

Relationships among Sexual-Esteem, Sexual Self Efficacy and Sexual Risk Cognitions of Men Who have Sex with Men (MSM) in Davao City

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Abstract

Research on AIDS knowledge does not produce changes in sexual behavior; knowledge may be necessary, but it is definitely not sufficient. Behavior change remains the only means for primary prevention of HIV disease. Psychology should take a leading role in efforts to curtail the epidemic, but has not contributed to HIV prevention at a level proportionate to the urgency of the crisis. This study investigates the sexual -esteem and self-efficacy of Filipino MSM and its relation to sexual risks cognitions. Descriptive techniques and bivariate correlation were used for analyses. Convenience sampling was adapted of eighty (80) participants for the survey from venues frequented by different clans of MSM in the community. Sexually active MSM whose age ranged 13-35 with a mean of 20 years old, were administered measures of sexual - esteem and self- efficacy and were asked about their sexual behaviors. Respondents feel good about the way they express their own sexual needs and desires, (mean=3.53) with the capability to take care of their own sexual needs and desires (mean=3.58). They showed their partners that they are somebody special so sex is more exciting without a condom (mean=4.02) Using regression analysis, only self efficacy had a direct influence on engaging in UAI. ($R^2 = 0.330$; $F = 18.934$; $df = 2$; $p = 0.000$) and self efficacy correlated positively to sexual risk cognitions. Among the men who practice unsafe sex an emphasis on the pleasures of unprotected penetrative sex appears to override their risk awareness and them knowledge of condom efficacy. Implications for HIV prevention strategies given these findings are to develop multilevel counseling interventions to achieve a sense of self worth in the sexual domain. Translate one's belief to deal effectively with the sexual aspect of risks cognitions into HPSB of protected anal intercourse for Filipino MSM.

Key words: *sexual self-esteem, self efficacy, risk cognitions, unprotected anal intercourse (UAI), and health promoting sexual behavior (HPSB)*

Worldwide, it's estimated that sex between men accounts for between 5 and 10% of HIV infections. The situation varies between countries however, and in much of the developed world – including the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and many parts of [Western Europe](#) – more people have become infected with HIV through male-male sex than through any other transmission route. Current epidemiological reports estimate that

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