



National HIV Prevention Conference

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[TITLE:] YOUNG MEN OF COLOR: AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO HIV PREVENTION IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR*

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ISSUE: Although women of color have higher rates of new HIV/AIDS cases, the 2003 HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report by CDC reports that men of color are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS at a rate more than twice that of women of color (67,793 women vs. 143,574 men). While human sexuality and reproduction involves women and men, efforts to improve sexual and reproductive health typically target women only. Moreover, when men are targeted, programs are generally intended, ultimately, to improve the health of young women. To eliminate these disparities, innovative, culturally sensitive, gender-specific interventions must challenge young men's notions of masculinity. Sexual health education for young men of color must focus on the health and well-being of these young men, not for the sake of young women, but because young men of color are being disproportionately infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, and are of great value to our communities.

KEY POINTS: In this roundtable, participants will explore the lack of HIV/AIDS prevention education and interventions for men of color, discuss positive alternatives for educating men of color about HIV/AIDS prevention and male sexual health. Topics explored will include societal patriarchal views of masculinity, stigma of HIV/AIDS, sexuality and reproduction, and racism. Participants will also discuss strategies specifically designed for men which reinforce and support the whole male.

IMPLICATIONS: Exploring strategies for the promotion of male sexual and reproductive health is essential to encouraging behaviors that will prevent HIV infection, as well as enhancing men's overall health. Providing adolescent and young adult males with culturally appropriate gender specific prevention interventions may help them to learn new concepts about male sexuality. These new perceptions may help to decrease the disproportionate high number of men of color estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS.

*Includes African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asian Pacific Islanders, and American Indian/ Alaskan Native.



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