Introduction

- HIV prevention for adolescent and young adult populations needs to be dealt in a separate manner from that of the adult population.
- Adolescents and young adults: 20% of all new HIV infections (CDC, 2017).
- Adolescence and early adulthood: A transition time for both physical and intellectual changes while exploring norms, sexuality, and increased participation risk activities (Adebayo et al., 2017; Ma et al., 2016).
- Ethnic minorities in the U.S. have a higher HIV infection prevalence than non-Hispanic whites.
- Asians diagnosed with HIV increased by 27% (CDC, 2017).
- Asian American population grew around 12%, four times as fast as the total U.S. population.

Gaps in Literature

- Asian American health problems are minimized because there is limited population-based data (Choi et al., 2005).
- Before 2010, only a few studies examined the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS among adolescents and young adults in the U.S. (Rangel et al., 2006) and those did not include Asian Americans.

Purpose

- To explore the status of the HIV epidemic among young people across race/ethnicity.

Methods

Dataset

- Preliminary, cases and rates per 100,000 of sex, race, and transmission category of both adolescent/young adult populations and adult population groups were retrieved.

Subjects

- Between 2010-2015, adolescent/young adult populations aged 13-24 (n=36,492) and adult populations aged 25 years and older (n=935,034)

Analysis

- Cases and rates of each category of both groups were compared within a group and between both populations over time.

Results

- This study is ongoing project.
- There were racial/ethnic disparities in HIV prevalence, with the non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic groups having disproportional numbers of HIV infections.
- HIV disproportionately affects young men who have sex with men.
- While HIV infection rates declined for most adolescents and young adults, the rate increased for young Asian Americans.
- In the adult group, HIV infection rates remained high and/or have been constantly increasing among all racial/ethnic groups and men who have sex with men.

Conclusion

- This study is the first to estimate HIV prevalence in the general population including young Asian Americans.
- Given that sexual/gender minorities (SGMs) are a recent challenge for Asian communities (Tan et al., 2017), we need to increase awareness among the Asian American community of HIV screening’s importance.
- The findings of this study will provide insights about the epidemiology of HIV infection among adolescents and young adults focusing on Asian Americans and SGMs, and will contribute to the development of health policies for those populations.

References