

Efficacy of Computer-based HIV/AIDS Education for Injection Drug Users

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Objective: To compare computer-delivered to therapist-delivered HIV/AIDS education among opioid-dependent, injection drug-users (IDUs). **Methods:** We randomly assigned IDUs to receive either computer-based or counselor-delivered HIV/AIDS education. **Results:** Participants who received the computer-based intervention learned significantly more information about HIV prevention, retained significantly more information at a 3-month follow-up, liked the teaching medium significantly more, and re-

quested additional information about HIV/AIDS at the end of the intervention with greater frequency than did the comparison group. Individuals in both conditions reported significant reductions in HIV risk behavior. **Conclusions:** Results demonstrated that computer-delivered HIV/AIDS education may provide an innovative and efficacious intervention for IDUs.

Key words: prevention, HIV/AIDS, technology, substance abuse

Am J Health Behav. 2004;28(4):316-327
