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# Women & Health™



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# Women & Health

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- Heterosexual Women of Color and HIV Risk:  
Sexual Risk Factors for HIV  
Among Latina and African American Women 1  
*Claudia L. Moreno, PhD*  
*Nabila El-Bassel, DSW*  
*Allison C. Morrill, JD, PhD*

*This paper examines sexual risk for HIV among 2,318 Latina (60%) and African American (40%) women with a steady male partner who were attending an urban outpatient clinic.*

*We compared ethnic groups on demographic characteristics (including being born in the U.S.) and sexual HIV risk factors (number of partners, history of sexually transmitted infection, condom use, and reported knowledge and perception of partner risk) while controlling for other demographic characteristics.*

*African American women were about 1.5 times more likely than Latinas to report five or more sexual partners in their lifetime, to report two or more partners in the past year, and to perceive their partners as being risky. African American women were about 2.5 times more likely than Latinas to have had a history of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). They were also nearly twice as likely as Latinas to report having used condoms with their main partner in the past 90 days.*

*Intervention strategies for HIV prevention must address ethnic/racial differences in sexual risk factors for HIV among Latina and African American women.*

**KEYWORDS.** HIV/AIDS, Hispanics, Latinas, African American women, sexual risk factors, condom use, STIs

Pregnancy Rate and Risk Behaviors  
Among Female Adolescents  
in Vitória, Brazil

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*Angélica Espinosa Miranda, MD, PhD*  
*Célia Landmann Szwarcwald, PhD*

**Background:** *Adolescents are vulnerable to unplanned pregnancy. Prevention measures and assistance are of significant public health importance in this population.*

**Objectives:** *To identify demographic, behavioral, and clinical factors and to determine the prevalence for unplanned pregnancy among female adolescents in Vitória, Brazil.*

**Methods:** *A cross-sectional study was performed among female adolescents (15-19 years) assisted by the Family Health Program. Participants completed in person interviews. Demographics, pregnancy rate, and knowledge and behavior were evaluated.*

**Results:** *The sample consisted of 464 young women, 320 of whom reported sexual activity. The prevalence of pregnancy was 31.6% (95% CI 26.5-36.7%). Not living with parents, not having access to health service, having first sexual intercourse younger than 15 years of age and having less than 9 years of schooling were identified as being independently associated with pregnancy in the final model.*

**Conclusion:** *A high prevalence of pregnancy was found in this population, and behavioral risk was high, despite readily available prevention information. These results demonstrate the need for ongoing pregnancy prevention activities among adolescents.*

**KEYWORDS.** Adolescents, sexual behavior, pregnancy, prevalence

Age-Related Differences in Health Complaints:  
The Hilo Women's Health Study

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*Lynnette Leidy Sievert, PhD*  
*Lynn A. Morrison, PhD*  
*Angela M. Reza, BA*  
*Daniel E. Brown, PhD*  
*Erin Kalua, BA*  
*Harold A. T. Tefft, BA*

*The purpose of this study was to determine the age distribution of health-related complaints and symptom groupings from a random postal survey carried out in the multi-ethnic city of Hilo, Hawaii. Symptom frequencies and factor analyses were compared across three age categories: < 40 (32%), 40-60 (48%), and > 60 years (19%), (n = 1,796). Younger women were most likely to report headaches, menstrual complaints, irritability, and mood swings. Women at midlife were most likely to report fluid retention, trouble sleeping, loss of sexual desire, vasomotor symptoms, and nervous tension. Older women reported the least number of symptoms overall. Using multiple linear regression, menopause status, ethnicity, and alcohol intake were significantly associated with the factor scores for symptoms of*

*menopause, after controlling for age, education, BMI, exercise, smoking habits, and financial comfort.*

KEYWORDS. Menopause, age, vasomotor symptoms, women's health

### Mammography Use Among Older Mexican-American Women: Correcting for Over-Reports of Breast Cancer Screening

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*Jonathan D. Mahnken, PhD  
Daniel H. Freeman, Jr., PhD  
Anthony R. DiNuzzo, PhD  
Jean L. Freeman, PhD*

*Objectives: To determine the accuracy of self-reported mammography use and generate a correction factor that adjusts for reporting errors among Mexican-American women.*

*Design: Self-reported mammography use was compared with a medical chart review.*

*Participants: A random sample of 199 Mexican-American women aged 50-74 in southeast Texas.*

*Main Outcome Measures: Self-reported mammography use for the preceding 2 years and mammography use determined by medical chart review.*

*Results: Positive and negative predictive values of mammography self-reports in the previous 2 years were 73.9 and 86.0%, respectively. The correction factor was 79.6%, or ~80% of the self-reported mammograms within the preceding 2 years could be verified through medical chart reviews.*

*Conclusions: Mammography use rates among Mexican-American women were not as high as self-reports indicated. Estimates need to be adjusted downward by approximately 20%.*

KEYWORDS. Mammography, Mexican-Americans, validation

### Factors Influencing the Acceptability of Coitus Interruptus Among Latina Teens and Young Adults

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*Melissa L. Gilliam, MD, MPH  
Maida Hernandez, MPH*

*Objectives: The purpose of this study was to examine factors associated with the acceptability of coitus interruptus, or withdrawal, as a contraceptive method among a cohort of Latinas.*

*Method: We conducted face-to-face interviews with a cohort of young, urban Latinas in Chicago to assess factors associated with willingness to use withdrawal.*

*Findings: Two hundred seventy-three sexually experienced women aged 13-25 years were included in the analysis. Respondents were predominately Mexican American (83.9%) and born in the United States (69.2%) or Mexico (27.1%). One hundred sixty-two women expressed willingness to use withdrawal. In a*

*multivariable analysis, factors associated with willingness to use withdrawal included belief in its efficacy, having communicated with one's partner about wanting to have sex, and lack of knowledge of oral contraceptives.*

*Conclusion: Beliefs, knowledge, partner variables and contraceptive attitudes were important factors related to the acceptability of withdrawal among a cohort of Latinas.*

KEYWORDS. Withdrawal, Latinos, unintended pregnancy, contraceptive behaviors

## An Exploratory Examination of the Meanings of Residual Injuries from Intimate Partner Violence

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*Terri L. Weaver, PhD*  
*Paaige K. Turner, PhD*  
*Nicole Schwarze, PhD*  
*Christine A. Thayer, PhD*  
*Stacey Carter-Sand, PhD*

*The meanings attached to residual injuries resulting from intimate partner violence (IPV) may play an important role in shaping psychological distress associated with these experiences. This study explored IPV victims' personal definitions and meanings of their residual IPV-related injuries as a first step in determining the potential psychological implications. Sixteen female victims of IPV with partner violence-related residual injuries, defined as marks, scars, and other permanent changes to their bodies met in small groups of 3-5 participants. Group discussions focused on the meanings individuals associated with their most distressing residual injury and the implications of those meanings for body image, interpersonal relationships, cues for posttraumatic responses, and other emotional reactions. Findings suggested that IPV-related injuries may be connected to the IPV, IPV-related blame, and may have implications for victims' self-identity and perceived potential for future relationships.*

KEYWORDS. Intimate partner violence, injury, posttraumatic stress disorder, focus groups