

ABSTRACT

IDENTIFICATION OF SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIORS AMONG FRESNO CALIFORNIA AREA AFRICAN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

This study examined the rate of adolescent sexual risk behaviors among African American adolescents. The sample consisted of students between the ages of fourteen and sixteen from two public high schools in the Fresno, California area. These students participated in interviews conducted by school officials. The study tested hypotheses based on the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable, adolescent sexual behavior. Social learning theory and social control theory were utilized. Both theories provided appropriate theoretical frameworks for explaining adolescent sexual behavior. With the aid of SPSS 12.0, correlations, frequencies, and multiple regression analysis were utilized to examine the results of the study. The findings revealed that African American adolescents are placing themselves at risk for unwanted pregnancies, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases due to engaging in early sexual behavior.

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