



# Female Minority College Students' STD and HIV Knowledge

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## Background

- CDC estimates that youths between the ages 13-24 accounts for approximately ¼ of the population that are sexually active. An estimated 20 million new cases of STD occur annually in the United States, of which, 50 % are youths 13-24 y/o.
- An estimated 24,000 women become infertile annually due to untreated or undiagnosed STDs.
- The presence of STDs increases HIV exposure risk 2-5 times.
- In 2010, adolescents and young adults accounted for an estimated 26% of all new HIV infection in the United States.
- Young minority women have been impacted with both HIV and STDs.
- This study was part of a larger study funded through the Minority-Serving Institutions' HIV and Substance Abuse Prevention Initiative, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

## Purpose

- Purpose: Assess the knowledge and awareness of HIV transmission and prevention, as well as signs and symptoms, treatment, and vaccinations for STDs among female minority college students ages 18-24 in South Florida.

## Method

- After IRB approval, undergraduate female students were recruited in 2014 from two sites: 1) a minority-serving urban state university, and 2) a minority-serving urban state college in South Florida.
- Students were asked to complete the 18-item Brief HIV Knowledge Questionnaire (Brief HKQ; Carey & Schroder, 2002) and the 27-item STD Knowledge Questionnaire (STD-KQ; Jaworski & Carey, 2007).



## Results

- The sample included 399 students. Ages ranged from 18-54, with over 2/3 of the sample between the ages of 18-24. Participants race and ethnicity included: Hispanic 216 (54.1%), and Blacks 120 (30.1%) (African-America, Afro-Caribbean, African, and Black Other).
- HIV Knowledge Test: scores can range from 0 to 18, the mean score for this sample was 14.16 (SD 3.51).
- STD Knowledge Test: Scores can range from 0 to 27, the mean score for this sample was 17.43 (SD 6.51)



## Implications

- Female students scored higher on the HIV Knowledge Test than on the STD Knowledge Test. This could imply that while students were knowledgeable about HIV transmission, they had less knowledge about transmission, prevention, and treatment of other common STDs. These results suggest the need for further education on STDs for female minority college students.



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