

Online Supplementary Material

McKee MD, Karasz AK, Weber CM. Health care seeking among urban minority adolescent girls: the crisis at sexual debut. *Ann Fam Med*. 2004;2:549-554.

<http://www.annfammed.org/cgi/content/full/2/6/549/DC1>

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## Appendix 1. Interviewers, the Interview, and the Interview Guide

### Interviewers

The interviewers were 2 female research assistants of minority ethnicity. One was Hispanic, Bronx-born of Puerto Rican descent, who was a graduate student in health psychology at the time of the interviews. The other was African American, raised in Washington, DC, and a graduate student in clinical psychology. Because of logistical barriers, the interviewers were not part of the analysis or reflexivity process, though they were encouraged to provide feedback on the interview throughout the process and were given substantial freedom to pursue unanticipated dialogue when it seemed appropriate. They reported technical and affect-related problems with the interviewing process.

### The Interview

An interview guide was developed and used first with a small series of 11- to 14-year-old girls. Data from this series were not included in the analysis; however, lessons learned were incorporated into a revised guide. As was the final guide, the original guide was framed by the Illness Self Regulation model. Use of this framework from the health psychology literature allowed us to explore systematically participants' explanatory models of illness, as well as informal and formal care seeking related to illness experiences. Prompts asked girls to explore cause, consequence, timeline, course, prevention, and treatment for each illness experience.

### The Interview Guide

*I'd like to talk to you to learn how young women make choices about their health. I'd like to talk about some different kinds of health concerns. There are no right or wrong answers—we are just interested in your experiences.*

1.1. *First, think back to some time in the last year when you were experiencing pain that bothered or worried you. Can you describe what was happening?*

Prompts

- Did you have a name for the condition?
- What did you think was causing the condition?
- How was it affecting you?
- What did you think might happen as a result?
- Was this something you thought you should treat in some way?
- Tell me anything you did to take care of the problem yourself.
- Do you think there was anything you could have done to prevent it?

1.2. *Who did you talk to about the problem?*

Prompts

- Who did you talk to most? Why?
- Was there something about this person that made them good (or bad) to talk to about it?
- Tell me about the person's response.

- Do you always talk to this person about health problems?
  - Did anyone you talked to respond differently?
- 1.3. *At some point did you decide you needed to see a doctor or nurse? Why or why not?*
- Prompts
- Who went with you to the visit?
  - What was it like to go with this person, or what was it like to go alone?
  - Who made the appointment? Who else knew?
- 2.1. *Now I'd like you to tell me about the last time you had a cold or the flu.*
- Prompts
- How do you think you got the cold/flu?
  - How was it affecting you?
  - Was this something you thought you should treat in some way?
  - What did you think might happen if you did not treat it?
  - Tell me anything you did to take care of the problem yourself.
  - Do you think there was anything you could have done to prevent it?
- 2.2. *Who did you talk to about the cold/flu?*
- Prompts
- Who did you talk to most? Why?
  - Was there something about this person that made them good (or bad) to talk to about it?
  - Tell me about the person's response.
  - Do you always talk to this person about health problems?
  - Did anyone you talked to respond differently?
- 2.3. *At some point did you decide you needed to see a doctor or nurse? Why or why not?*
- Prompts
- Who went with you to the visit?
  - What was it like to go with this person, or what was it like to go alone?
  - Who made the appointment? Who else knew?
- 3.1. *Sometimes teenage girls face health problems related to female concerns, things like changes in their bodies, periods, vaginal symptoms, pregnancy, or other female stuff. Which of these have you experienced? Think about the one that worried you the most. Tell me about it.*
- Prompts
- Did you have a name for the condition?
  - What did you think was causing the condition?
  - How was it affecting you?
  - What did you think might happen as a result?
  - Was this something you thought you should treat in some way?
  - Tell me anything you did to take care of the problem yourself.
  - Do you think there was anything you could have done to prevent it?
- 3.2. *Who did you talk to about the problem?*
- Prompts
- Who did you talk to most? Why?
  - Was there something about this person that made them good (or bad) to talk to about it?
  - Tell me about the person's response.
  - Do you always talk to this person about health problems?
  - Did anyone you talked to respond differently?
- 3.3. *At some point did you decide you needed to see a doctor or nurse? Why or why not?*
- Prompts
- Who went with you to the visit?
  - What was it like to go with this person, or what was it like to go alone?
  - Who made the appointment? Who else knew?

## Online Supplementary Data

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4.1. *Now I want to change the topic a little. Lots of young women worry about how to prevent pregnancy or infections. Is this something you have thought about?*

### Prompts

- Who is the main person you go to for advice about this sort of thing?
- Do you think you have had enough help with these issues?
- How have the people you have gone to for advice helped you with these issues?
- What is the role of doctors and nurses in helping teenagers prevent pregnancy and infections?