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Risk Factors Related to HIV Transmission in African American Men Who Have Sex with Other Men: An Integrative Literature Review

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Background

- There are more than 1.1 million people in the United States that are living with human immunodeficiency virus.
- In the United States, HIV disproportionately affects minority groups including African Americans and men who have sex with other men, or MSM.
- Currently, African Americans account for 12% of the population in the United States (CDC, 2015). They also accounted for 45% of new HIV diagnoses in 2015, a staggering percentage (CDC, 2015).

Purpose

- The purpose of this integrative literature review is to identify risk factors that lead to a difference in HIV transmission in men who have sex with other men and specifically African American MSM.

Research Question

- The following research question was addressed in this integrative literature review: Why is there a difference in the transmission of HIV in African American men who have sex with other men?

Methods

- An integrative literature review was performed using Cumulative Index of Nursing and Health Literature (CINAHL), PubMed, and ProQuest.
- Different combinations of text were used in the search including the following key words: HIV or human immunodeficiency virus, transmission, African American, and men who sex with other men.
- The finding of 10 papers were compared to identify the risk factors that contributes to a difference in HIV transmission in men who have sex with other men and specifically African American MSM.

Results

- The review found five risk factors that lead to an increase in transmission of HIV in African American MSM.
- Those include:
 - Lower levels of social determinates of health
 - Decrease in HIV disclosure
 - Knowledge of HIV status
 - Prevalence of sexual behavior with other minority men
 - Sexual orientation and race based discrimination
 - Lack of culturally relevant HIV prevention efforts

Limitations

- Many studies were done in urban settings and did not include any African American MSM living in suburban or rural areas.
- There was a lack of extensive research on topic.

Suggestions

- Future research should focus on interventions to reduce these risk factors that have lead to an increase in transmission of HIV in African American MSM.

Conclusion

- The literature review showed five possible risk factors.
- Understanding these risk factors is important in order to decrease the transmission risk in African American MSM.
- Future studies need to be done in order to find ways to correctly address these risk factors.