

The Effectiveness of Comprehensive Sexual Education for Lowering Rates of HIV/AIDS

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Purpose

- Since 2018, 1.2 million people have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS while 1 in 7 individuals are unaware of their infection (“US Statistics,” 2019).
- To provide thorough information of the effectiveness in prevention and comprehensive sexual education in order to reduce diagnoses of HIV/AIDS
- To find an effective tool for lowering rates of HIV/AIDS for people in the Hamilton County Area and globally

Background

- Newly reported diagnoses of HIV in Ohio population by race (“HIV Among Blacks/African-Americans in Ohio, 2019”):
 - 48% Black and African American
 - 42% white
 - 6% Hispanic and Latinx
- 69% were among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men
- Black/African American MSM accounted for 25% of new HIV Diagnoses and 38% of diagnosis among all MSM (“HIV in the United States and Dependent”)

Data Analysis

- Reading through interview notes taken place with Medical Case Managers regarding the questions asked
- Looking for patterns of demographics, sexual education teaching, and medication adherence
- Analyzing what conclusions could be drawn from the interview responses

Methods

- The method used an 8-question format where I interviewed Medical Case Managers at Caracole Inc via Zoom to get their experience on Client responses for sexual educational tools.
- 8 Central Questions:
 1. What is your case load from September 2020 to March 2021?
 2. What are the demographics of your case load? (i.e race, gender, sexual orientation, etc)
 3. Have your clients received sexual education prior to being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS
 4. Have your clients received ongoing sexual education after being diagnosed?
 5. Do your clients practice safe sex? If not, why?
 6. Have your clients discussed why they use harm reduction tactics regarding safe sex practices?
 7. How many of your clients are taking HIV medications?
 8. What is a case that has impacted you or stood out to you in anyway?

Limitations

- Solely interviewing Caracole Medical Case Managers and not the client population served
- The study will not have the first-hand perspectives from clients enrolled at Caracole
- COVID-19 Restrictions put in place in the United States- Caracole Inc. is currently remote regarding case management services

Results

- The caseloads ranged from about 50 – 80 clients
- Client age ranged from early teens to older adulthood
- All Medical Case Managers reported that their clients had been prescribed HIV Medications
- All case managers reported that there was no indication that their clients had received ongoing sexual education prior to receiving services
- Case managers reported that close to half of their client population identifies with the LGBTQIA+ community
- Many of the clients served among the case management are male followed by female
- All Medical Case Managers reported that their clients have received ongoing sexual education after being diagnosed and enrolled in case management services

Discussions

- Compared to previous literature, implementing comprehensive sexual education is an effective tool for guiding people to make safe decisions regarding their health and well-being (Haberland, 2015).
- I found it very interesting that most clients reported their lack of condom use due to being virally undetectable or having a partner that is living with HIV/AIDS as well. The case manager’s reported that clients may not feel the need to use external or internal protection due to their HIV status- whether they were virally undetectable or not.
- The strengths in my project related to advocating and using this to my advantage to discuss the importance and necessity of a comprehensive look on sexuality and safe sex practices. The strengths rely on finding a new and progressive way of educating the mass on the benefits of these tools in order to combat HIV/AIDS stigma and to advocate for those disproportionately affected by the infection.
- The weaknesses include solely interviewing the medical case managers without getting the firsthand perspective from the clients served at Caracole. Due to COVID-19, Caracole has been remote and most of our work is via telephone and online communication applications

References

- Content Source: HIV.gov Date last updated: March 17, 2.(2021, March 17). U.S. statistics. Retrieved March 30, 2021, from <https://www.hiv.gov/hivbasics/overview/data-and-trends/statistics>.
- HIV in the United States and Dependent Areas. (2020, November 24). Retrieved March 30, 2021, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/overview/ataglance.html>.
- *I would like to thank Caracole Inc. for the opportunity to advocate and empower people living with HIV/AIDS. The work I have done has allowed me to learn about HIV/AIDS in order to combat the stigma that many PLWHA experience every day.*



Photo Description: Caracole Inc. located in Northside, Ohio.