

# Can sexual risk and behaviors among women help explain HIV disparities by race/ethnicity?

July 13 2017

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Researchers examined the sexual behaviors of a nationally representative group of U.S. women that can prevent against or increase risk for HIV infection and reported the differences in behaviors such as condom use and concurrent sex partners and the changes in these behaviors over 7 years for white, black, and Latina women ages 18-44 in a study published in *Journal of Women's Health*.

Tiffany Aholou, PhD, MSW and colleagues from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and ICF International, Atlanta, GA coauthored the article entitled "Sexual Risk and Protective Behaviors Among Reproductive-Aged Women in the United States." The study of more than 13,500 women focused on three [sexual risk behaviors](#) for HIV: concurrent sex partnerships, nonmonogamous sex partners, and inconsistent condom use for either vaginal or anal sex. The researchers reported the prevalence of each risk [behavior](#) and identified specific differences in HIV-related sexual risk behaviors depending on race/ethnicity and other sociodemographic variables such as married/single and bisexuality.

"Understanding that sexual [risk](#) and protective behaviors vary with race/ethnicity can help guide improved interventions aimed at decreasing the disparity in HIV infection among black and Latina women," says Susan G. Kornstein, MD, Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Women's Health*, Executive Director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Institute for Women's Health, Richmond, VA, and President of the Academy of Women's Health.

**More information:** Tiffany M. Aholou et al, Sexual Risk and Protective Behaviors Among Reproductive-Aged Women in the United States, *Journal of Women's Health* (2017). [DOI: 10.1089/jwh.2016.6224](https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2016.6224)

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

Citation: Can sexual risk and behaviors among women help explain HIV disparities by race/ethnicity? (2017, July 13) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-07-sexual-behaviors-women-hiv-disparities.html>

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