

Is what I watch related to what I do?

Preliminary findings of exposure to X-rated movies and risky sexual behaviors

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BACKGROUND

- ❖ African Americans continue to experience disproportionate rates of STDs and HIV.
- ❖ Among men, young adults, ages 20-24, experience the highest rates of Chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis.
- ❖ Sexually explicit media (SEM) refers to pornographic images displayed through print media (magazines), video (movies and television), and the Internet.
- ❖ Social research has mainly focused on SEM's impact on rape myths, sexist attitudes, sexual callousness, sexual offenses and sexual violence. Studies that have examined SEM and sexual behavior focus mainly on adolescents.
- ❖ The following research seeks to fill the gap by exploring the pattern of association between viewing X-rated movies and HIV/STD behaviors in adult African-American men.

METHODS

Population: African American adult men in the metro Atlanta area

Eligibility: African American male, 18-29 years old, single, unprotected vaginal sex in the past 30 days, provide written consent

Enrolled: N = 80

Sociodemographics
Exposure to X-rated movies
Sexual behaviors
Alcohol and drug use
Provided a urine sample for STD testing

Data Analysis: Examined differences in HIV/STD behaviors between those who reported exposure to X-rated movies and those who did not using independent sample t-tests and chi-squares. Used p-value < 0.10.

RESULTS

Demographics

The participants mean age was 23.4 (SD=3.6). More than half the participants (53.8%; n=43) reported graduating from high school. Almost two thirds (60%; n=48) of the men reported not having a paid job, but less than half (41.3%; n=33) received financial subsidies within the home in the past year. Over one third (33.8%; n=27) of participants lived with a girlfriend.

Findings

	Watched X-rated movies (n=55)	Did NOT watch X-rated movies (n=25)	Test Statistic	P value
Continuous variables	μ (SD)	μ (SD)	F	
Condom Barriers score	2.0 (0.60)	1.7 (0.53)	0.426	0.03
Sexual Adventurism score	3.2 (0.61)	2.9 (0.68)	0.502	0.077
Frequency of sex in the past 3 months	31.8 (36.5)	15.7 (16.1)	12.71	0.007*
Frequency of alcohol use (AUDIT)	6.8 (6.0)	3.8 (3.6)	5.85	0.008*
Frequency of sex while drinking	9.6 (21.1)	1.5 (2.9)	9.27	0.007*
Number of sexual partners in the past 3 months	4.3 (9.7)	1.8 (1.2)	4.61	0.069*
Percent condom use with casual sex partners while drinking	50 (42.6)	100 (0)	11.28	0.0001*
Categorical variables	n (%)	n (%)	χ ²	
Hazardous drinker	21 (38.2)	3 (12.0)	5.61	0.018
Ever been sexually concurrent	44 (80.0)	15 (60.0)	3.55	0.06
Tested positive for an STD	14 (25.5)	2 (8.0)	3.27	0.07
Consistent condom use while drinking	4 (13.3)	4 (44.4)	4.11	0.065

*Unequal variances.

DISCUSSION

Exposure to X-rated movies was primarily associated with risky sexual behaviors. These preliminary findings are intriguing in light of the small sample size. Interventions emphasizing responsible media involvement may be an effective strategy in reducing HIV/STD-risk behaviors among African American adult men. Larger studies are needed to precisely assess the impact of watching X-rated movies on HIV/STD behaviors.

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Please contact Adanna O. Alexander at aoparan@emory.edu with questions/comments.