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Fighting Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Study looks at best practices for prevention

Black urban teenagers from low-income families face a rate of sexually transmitted disease up to 10 times higher than their white counterparts, but recent studies at Oregon State University have identified approaches to prevention programs that might reduce this problem.

The research, based on interviews of black adolescents ages 15-17 in San Francisco and Chicago, found that information from parents, teachers and other caring adults is actually listened to, more than the adults might think.

If teenagers get a wide range of medical, social, educational and personal support and information

from multiple sources, they are fairly adept at separating the good sense from the nonsense, scientists said. Unfortunately, that broad range of information and communication often doesn't exist.

And somewhat surprisingly, the research found that few youth use or trust the Internet for information on sexual health.

"The level of sexual activity at a young age and incidence of STDs, including HIV and AIDS, in low-income, urban black teenagers is high," said Margaret Dolcini, an associate professor in the OSU School of Social and Behavioral Health Sciences. "We have made strides in prevention, but need to continue to deepen our understanding of the factors that contribute to unsafe sexual activity."

The OSU studies were published in Research in Human Development, a scientific journal, with support from the National Institutes of Health. They explored the influences and pressures this group of teenag-

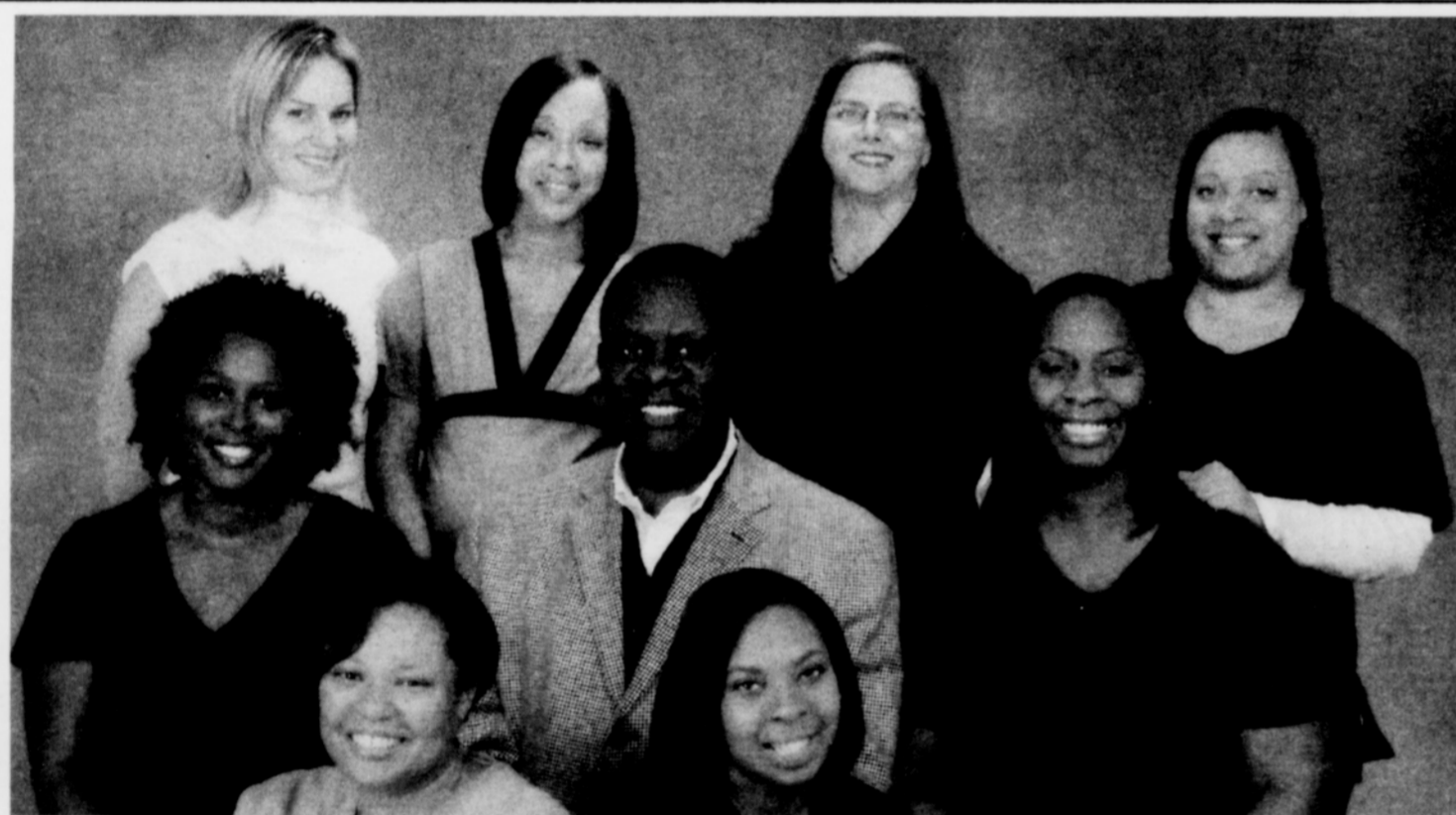
ers faced, including choices to have sex, where people get information, and how that affects behavior.

"We found that young black kids who got information from varied sources tended to do pretty well in making smart choices," Dolcini said.

The most important progress, the OSU researchers found, could be made if various educational, religious and social support organizations would make a more concerted effort to address issues collectively, within the constraints of their roles and belief systems.

"We need more collaboration between family, schools, medical clinics, churches, and other entities that traditionally may not have worked together," Dolcini said.

"This is possible, and we should encourage more of it," she said. "We wouldn't necessarily expect a church to offer condom demonstrations, but a community clinic or school sex education program might do exactly that. And there's a place for both."



Dr. Billy R. Flowers (above center) and his skilled staff are ready to help those in need.

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showed him graphs of the nervous system and how it affects the knee. He decided to become a Chiropractic patient and has had no problem with his knee since. Within days the swelling was out of his knee. Like so many patients, he had an added bonus. His back was stronger and

healthier than it had been in years. His headaches disappeared. In short, he got that healthy happy feeling of Chiropractic. If you have knee pain or if you have any question concerning your health at all, call us today, Isn't it time you stepped up to Chiropractic?

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Vials of the steroid distributed by New England Compounding Center implicated in a meningitis outbreak.

More Meningitis Cases Confirmed

Nine more people have been diagnosed with fungal meningitis linked to possibly tainted vials of a steroid medication, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Monday, bringing the total number of cases to 212.

The CDC said there were two additional cases of infection in joints after a steroid injection but these were not confirmed as meningitis.

The death toll from the unprecedented outbreak was unchanged at 15, the CDC said.

Pennsylvania was the latest state to report an initial case of meningitis, bringing to 15 the number of states with cases.

The outbreak has turned into a major health scandal after a company based in Massachusetts shipped vials that may have been tainted to 23 states and 76 medical facilities. The scare has prompted multiple investigations and the company, New England Compounding Center, has recalled the product and suspended operations.