

Women's Vision

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Project Description: Women's Vision is a five-year study that will examine the extent to which the intersection of socio-culturally prescribed sexual gender norms and socioeconomic context are associated with sexual risk behaviors among African American and Latina women in the San Francisco Bay area and surrounding communities. The three study aims include:

- To identify, assess and compare socio-culturally sanctioned sexual gender norms for African-American and Latina women;
- To identify the extent to which African American and Latina women of differing socioeconomic contexts acquiesce to culturally sanctioned sexual gender norms;
- To test a gender-economic model for understanding HIV risk in women by assessing how the intersection of sexual gender norms and socioeconomic context contributes to and predicts sexual risk behaviors among African American and Latina women.

The study will specifically increase our understanding of how sexual gender norms and socioeconomic context contribute to women's vulnerability to HIV, and will provide critical knowledge for the development of new theoretical models of HIV prevention for women. An inclusive sample of 600 African American and Latina women will be interviewed with 6, 12- and 18-month follow-up interviews; recruitment will reach both high and low income women.

Significance: African American and Latina women combined represent less than a fourth of all US women, yet account for 78% of AIDS cases in women. In just over a decade, the proportion of AIDS cases reported among adult and adolescent women has more than tripled, from 7% in 1985 to 23% in 1999. In 1999, women accounted for 32% of the total HIV infections and 49% of the reported HIV cases among persons ages 13-24, and nearly 75% of cases were in African American and Latina women. Heterosexual transmission is now the leading cause of HIV infection for women. These trends may suggest that current HIV prevention interventions are continuing to have limited success in decreasing the risk of HIV infection among African American and Latina women. The study will integrate the best of our theoretical knowledge and provide new and important behavioral evidence for contextual targeting of HIV prevention efforts for women, particularly African-American and Latina women.

Toll-free Number: 1-877-283-1212

Project Recruitment Dates: December 2004-August 2005

Project End Date: June 2007