Thematic Hot Topic

Special Issue for CURRENT HIV RESEARCH

Guest Editor: Rocio Garcia-Retamero

Improving risk communication about sexually transmitted diseases: Effective interventions and future directions

Aims and Scope:

STDs affect people of all races, ages, and sexual orientations, although some individuals (e.g., young adults) face greater risks. This thematic issue includes a series of papers covering contemporary topics on how to improve risk communication about STDs and how to promote safe behavior in people at highest risk. The issue is tied to the overall project of sharing concepts of medical decision making with the general public, helping build a culture of better informed decision makers. Within the broad theme of risk communication about STDs, we distinguish three main topics: (1) STD knowledge and skills essential to making health-relevant decisions, (2) effective information formats for improving risk understanding and risk communication about STDs, and (3) efficient evidence-based interventions to promote safe sexual behaviors. A section of the thematic issue is dedicated to each of the three topics, with several papers that analyze specific problems. Each paper includes a review of the relevant literature, one or several empirical studies illuminating the specific problem, and a discussion of the practical and theoretical implications of the findings. In the introduction we provide an overview of the papers and highlight the connections and implications for theory and practice.

Keywords:
HIV/AIDS
Risky sexual behavior
Sexually transmitted diseases
Risk communication
Risk perception
Numeracy
Risk literacy
Medical decision making
Transparent information formats
Visual aids
Tentative subtopics:

1.- Risk communication about STDs
2.- STD knowledge and skills essential to make health-relevant decisions
3.- Effective information formats for improving risk understanding and risk communication about STDs
4.- Efficient evidence-based interventions to promote safe sexual behaviors
5.- Risk literacy and STDs

Submission deadline for authors: August 2014