

**Teaching Notes for Contextual Factors and Other Correlates of Sexual Risk of HIV  
Among African-American Crack-Abusing Women  
Developed by Erin Drinnin, MSW  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
School of Social Work**

**Slide 1**

This lecture presents findings of research on associated factors for HIV risk for African-American crack-abusing women. The presentation provides an opportunity to discuss targets for intervention, and issues for future research. This presentation is useful for students interested in substance abuse, HIV, and gender issues. This could be used in substance abuse and mental health practice courses, as well as courses focusing on gender issues.

**Slides 2 & 3**

Review the data.

**Discussion Question:**

What issues can be raised by these statistics?

**Slide 4**

**Discussion Question:**

How might level of education and financial dependence influence decision-making (e.g., ability to counter misconceptions; ability to purchase protection, ability to be assertive with partners)?

**Slide 5**

Review the slide.

**Slides 6-10**

Review, and ensure students understand the study design and purpose.

Further information:

Women's Cooperative Study is a follow-up study of the Cooperative Agreement for the AIDS Community-Based Outreach/Intervention Research Program funded by the Community Research Branch of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). The Women's CoOp is a prevention intervention study designed specifically to attract out-of-treatment crack using AA women.

## **Slides 11-17**

### **Group Activity:**

If possible, students should break into three groups. Each group will be assigned tables to review. One group should review slides 11 and 12; another group should review slides 13, 14 and 15. The third group should review slides 16 and 17. Students should discuss their assigned slides, and determine the most significant issues presented. Then, each group will report to the larger group and highlight the most important aspects of each piece of information.

Make sure that students pay attention to the p values – note what the statistical significance is for each factor.

For slide 17, a little bit of explanation may be needed. The coefficient represents the association between the factors listed and having multiple sex partners. Therefore, for example, the factor that is associated with decreased odds (negatively associated) of having multiple partners is being married (-.87).

## **Slides 18 & 19**

Review the slides.

## **Slide 20**

### **Discussion:**

Ask students to discuss limitations of the study.

Offered by the authors:

- Current relationships were assessed for the past 30 days and were not assessed for length of time together (no analysis of serial monogamy).
- Use of the variable multiple partners as proxy for HIV risk.
  - Multiple partners is also associated with financial difficulty, use of drugs/alcohol, and unprotected sex.
  - However, the literature indicates that HIV risk is highly associated with multiple heterosexual partners.

### **Group Activity:**

Students should once again break into several small groups. Each group will have a large piece of poster-sized paper and markers for writing. Based on the information provided in this presentation, students should develop possible intervention strategies to address the behaviors and beliefs of substance abusing women at risk of HIV. Remind students to incorporate the multiple factors, including ethnicity and culture, into their intervention designs.

Students will report their ideas to the class.

