



University of Nevada, Reno

Evidence-Based HIV Pilot Program for Chinese College Students: Differences by Gender

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- **Presenter:** Teresa Serratt RN, PhD

- **Learner Objectives:**
 - Identify the risk factors for and prevalence of HIV/AIDS in college-aged students.
 - Describe the primary findings of the VOICES intervention on gender differences for condom use intention, perceived benefits and barriers to condom use, condom use self-efficacy, and HIV/AIDS knowledge among Chinese college students in a U.S. university.

- **Disclosure Statement:** The presenter and co-authors have no conflicts of interest



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Background

- As of 2011, an estimated 34 million people worldwide were living with HIV, including 2.5 million new infections (Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS [UNAIDS], 2012a).
- Young people are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS and account for 40% of all new adult HIV infections in the world (UNAIDS, 2012b).



Background

- While the correct and consistent use of male and female condoms can reduce the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among sexually active individuals (Center for Disease Control [CDC], 2013a), **less than 30% of college students do so** (Tung, Cook, & Lu, 2011; Tung, Cook, & Lu, 2012; Tung, Hu, Efirid, Yu, & Su, 2012).
- Surveys of Chinese college students suggest that **15% to 90% of did not know that HIV transmission could be prevented by using condoms** (Chen et al., 2012; Sun et al., 2012; Tung, Hu, et al., 2012; Tung, Lu, & Cook, 2013).



Background

- Chinese college students appear to be a vulnerable population to sex-related infections and this vulnerability is further exacerbated when Chinese students move abroad to attend college.
- In the U.S., Chinese students account for 30% of all international students (Institute of International Education, 2012), but there are no linguistically and culturally appropriate HIV prevention programs for this student population.



Purpose

- The purpose of this study was to explore gender differences in the effectiveness of the translated VOICES (Video Opportunities for Innovative Condom Education and Safer Sex) intervention on the condom use intention, perceived benefits and barriers to condom use, condom use self-efficacy, and HIV/AIDS knowledge among Chinese college students in a U.S. university.



Methods

- Sixty-seven Chinese students were recruited at a local university.

- The participants were a convenience sample of Chinese students studying in a U.S. university. Eligible participants were included if they:
 - (a) self-identified as Chinese;
 - (b) had never been married;
 - (c) had the ability to effectively communicate and read in Chinese; and
 - (d) were 18 years of age or older in non-health related majors.

- Data were collected between March and October of 2012.



Methods

- A one group pre-test/post-test quasi-experimental design was utilized.
- Participants viewed a 20-minute video with Chinese subtitles followed by a 25-minute small group discussion and condom feature education.
- Questionnaires collected data on demographic information, condom use intention, perceived benefits and barriers to using condoms, confidence in using condoms in different situations, and HIV/AIDS knowledge.



Key Findings:

- Multiple linear regression analysis showed that female participants showed significantly greater mean scores of:
 - A. perceived benefits
 - (M = 4.653, SD = 0.472 vs. M = 4.405, SD = 0.761, $p = 0.027$)
 - B. and condom use self-efficacy (M = 4.506, SD = 0.583 vs. M = 4.121, SD = 0.881, $p = 0.031$),in comparison with male participants.



Key Findings:

- Additionally, the multiple linear regression analysis showed that female participants reported significantly higher scores than male participants in five perceived benefits items and one self-efficacy item.
 - *Be safer from disease*
 - *Feeling more responsible*
 - *Protecting my partner and myself*
 - *Be safer from pregnancy*
 - *Easily available*
 - *“when my partner pressures me to take a chance this time”*



Conclusions

- The use of a translated VOICES educational intervention appears to be an effective means of providing HIV prevention education to Chinese students studying in the U.S.
- The findings from this study also provides important information for developing more differentiated intervention strategies specific to gender, particularly in the Chinese international student population.



Implications

- Students studying in a foreign country that has a different culture should be provided with health promoting and disease preventing education; including HIV/STI content.
- It is important that this educational content is targeted for the cultural/linguistical and gender differences of these students.