

Ecological and Syndemic Predictors of Drug Use During Sex and Transactional Sex among US Black Men Who have Sex with Men

Targeted Journal: AIDS and Behavior

Authors

Natalie M. Leblanc¹, Hugh Crean¹; Typhanye P. Dyer², Chen Zhang¹, Rodman Turpin², Nanhua Zhang³, Martez Smith¹, James McMahon¹, LaRon Nelson⁴

ABSTRACT

Situational sex is especially relevant to HIV/STI transmission, as it is often associated with social vulnerability and behaviors that threaten sexual health. Black men who have sex with men (MSM) in the U.S. bear a disproportionate burden of HIV and other STIs. Using SEM and a prospective cohort of Black MSM from the HIV Prevention Trial Network (HPTN) 061 dataset we tested a conceptual model of a mediating syndemic factor at 6-months (drug use, depression, life stress) in the relationship between ecological constructs at baseline (anti-black and homophobic experiences, childhood trauma and economic vulnerability) and situational sex at 12-months (drug use during sex, transactional sex). Key findings included significant pathways from reports of childhood trauma at baseline to drug use during sex, and an association between being homosexual/gay identified (vs. other non-heteronormative identity) and drug use during sex. General drug use had a direct association with both situational sex outcomes.

Key words: Ecological factors, situation sex, Black MSM, Sexual vulnerability, Violence and Stigma and sexual health

¹ University of Rochester School of Nursing, Rochester, NY 14623

² University of Maryland, School of Public Health, College Park, MD 20742

³ Division of Biostatistics & Epidemiology, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

⁴ Yale University School of Nursing, New Haven, CT;