

Executive Summary

Perceived Risk Hierarchy Methodology

Innovation

The Perceived Risk Hierarchy Methodology combines quantitative and qualitative factors for enabling intervention and effectively addressing perceptions of HIV, substance abuse, and violence, among other risks. The main goal is to provide access to HIV testing, linkage to care, alcohol and substance use prevention education, and connections to needed resources. The input to the model is survey-driven, and that data is processed in such a way to address the potential risks. The survey is modular, with four sections that cover basic demographic information and knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and practices relating to alcohol, smoking, illicit drugs, and sexual relations. The instrument reflects, in its series of questions, the multifactorial nature of alcohol and substance use and sexual behavior. Perceptions are divided up into five categories: HIV; homelessness and unstable housing; environmental factors; community assaultive violence; and use of excessive force by police. Initial scoring is based on weighting of the five categories and assigning values based on methods that help to illustrate the probability of risks in any one or multiple categories, or to any one person or group of persons.

Market Need

Youth and emerging adults carry the highest incidence of HIV infection in the United States. Understanding emerging adult perspectives on HIV transmission risk is important for targeted HIV prevention research. Numerous studies demonstrate that African American emerging adults are well informed about the severity of HIV/AIDS, know how the infection is transmitted, and are aware of prevention strategies, yet they continue to engage in unsafe sexual behaviors. Several factors play a role in youth and emerging adult's risk factors for HIV acquisition: transactional sex (exchanging sex for money, food, drugs, clothing, and shelter), alcohol and substance use, high levels of risk-taking sexual behaviors, congruent sex partners, and survival expectations. A multidisciplinary approach not only addresses the reduction of alcohol, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS transmission, but also the structural and social environmental determinants that drive risk-taking behaviors among young adults.

Intellectual Property

U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 16/668,860 was filed in October 2019.

Stage of Development

Morgan State has established a center, Center for Community Health and Risk Measurement (CHARM), that would leverage the Perceived Risk Hierarchy Methodology and use the results of the analyses and distribute to intervention partners, who would then provide services to identified high-risk individuals.

Technology Transfer Opportunity

MSU/CHARM seeks partners to join an ecosystem of providers that will use the data from CHARM-driven analysis and offer intervention services in urban and rural areas.

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Field(s) of Use

- STD Prevention
- Health Education
- Interventions

Key Words

- HIV
- Prevention
- Risk factors

Advantages

- Useful quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Outcome-oriented
- Promotes larger ecosystem

Status

Patent Pending

Links

[Patent Application](#)
[L. Edwards Bio](#)

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Tech Transfer Contact

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