

The Influence of Socio-Technical Environments on the Information Behaviors of Black Gay Men

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ABSTRACT

Young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) are disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic in the United States. YBMSM have a one in two chance of becoming infected during their lifetime compared with one in five among Latino MSM, and one in eleven among White MSM (Hess et al, 2017). HIV/STI information is a critical resource for YBMSM affected by the HIV epidemic. Recent studies suggest that telehealth modalities are opportune for delivering tailored, culturally-sensitive HIV/STI prevention and treatment information. Telehealth modalities, including smartphone applications, offer the opportunity to reach YBMSM who may be difficult to access by traditional means such as in-person, venue-based interventions. To improve our understanding of the potential efficacy of disseminating HIV/STI information via technology-based HIV/STI interventions among YBMSM, this study investigates how and where they access and interact with HIV/STI information. An online survey (n=74) and semistructured, in-depth interviews were carried out with 22 YBMSM (ages 18-34) living in the state of North Carolina.

TOPICS

Information seeking; information use; social media; information needs; specific populations; information practices