Exploring Electronic Personal Health Record Services as Sexual Health Discussion Tools: A Mixed-Methods Study Among Young Black Adults

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BACKGROUND

• Young Black adults are at increased risk for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, compared to other race/ethnic groups,
• Effective partner communication about STDs can reduce disease transmission by supporting testing, disease status disclosure, condom use, and the use of medicines to prevent and treat STDs,
• It is not well known how young Black adults perceive the utility of electronic personal health record (PHR) or patient portal services in prevention conversations on STD screening
• The Electronic Sexual Health Information Notification & Education (eSHINE) Study is a mixed-methods study exploring perceptions of PHRs as digital tools for partner communication among HBCU students with little to no PHR services awareness and access

STUDY OBJECTIVES

• Use a Grounded Theory study approach to explore perceptions of using PHRs during STD risk discussions with sexual partners,
• Develop an online instrument to measure qualitative findings in a larger study sample,
• Use a Cross-Sectional Study to determine predictors of perceived intentions to use PHRs with partners and the prevalence of perceived emergent from qualitative themes

METHODS

• Exploratory Mixed-Methods Study Design
• Phase 1 Data Collection & Analysis (n = 35)
  • 3 Focus Groups; 18 Individual In-depth Interviews
• Audio recorded and transcribed into ATLAS.ti version 7 for thematic analysis
• Intermediate Phase – Instrument Development
• Phase 2 Data Collection & Analysis (n =354)
  • Online survey administered with Qualtrics software
  • Analyses conducted using STATA Statistical Package v.14

RESULTS

Perceived Intentions to Facilitate Risk Discussions with Sexual Partners using PHRs (n = 354)

CONCLUSIONS & IMPLICATIONS

Conclusions

• Young Black adults believed PHRs to increase the occurrence of partner discussions on STD screening prior to sex
• (1) Perceived intentions for electronic laboratory results delivery, (2) belief that PHRs are convenient health management tools, (3) reported history of STD diagnosis, (4) belief that PHRs make facilitating discussions with new partners easier and (5) check-in conversations with previous partners easier are significantly associated with increased likelihood of perceived intentions to use PHRs with partners
• (1) Device memory space limitations and (2) STD screening history greater than 7 months lower the odds of perceived intentions to use PHRs with partners
• Privacy breach concerns and PHR adoption barriers

Implications

• Young people overwhelmingly favor and consider the use of electronic health and health educational services offered by PHRs useful for facilitating discussions on STD prevention with their respective partners
• Greater awareness and access to PHR services are needed among Young Black adults to measure its preventative value in reducing racial disparities in STD rates
• Future studies are needed to examine the impact of STD PHR utility on risk behaviors

Citations