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Risk Factors Related to HIV Transmission in African American Men Who Have Sex with Other Men

Joseph Kunst
jkunst16@gmail.com

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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).

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?

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.

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

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.

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.

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.