

African American Girls and Sex
Barbara L. Dancy, Kathleen S. Crittenden, & Hongyan Ning

Because African American girls continue to be at increased risk for sexually transmitted illnesses, we followed over a 20 month period 396 African American girls who reported at the beginning of the study that they had never had sex. These girls were between 11 and 14 years of age. We wanted to find out how many of these girls within a 20 month period would continue to not have sex.

What we found:

1. For all the 396 girls, 71.5% reported not having had sex and 28.5% reported having had sex within the 20 month period.
2. For the girls who were 11 at the beginning of the study, 86% reported not having had sex and 14% reported having had sex within the 20 month period.
3. For the girls who were 12 at the beginning of the study, 73% reported not having had sex and 27% reported having had sex within the 20 month period.
4. For the girls who were 13 at the beginning of the study, 63% reported not having had sex and 37% reported having had sex within the 20 month period.
5. For the girls who were 14 at the beginning of the study, 61% reported not having had sex and 39% reported having had sex within the 20 month period.
6. Girls, who thought their mothers knew what they were doing and where they were, tended not to have had sex within the 20 month period.

Conclusion:

1. Programs designed to help girls delay having sex until they are older should provide mothers information on the importance of providing maximum supervision for their daughters.

NURS 108
UIC College of Nursing
845 South Damen Avenue (MC 802)
Chicago, IL 60612-7350

Phone: 312.996.9168
Email: bdancy@uic.edu