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Research

1. Relationship of STD-Related Shame and Stigma to Female Adolescents' Condom-Protected Intercourse

“PURPOSE: Shame and stigma associated with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are barriers to adolescents seeking prompt and appropriate diagnosis and treatment. However, little is known about how these constructs are related to STD-protective behaviors, such as condom-protected intercourse. Thus, we prospectively examined the relationship between shame and stigma and condom use in adolescent females.

METHODS: There were 192 African American females age 17.4 +/- 1.7 years (range 15-21 years) recruited for the study from local teen-oriented health clinics. At baseline, participants completed demographic and psychosocial measures (including STD-related shame and stigma), and chart- or laboratory-confirmed history of STDs was obtained. At 6 months follow-up, rate of condom-protected intercourse in past 14 days was assessed. Participants' baseline shame and stigma scores, prior history of STDs, and select demographic and theoretically important psychosocial variables were entered into a hierarchical linear regression model to predict condom-protected intercourse in the 14 days prior to the 6-month follow-up assessment.

RESULTS: After controlling for variables identified in bivariate correlations, STD-related shame was significantly predictive of condom-protected intercourse in the 14 days prior to follow-up, with higher shame predicting higher rates of condom-protected intercourse.

CONCLUSIONS: Future prevention efforts attempting to reduce adolescents' risks for STDs and HIV may benefit from addressing STD-related shame and stigma in addition to explicitly linking health-promoting behavior changes (condom use) to a decreased likelihood of future infection with STDs.”

2. Article Identifies Barriers to Adolescent Substance Abuse Screening In Primary Care(From MCH Alert http://www.MCHLibrary.info/Alert/default.html)

Adolescent Health E Newsletter       June 2007
"Barriers to screening adolescents in the primary care setting for substance abuse are substantial," state the authors of an article published in the May 2007 issue of the Journal of Adolescent Health. Substance abuse is among the leading health care problems in the United States and is an important contributor to mortality among young people. Despite recommendations for regular screening, fewer than half of fellows of the American Academy of Pediatrics reported screening all adolescent patients for substance abuse, and pediatricians and family physicians reported screening younger adolescents (ages 11-14) less often than older adolescents (ages 15-17). The purpose of the study described in this article was to identify barriers in primary care practice to screening adolescents for substance abuse. The authors investigated these barriers through focused group discussions to allow participants to generate independent responses to the research question and to allow for refinement and clarification of ideas.

Between November 2002 and July 2003, the authors conducted six focus groups with health professionals from primary care practices that comprise a clinical research network in New England. Respondents were asked "what things can get in the way of screening at this practice"? The researchers tabulated the number of groups that identified each of 10 different barriers and then computed a mean rank for each barrier.

The authors conclude that "new strategies for screening and brief intervention, which include the use of computer technology, along with appropriate provider education and training to increase knowledge, skills and comfort with providing screening, assessment and intervention for adolescents who use substances, may help to overcome . . . barriers."


3. Report Identifies Policy Options to Better Serve Adolescents Who Age Out Of Foster Care (From MCH Alert http://www.MCHLibrary.info/Alert/default.html) Time for Reform: Aging Out and on Their Own briefly discusses the
history of permanency and federal child welfare policy, presents the latest state-by-state data on the number of adolescents who have aged out of foster care, and offers recommendations for public policy reforms to decrease the number of adolescents who age out of care each year. The report, published by the Pew Charitable Trusts, draws on findings from focus groups conducted with adolescents who aged out or expect to age out of foster care, research studies, and interviews to document the adverse long-term effects that aging out of foster care has had on a growing number of adolescents each year. The appendix contains charts depicting the number and percentage of adolescents aging out and length of stay by state, describes the characteristics of focus group participants and methodology, and presents selected outcomes for adolescents who age out of foster care (education, health, employment and income, living arrangements, contact with the criminal justice system). The report is intended for use by program administrators, policymakers, and others to improve the system so that all children in foster care achieve permanency with families, and to ensure that proper support is in place for those who may age out of the system without a permanent family. The report is available at http://www.pewtrusts.org/pdf/Aging_Out_May2007.pdf. More information is available from Kids Are Waiting: Fix Foster Care Now at http://www.kidsarewaiting.org.

4. Guide Focuses On Evidence-Based Environmental Approaches to Preventing Underage Drinking That a Community Could Implement

Preventing Underage Drinking: Using Getting to Outcomes with the SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework to Achieve Results guides communities through a systematic process of planning, implementation, and evaluation that will improve results in reducing and preventing underage drinking. The guide is based on research conducted by the RAND Corporation with support from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The overarching framework for the guide is SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF), a five-step approach to prevention that encourages comprehensive assessment, planning, and evaluation that may be applied to many areas. The authors use the Getting to Outcomes (GTO) model as an operating system for customizing the SPF. The GTO model utilizes
accountability questions for communities to address while going through the SPF. The guide provides information on how a community can utilize the SPF to address issues related to underage drinking by answering 11 GTO accountability questions that lay out actions to take when planning a high-quality underage drinking prevention strategy. Each chapter in the guide includes ideas on how to answer the accountability question, a summary checklist for each question, and a case example of how a real community addressed the question. Worksheets and tools that can be customized for use by individual communities in planning, implementing, and evaluating environmental strategies are included as appendices. The guide is available at http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2007/RAND_TR403.pdf. The companion document Getting to Outcomes: Promoting Accountability Through Methods and Tools for Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation is available at http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2004/RAND_TR101.pdf.

**Resources**

**5. Shoulder to Shoulder BLOG**
Shoulder to Shoulder is launching a new effort to connect parents of teens to information and each other using technology. The Shoulder to Shoulder BLOG is now available. On this BLOG parents can pose questions, provide their ideas on topics of concern and learn about teen culture in our communities. Go to www.shouldertoshoulderminnesota.org for more information or see the attached flyer.

**6. Report Profiles Exemplary Adolescent Health Programs**
Under One Roof: Primary Care Models That Work for Adolescents profiles three adolescent health programs in different settings that offer comprehensive, interdisciplinary models of physical, behavioral, and reproductive health care that are explicitly designed to welcome adolescents and respond to their particular needs. The report, published by Incenter Strategies, focuses on exemplary programs that tailor their services to adolescents' unique needs through multidisciplinary staffing, team-based approaches, staff sensitivity, adolescent-friendly environments, and a focus on positive youth development. The programs highlighted in the report include Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center in New York City (a hospital-based model); Wake Teen Medical Services in Raleigh, North Carolina (an
office-based model); and Erie Teen Health Center in Chicago, Illinois (a community health center model). The authors of the report discuss the collaborative model of adolescent health care and the need for a new model of care, present data on program effectiveness, and identify financing challenges of various adolescent-health-care arrangements. The report is intended for use by health professionals, policymakers, program administrators, and others in considering new approaches to better serve the needs of adolescents. The report is available at http://www.incenterstrategies.org/jan07/Report1.pdf.

7. Tools for Mentoring Adolescents
For new approaches and insights, ideas for engaging community members, and resources for building stronger mentor-mentee relationships with teens, check out these tools from the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota and the Search Institute http://www.mentoringworks.org/Training_Institute_Tools_and_Resources.html

8. BeTheCatalyst.org is live!
The next big thing in youth tobacco control is well on its way! Catalyst, the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota funded youth mobilization project has launched its website. http://www.bethecatalyst.org/

We used the same technology as MySpace or Facebook and made a social networking site where Catalyst members can make profiles, upload pictures, write stories, and make friends with each other. The ability to socialize with each other on the web will be able to further connect youth from across Minnesota and let them see what each other is doing, and join in projects in their area. The site is also packed with information, videos, and activist inspiration.

http://www.bethecatalyst.org/
Conferences

9. Building Programs that are Ready for Evaluation - STILL SPACE AVAILABLE - REGISTER NOW
June 26 & 27, 2007
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Minneapolis Urban League
2100 Plymouth Avenue N, Minneapolis, MN  55411

Registration:
MOAPPP member $100/Non-member $125

Registration fee is reduced by $25 each if two or more participants register from the same organization. Registration fee includes lunch. For more information, see the registration flyer on our website:

http://moappp.org/outreach/events.html#buildingprograms

For more information: contact Jill Farris at 651-644-1447 x18 or jill@moappp.org

10. 2007 YIPA Summer Institute: TLC: Discovering the Best-Kept Thinking, Learning & Communicating Secrets of Successful Youth, Parents & Youth Service Professionals
June 19-21 at Metropolitan State University (700 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN)
This three-day intensive Summer Institute is ideal for all who work with youth, especially teachers, administrators, social workers & youth workers. 16.5-21.0 CEU hours available (check www.mnyipa.org for exact number from Minnesota and North Dakota Boards). Register online and more info at www.mnyipa.org ("Conferences & Trainings") or request a brochure by calling toll-free 888-945-YIPA (9472). Sponsored by MN Youth Intervention Programs Association & Metropolitan State University

11. Our strength, Our Future: Working Together For Latino Adolescents And Their Families In The Twin Cities
Tuesday, June 19, 2007
8:30 am-3:00 pm
12. Safe Homes for Homeless GLBT Youth

On any given night in Minnesota, there are 204-215 GLBT youth who are homeless. (Wilder Research 2006)

One of the ways that the Twin Cities' community is addressing this problem is through the GLBT Host Home Program of Avenues for Homeless Youth, which offers an exciting approach to providing homeless gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth with safe homes. As volunteers of the program, adults open their homes and their hearts to young people who need and are looking for a healthy and nurturing connection. If you are interested in hearing more about this community-based program, please come to one of the following informational meetings:

Tuesday, July 10, 6-8pm @ Avenues for Homeless Youth
1708 Oak Park Avenue North, Mpls, 55411
www.avenuesforyouth.org

OR

Wednesday, July 11, 6-8pm
@ Midtown YWCA
2121 East Lake Street, Mpls, 55407
www.ywca-minneapolis.org

OR

Thursday, July 12, 6-8pm
@ YouthLink
41 North 12th Street, Mpls, 55403

Come learn about the history of the GLBT Host Home Program and about the application and screening process for potential volunteers.
You will also have an opportunity to hear from hosts who shared their homes with youth. See you there!

Questions? Call Raquel (Rocki) at Avenues for Homeless Youth:

612-522-1690, ext. 110.

Raquel (Rocki) Simões, MSW, LISW  GLBT Host Home Program Manager  Avenues for Homeless Youth  1708 Oak Park Avenue N. Minneapolis, MN 55411  (612) 522-1690  www.avenuesforyouth.org

**Grants (Please note: Jennifer O’Brien and MDH are NOT contacts for the following opportunities)**


**14. YouthBuild** - To provide disadvantaged youth with education and employment skills to achieve economic self-sufficiency in high-demand occupations, and with access to postsecondary education and training opportunities. Funder: U.S. Department of Labor. Eligibility: Public or private nonprofit agency or organization. Deadline: July 3. Amount: $47 million. Contact: http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-7974.htm

**15. Colin Higgins Foundation** - To support organizations that build the power and leadership of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth, ages 13 to 24. Funder: Colin Higgins Foundation. Eligibility: Organizations with project budgets under $500,000; rural organizations are encouraged to apply.
16. Local Initiative Funding Partners - Supporting Innovation in Health and Health Care Local Initiative Funding Partners Program (LIFP) is a partnership program between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and local grantmakers to fund promising, original projects to significantly improve the health of vulnerable people in their communities.

Deadline: July 10, 2007
For more information, visit www.lifp.org/html/apply/pdf/LIFP2008CFP.pdf

17. Transitional Living Program (TLP) and Maternity Group Homes (MGHs) Funded by the US Administration for Children and Families, this grant opportunity is designed to support TLPs for runaway and homeless youth and MGHs offering the same services, but also providing parenting instruction, child care and possibly transportation, family planning, abstinence education and pregnancy prevention services.

Deadline: July 30, 2007
For more information, visit www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2008-ACF-ACYF-CX-0064.html