

Program: SKILL-BASED INTERVENTION ON CONDOM USE

Population Served:

Size: 396 youths (228 in juvenile detention and 168 from health clinics)

Age: 14-19 years old

Other Characteristics: Youths from urban public health clinics and from an urban county juvenile detention facility, both male and female, African American and European American (white), and heterosexually active in the last 3 months

Studies: 1 experimental

Program Components

<u>Component</u>	<u>Provided by</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Description</u>
Skill-based training in communicating and negotiating condom use with partners, delivered in one of three ways:			
Comic book (administered to both samples)	Research team	One time	Delivered individually or in groups of two. 16-page comic book that contains: a) basic information on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), b) vignettes intended to alter misconceptions about STDs and negative beliefs about condoms, c) instructions on how to use a condom, d) presentation of four skills to communicate with partner about condom use, and e) information on where to get condoms, STD checks, and a list of telephone numbers.
Videotape & comic book (administered to both samples)	Research team	One 27-minute video	Delivered individually or in groups of two.
Group skills training, videotape, and comic book (administered only to sample in juvenile detention)	Adult facilitator and two peer tutors	Two 4-hour sessions separated by 2 or 3 days	Delivered in groups of 12 or fewer. Includes the comic book and videotape as well as role-playing, visual aids, and structured small-group exercises.

Program Objectives/Goals:

To increase condom use among heterosexually active adolescents at high risk of STDs, including HIV/AIDS.

Costs:

No information available

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Study:

Gillmore, M.R., Morrison, D.M., Richey, C.A., Balassone, M.L., Gutierrez, L., & Farris, M. (1997). Effects of a skill-based intervention to encourage condom use among high-risk, heterosexually active adolescents. *AIDS Prevention and Education*, 9 (Supplement A), 44-67.

Study Objectives and Measurements:

Objective:

To test three behavioral interventions intended to reduce the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other STDs.

Measurement instrument:

Pre-and post-tests and 3- and 6-month questionnaires. Questionnaires tapped self-efficacy, intentions, attitudes, perceived norms, outcome beliefs, condom use, number of sexual partners, and communications with partners.

Evaluation:

Type: Experimental and longitudinal

Statistical techniques: Individuals were not randomly assigned, but the order of intervention delivery was randomized. In other words, all individuals recruited in a given week received the same type of intervention. The order of intervention delivery was determined randomly and conditions were alternated at biweekly intervals. The groups were tested to be equivalent at baseline. The comic book group was intended to serve as a control group. Repeated measures at pre-test, post-test, and 3- and 6-month follow-ups. Analysis of covariance, chi-square analysis.

Significance level: Not significant = $p > .10$; marginally significant = $p \leq .10$; significant = $p \leq .05$

Population evaluated: 396 males and females between the ages of 14 and 19 (228 in juvenile detention and 168 from health clinics). 46 percent of the juvenile detention sample and 58 percent of the clinical sample were females. Of the juvenile detention group, 161 were located for the 3-month follow-up, and 174 were located for the 6-month follow-up. Of the clinical group, 145 were located for the 3-month follow-up, and 140 were located for the 6-month follow-up.

Key Findings:

Differences among interventions:

There were very few significant differences among interventions in either the clinical sample or the detention sample. In particular, there was no impact on behavioral outcomes such as number of sexual partners in the past 3 months, condom use, or refusing sex without a condom.

Differences within interventions (based on pre- and post-tests):

(The following relationships have not been experimentally evaluated; therefore, causation cannot be inferred.)

Detention sample:

Group skill training yielded several significant differences (in the predicted direction) on:

- Self-efficacy in talking with casual partners about using condoms
- Intentions to talk to steady and to casual partners about using condoms
- Comfort talking to casual partners about using condoms
- Attitude toward using condoms with steady partners
- Beliefs that using condoms with steady partners would help prevent pregnancy and protect against STDs with casual partners

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There were also marginal effects in the predicted direction on:

- Intention to use condoms with steady partners
- Beliefs about the outcomes of using a condom with a steady partner (specifically, that they reduce one's own pleasure, that using condoms with a casual partner helps prevent pregnancy, and that they are uncomfortable for the woman)

One difference was found opposite to prediction:

- The belief that condoms would interrupt sex with steady partners

The video followed a similar pattern, and the comic condition had very few differences.

Clinical sample:

The video condition yielded significant differences (in the predicted direction) on:

- Self-efficacy in talking with casual and steady partners about using condoms
- Reactions to steady or casual partner's request to use condoms
- Intention to use condoms with steady and casual partners
- Intention to talk to steady and casual partners about using condoms
- Attitude toward using condoms with steady and casual partners, and the belief that using condoms with a steady partner would protect against STDs and prevent pregnancy
- Beliefs that using condoms with casual partners would prevent pregnancy and interfere with partner's pleasure

Other Information:

The group skills training intervention was administered only to the sample in juvenile detention.
