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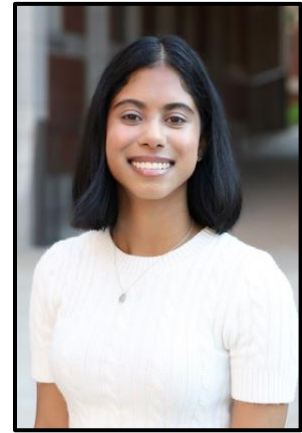
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Development of a Sex Education and HIV Prevention Curriculum Targeting Adolescents in Tennessee



Introduction: Tennessee's public schools are not required to provide adolescents with a comprehensive Sex Education or HIV Prevention education. The CDC's School Health Profiles reported that 88% of Tennessee secondary schools teach students how to access sexual health information, services and products. There is need for a comprehensive Sex Education and HIV Prevention curriculum for Tennessee's adolescents that expands on what is currently taught.

Methods: Key topics in Sex Education and HIV Prevention that are not taught in Tennessee schools were identified. A curriculum was developed which included individual lesson plans, presentations and an agenda. Activities and handouts were used to ensure the curriculum is interactive. A REDCap survey was created to evaluate the Sex Education and HIV Prevention Curriculum and collect feedback from students on areas that need improvement. The use of a REDCap survey ensures feedback can be collected and reviewed efficiently.

Results: The Sex Education and HIV Prevention Curriculum is a two-day program designed for 20-30 students, ages 13-16. Day 1 focuses on gender identity and sexual orientation, pregnancy and childbirth, contraception, consent, and local laws related to sexual health and sexual health services. Day 2 focuses on HIV including transmission, prevention methods, medication and stigma and discrimination. A 45-item survey was created using REDCap to assess students' previous knowledge of Sex Education and HIV prevention, the efficacy of the activities, handouts and lessons and the students' comfort in discussing sensitive topics.

Conclusions: A comprehensive Sex Education and HIV Prevention curriculum designed for adolescents in Tennessee is necessary to prevent HIV transmission, spread of other STI/STDs, unwanted pregnancies and ultimately ensure the sexual health of people in Tennessee. Adolescents who engage in the curriculum will gain a greater understanding of how to make informed decisions and reduce their chances of contracting HIV or an STI/STD.