Efficacy of Interventions with Behavioral Components for HIV Prevention in Latin American Nations: A Meta-Analysis

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Introduction:

LACNs may be characterized by pervasive poverty, lack of education, and also by widespread traditional beliefs and cultural practices that emphasize male dominance and promote risky sexual behavior. Latin American and Caribbean discourse generally avoids taboo subjects such as contraception, sex, sexuality, and drug use. Therefore, a focus on LACNs is imperative: Unless we implement more trials that rigorously evaluate prevention activities using evidence-based strategies, the epidemic could grow out of control.

Results:

Condom use outcome effect sizes in chronological order

Condom use outcome effect sizes for relatively intense HIV prevention interventions

Methods:

Studies in Spanish and English databases conducted in LACNs that were available by January 2009 were included. Intercoefficient reliability for study features was greater than 0.95. The standardized mean difference, d, was used as effect size index.

Conclusions:

Although further investigation is necessary to understand the mechanisms underlying these patterns, these findings imply that individuals living in extreme poverty are open to intensive interventions that are empower, enhance knowledge, encourage prevention, and expand reproductive choice. Our findings are also suggestive of a growing need to incorporate structural factors when designing interventions aimed at reducing individual risk for acquiring HIV. A potentially valuable direction for interventionists is to work toward intensive, where interventionists interact with participants and deliver over three hours of content. (The few studies with relatively brief content were omitted.)

References: