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HIV/AIDS Prevention for College Students

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HIV/AIDS Prevention for College Students

Part 1

The college atmosphere provides ample opportunity for HIV-risk tendencies such as unprotected sexual intercourse and multiple relationships. While the overall prevalence of HIV infection has decreased over time, rates of HIV infection among college students have not reduced. As per ¹ the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (2021), college students are likely to be concern about their HIV status, yet they have the necessary tools and support to make informed decisions that can keep them safe.

According to the CDC reports, college students aged between 13 and 24 accounts for 22% of new infections annually (CDC, 2021). The bulk of these diagnoses were made by young gay men, with African - Americans and Latinos overrepresented. Men made up 55% and 24% of the male population, respectively, whereas Caucasians made up 16%. 80% of these prognoses transpired in young people aged 20 to 24, an age group that colleges and universities are interested in.

Risky sexual tendencies, such as using alcohol or drugs before intimate relations, unsafe sex, and having sex with multiple partners, contribute significantly to rising HIV rates among teenage students (Miller & Stoeckel, 2019). This coincides with the drop in the rate of condom use among college learners, which stands at 37% (Mirzaei et al., 2016). Once they are confirmed to be HIV positive, college students find studying to be difficult since their lives take a different trajectory.

College students infected with HIV experience stigma, alienation, and isolation, and in extreme cases, they are unable to continue their studies or access support mechanisms (Mayo Clinic, 2020). These persons may find it problematic to concentrate on their studies, as they must

visit the hospitals for regular checkups and miss classes. Also, they might drop out of college in some extreme cases when stigma and resentment are at their extreme.

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