

Examining the Facilitators and Barriers of Promoting STI Self-Test Kits on College Campuses



Introduction



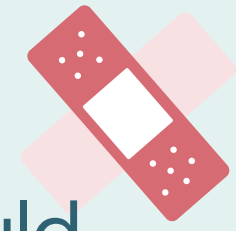
Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) have been a global public health issue among young adults in the US. The severity of the issue can be seen from health providers labeling the rate of STIs among this population as a **“growing epidemic”** (Shannon & Klausner, 2018). Furthermore, statistically out of 20 million new STI cases in the US annually, half of these cases involve young adults (Workowski et al., 2021).

Problem



The most common STIs include chlamydia, gonorrhea and trichomoniasis which are highly curable and can be tested easily with at-home test kits. However, there is still a gap in participating in regular testing among this demographic. **Reasons for this include stigma, embarrassment, accessibility and the lack of awareness about STIs.**

Research Goals



Personal Goals: My responsibility as a researcher would be to identify the answers to these questions and develop an intervention that can reduce stigma and increase early STI detection which could drastically reduce the transmission rates.

Practical Goals: To develop a self-testing kit with suitable message designs that can encourage the uptake of self-testing.

Intellectual Goals: To raise awareness about the importance of health testing and the convenience of self-testing to provide more agency and responsibility towards one's health and reduce the transmission of STIs significantly.

Research Questions

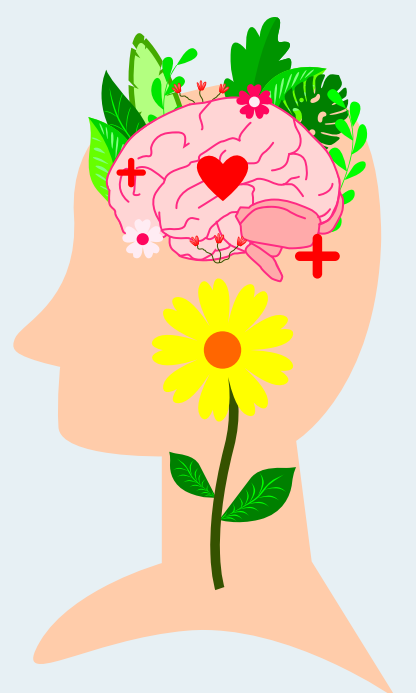


RQ1: What are some pre-existing opinions about STI and STI testing on college campuses from the young college adults' perspective ?

RQ2: What are some challenges and motivations experienced by patients (young adults in college) and health providers (college health center) when employing STI self-testing kits to young adults in college ?

Interpretivist Research focusing on Narrative Theory (Storytelling)

Identifying and interpreting perceptions of college student and providers through examining facilitators and barriers of using STI self-testing kits.



Narrative theory (Storytelling) will allow for the collection of stories and experiences of intentions to use the kits and distribute the kits.

Assumptions about Narrative Theory

There is no truth, only different interpretations of reality. Meaning, therefore, becomes what is most important and meaning is constructed in social, cultural, and political contexts.

All people create meaning through narratives (stories). We live our lives according to the stories we tell ourselves and the stories that others tell about us.

Culture is a peoples' collected stories. Culture, therefore, is the most influential determinant in peoples' lives.

There is no one knowable self, but there are many selves. The person is never the problem. The problem is the problem – a problem story (Morris, 2006)



Method and Analysis

Method: Semi-structured interviews



Analysis: Grounded theory, inductively code data to find common trends and patterns

Application of Theory to Research Problem- Health Belief Model

The Health Belief Model (HBM) will help to understand why people choose to partake or refuse health services or treatments. This will allow for the development of interventions that can elevate and encourage health promoting behaviors. (Champion & Skinner, 2008)

