

Sexual Risk Communication between African American Fathers and Adolescent Sons

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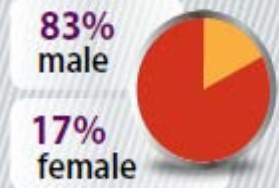
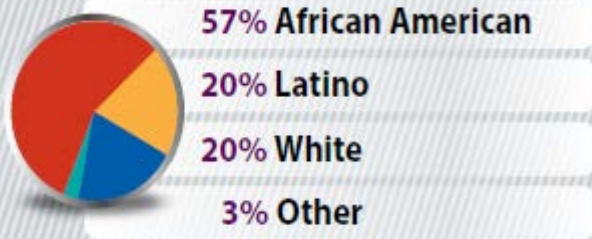
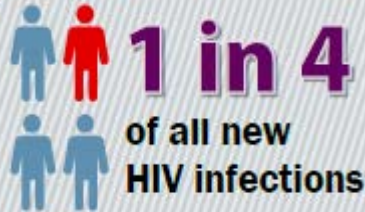


**In US, 2 young people under the age of
24 become infected with HIV every
hour!**



Respect Yourself. Protect

HIV Rates Among Youth



Among male youth,
approximately
87%
of new HIV infections were from
male-to-male sexual contact



In 2011, an estimated 3,004 youth in the United States and six dependent areas were diagnosed with AIDS, a number that has increased 29% since 2008.

ALMOST **60%** OF YOUTH 13 to 24 WITH HIV DON'T KNOW IT.

Get the Facts. Get Tested. Get Involved.
hivtest.cdc.gov



HIV Education & Testing

Of high school students in 2013:

85% had ever been taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection

Only **13%** of students had been tested for HIV

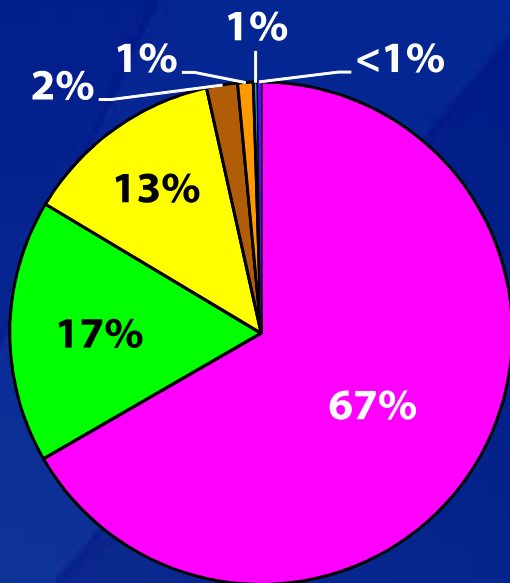
National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2013



Diagnoses of HIV Infection and Population among Adolescents Aged 13–19 Years, by Race/Ethnicity 2011—United States

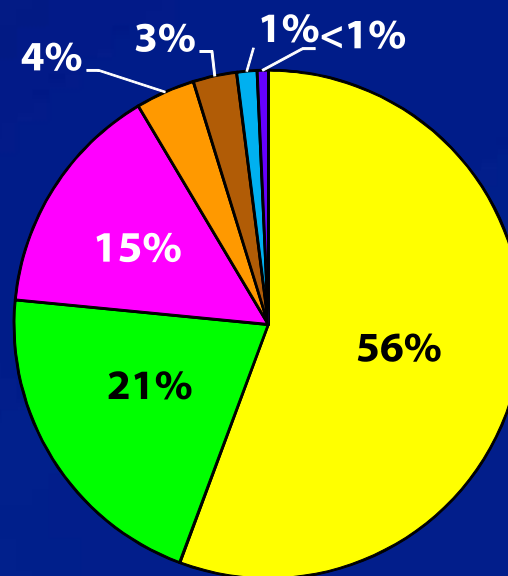
Diagnoses of HIV Infection

N = 2,294



U.S. Population aged 13–19 years

N = 29,895,041



 American Indian/Alaska Native

 Asian

 Black/African American

 Multiple races

 Hispanic/Latino^a

 Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

 White

Note. Data include persons with a diagnosis of HIV infection regardless of stage of disease at diagnosis. All displayed data have been statistically adjusted to account for reporting delays, but not for incomplete reporting.

^a Hispanics/Latinos can be of any race.



HIV Risk Factors for Adolescents



- Unsafe/unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex
- Having sex while intoxicated
- Having multiple partners
- Sexual partners who themselves have multiple sexual partners
- Social determinants
 - Poverty
 - Homelessness
 - Education

Gaps Within the Literature

- Young people in the United States are at persistent risk for HIV infection. This risk is especially notable for youth of minority races and ethnicities
- Fathers are influential promoters of sexual health information
- Few HIV/STI risk-reduction intervention trials have focused specifically on fathers and their children

Study purpose

- To understand sexual risk communication practices among African American fathers and sons
- To assess the feasibility of implementing a father-son HIV risk reduction program.

Procedures

- A convenience sample of African American fathers were recruited from Philly Cuts barbershop in West Philadelphia
- Sample
 - 30 father/son pairs
- Conducted 6 focus groups
 - 3 groups with fathers/father figures
 - 3 groups with sons (age range 11 to 17; mean age of 14.71 (SD=2.14)).

Fathers as role models

- Wanted their sons to make good sexual and life decisions
- Lead by example for their sons
- *“I think you should enlighten the actual fathers first so the father can give it to the child.”*
- *“I would definitely participate because I always want to put that message in their head”*
- *“I want them to know that I’m not the only father saying this to you”*

Sons & messages from fathers

- Receptive to the program
 - Could promote enhanced bonding and communication with their fathers
 - learn things from their fathers that they would not have learned otherwise
- *“Some dudes I know they talk to their father about having sex with girls”*
- *“My dad just told me- Use protection.”*
- *“He’ll try to say something; he wants me to talk to him about sex”*

Father program Ideas

- Use the barbers and fathers as peer educators
- Use mentors/uncles/other male figure instead of the bio dad
- Fathers need training- enhance knowledge on condom use, HIV/AIDS and other STIs
- Include social media; Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Father program Ideas

- Confidentially contract
- Have guest speakers to help personalize the importance of sexual health
- Have follow up sessions with the sons
- intervention should also focus on the emotional health of their sons

Adolescent Program Ideas

- Have fathers or other African American male instructors teach them about HIV & STIs
- Have program provided in the summer
- Using technology and social media- Twitter, Facebook, phone apps, videos
- Themes and messages to include:
 - Abstinence
 - HIV testing
 - Goals/Careers
 - Violence (preventing)
 - “all the ways you can get STDs”

