

HIV Risk-Related Attitudes, Interpersonal Influences, and Intentions Among At-Risk Urban, Early Adolescent Girls

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Objective: To examine correlates of sexual experimentation and risk among urban, early adolescent girls (N = 236, 12.38 ± 1.2 years). **Methods:** Measures of HIV risk-related attitudes, interpersonal influences, and intentions were compared based on girls' degree of sexual experimentation and risk. **Results:** Girls in high sexual experimentation and risk groups scored highest on deviant peer norms; endorsements of risky behaviors; and in-

ability to refuse unprotected sex, offset negative partner influences, avoid intercourse, and assert sexual desires. Greater experimentation occurred among girls with older versus same-age or younger partners. **Conclusions:** Risk correlates should be considered in designing HIV prevention programs.

Key words: early adolescent females, HIV infection risks, psychosocial influences

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