increased STIs knowledge (OR:2.16; 95% CI:1.76, 2.23), reduced equipment sharing among injection drug users (OR:0.43; 95% CI:0.20, 0.52), and increased condom use (OR:2.23; 95% CI:1.69, 2.43). Peer education programs had a significant effect on STI infection (OR: 2.26; 95% CI:1.99, 2.16).

Conclusion Peer education programs in a female prison are effective at improving behavioural, practical and infection outcomes regarding STIs. According to high prevalence of STIs among female inmates, prevention activities targeting this population should be considered.

P4.40

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COGNITIVE GROUP THERAPY BASED ON SCHEMA-FOCUSED APPROACH FOR DECREASING DEPRESSION IN PRISONERS LIVING WITH HIV

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Introduction Studies have shown that about half of HIV-positive people are involved in a variety of psychiatric disorders which depression is the most common. The chance of developing a depressive disorder is two times higher in HIV-infected patients than in HIV negative comparison subjects. Mental disorders are over-represented in prisoners. The aim of this study was to determine the effectiveness of cognitive group therapy based on schema-focused approach in decreasing depression in prisoners living with HIV.

Methods The design of this study was semi-experimental with pre-test, post-test and control group. The research population consisted of all prisoners living with HIV in Mashhad Central Prison. 20 prisoners living with HIV were selected by convenience sampling, and randomly assigned to an experimental group (10 prisoners) and a control group (10 prisoners). The experimental group received schema-focused cognitive group therapy while the control group received no treatment. The research measurement instruments consisted of SQ-SF and BDI-II. ANCOVA models were used to test the study hypothesis.