

Culture, Sex & Perceptions of Risk Among African-American, Black-Caribbean and African Men and Women in the US

Background

- HIV infection trends among Black men and women in the US are reported using historical racial classifications, only.
- Cultural groups within a race have unique values and traditions that may influence perceptions of HIV risk and HIV risk behavior.

Target Sample

- English-speaking, adult men and women who reside in the US and identify as African-American, Black-Caribbean or African.

Study Aim

- To explore interactions between cultural identity, cultural concepts of sexual behavior, sexual communication, gender roles, and perceptions of risk for HIV infection.

Description of Study Sample

Mean Age (SD)	35.96 (10.05) years
Male	34%
Female	66%
City of Residence	NYC, Atlanta, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Los Angeles, San Francisco, DC-Metro
Relationship Status	44% not married
Perception of overall health	43% "Good"

Preliminary Results

- 218 participants recruited via Facebook, Craigslist and Tumblr.
- Self-selection of ethnic group is highly individualized, however, participants reported strong identification with the cultural group of their choosing.
- While knowledge of HIV transmission was high overall, when stratified by cultural group, perception of risk for HIV infection varied. Participants who identified as African or Black-Caribbean reported higher perceptions of risk for HIV infection than participants who identified as African American.

Future Research

- Concept Analysis of culture, cultural identity, sexual behavior, gender roles and risk.
- International recruitment of participants to assess the influence of acculturation on hypothesized relationships among variables.

Contact: Kimberly A. Hires, PhD, RN
FSU College of Nursing
kahires@fsu.edu