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# The Influence of Culture, Religion, and Parenting Styles On Reproductive Health Education Access For Adolescents Living in The Caribbean Islands.

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## Johanne Jeudy

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### Introduction

- ❖ One of the highest contributors to maternal and child mortality is teen pregnancy (WHO, 2015)
- ❖ Increased attention on sexual and reproductive health for adolescents is beneficial because this stage of development covers social, physiological, and cognitive changes that implicate their well-being not only in the moment but for the rest of their lives.
- ❖ This focus and acknowledgement on reproductive health education will not only benefit adolescents but will help to reinforce health, gender equality, and empowerment of young women worldwide.
- ❖ This literature review focused on the adolescents living in various Caribbean Island .This population warrants specific focus as many adolescents within these regions engage in unsafe sexual behaviors without knowledge of the consequences due to the lack of reproductive health education and limited parent involvement.

### Map Of Caribbean Islands



### Purpose Statement

- ❖ The purpose of this integrative literature review was to identify different factors that play significant roles on reproductive health education access among adolescents living in the Caribbean Islands..
- ❖ This literature review also addressed culturally appropriate prevention interventions that were tailored to meet the specific needs of adolescents from these specific regions.

### Research Questions:

- ❖ What factors impact reproductive health education access for adolescents living in the Caribbean islands.
- ❖ What approaches have been used to provide reproductive health education to parents and adolescents to promote better parent-adolescent communications?

### Method

- ❖ An integrative literature review was used to analyze the influence of culture and parents on sex education of adolescents living in the Caribbean Islands.

### Literature Search and strategies:

- ❖ A computerized literature search was done by using PubMed, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Health Literature (CINAHL), ProQuest, and Academic Search Complete. Multiple words were used for the research such as: Caribbean, West Indies, Haiti, Dominican Republic,, Bahamas, and Antigua, Trinidad, Tobago, Jamaica, sex\* reproductive health, sexually transmitted, education, adolescent, adolescence, youth, teenagers. 17 articles were reviews from 2007-2017.

### Findings

#### Religious Influence

- ❖ Two primary practices that influence parent-child relationship are Church of God and Pentecostal Christian.
- ❖ A common belief is they are saved and their bodies are vessels of the Holy Ghost which prohibit sexual activities. Parents fail to provide adolescent sexual and reproductive health education (Jolly, 2009).
- ❖ Another common belief is to depend on God and the Bible to find the answers to all of their questions and sufferings. This reliance on God and the Bible reinforces adolescents to feel invisible to HIV/AIDS and other STIs (Archibald, 2007).
- ❖ Many other religions disapprove condom use which make adolescents more susceptible to STIs and pregnancy (Hutchinson, 2015).

#### Cultural Influence

- ❖ If someone contracts STI, they can get rid of it by being sexually involved with a virgin (Archibald, 2007)
- ❖ It is expected in the Jamaican culture for boys and young men to be as involved with many women as they can to prove their masculinity and show they are not homosexual (Hutchinson et al., 2009).
- ❖ However, this was different for girls because of societal expectations that girls should stay “pure” until they get married (Hutchinson et al., 2007).

#### Parental Influence

- ❖ Several parenting attributes have been linked to delay adolescents involvement sexual initiation and improve STIs prevention (Baptiste et al., 2009).
- ❖ Many parents lack education to provide reproductive health education to their adolescents, if they are educated on such topic, some are reluctant to bring up such topic to their adolescents. That will encourage them to be even more involved in sexual behaviors (Hutchinson et al., 2007)

#### Health Promotion Programs

- ❖ Parents-children workshop- Bringing awareness and coaching activities to strengthen parenting skills and relationships. This result in improved parent capacity to talk to their adolescents about STIs prevention (Baptiste et al., 2009).
- ❖ Young Focus group- Showed significant delayed sexual progression behavior in Bahamian adolescent by improving STIs knowledge and proper condom use (Chen et al.. 2009).

### Conceptual Framework

- ❖ According to Madeleine Leininger’s Theory of Culture Care, nursing practice is guided by the universalities and diversities of transcultural care knowledge.
- ❖ Nurses should understand patients’ culture to understand its impact on health beliefs and behavior.
- ❖ Multiple studies have shown that culture plays a significant role in growing issues with lack of reproductive health education access among adolescents.



### Nursing Implications/Conclusions

- ❖ Great need for sexual reproductive health education and interventions programs in the Caribbean due to increased threats of STDs on adolescents and early teen pregnancy. STIs is one of the most persistent distress that adolescents in the Caribbean regions are facing today (Baptiste et al. 2009).
- ❖ This is a universal issue because of the increasing number of immigrants from all over the world to the U.S. That poses new challenges to healthcare providers in negotiating potential cultural influences on adolescent risk behaviors such as substance abuse and sexual risk-taking (Hutchinson et al., 2007).
- ❖ Given the different influencing factors identified in this review, culturally sensitive programs must be part of nursing education to be able to influence adolescent health.

### Future Research

- ❖ More STI program interventions