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Theoretical Framework

**Health Disparities amongst African American Adolescent Boy in the United States**

The Health Belief Model (HBM) would be applied as the theoretical framework. Formulated in the 1950s, the model's primary objective was to understand the failure of individuals to follow disease prevention frameworks and screening tests that would allow the early detection of an ailment. This theory suggests that the belief that a specific condition would threaten a person's overall health and their belief of the effectiveness of the health recommendation predicts their likelihood of adopting the recommended behavior. Therefore, if a person believes that a particular action would cure or prevent the illness, they are ready to embrace the behavior.

The above theory is aligned with what the program seeks to accomplish. With the overall mission of reducing the health disparities among African American adolescent boys, the program would ensure that this population is aware of the various health outcomes brought about by specific behaviors. Since the goal is to ensure that the group achieves and maintains reproductive health, the program would be keen to enhance health awareness among the target population. They would be aware of the dangers of engaging in unsafe sexual activities while highlighting the dangers associated with the aspect. After the target population opens up concerning their condition, the program would end up ensuring that these adolescents obtain the proper medication. By agreeing to enhance behavior change after realizing the dangers that are associated with unsafe sexual activities, the objective of reducing the number of African American adolescents getting infected with STIs would be achieved.

**Concepts of the Selected Theoretical Framework**

Various concepts are related to the Health Belief Model. Understanding them would assist in getting aligned with the program's accomplishments. The primary concept of the theoretical framework applied is perceived susceptibility. This is an individual's subjective perception about the risk of acquiring a disease. After understanding the overall perception concerning access to medical care and engaging in various sexual activities, it becomes easy to address health disparities (Cunningham & White, 2019).

The perceived severity concept also plays an important role. As the program seeks to address the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases among African American adolescents, the concept would help highlight their feeling about the dangers they subject themselves to after engaging in unsafe sexual activities (Luquis & Kensinger, 2019). Many of them are likely to be influenced by their peers, but it is essential to understand whether they fear the medical consequences such as STD infection and death.

The theoretical framework also entails the concept of the perceived benefits. This refers to an individual's perception of the benefits of various actions to handle the health threat. Generally, the course of action taken by an individual is related to the perceived susceptibility and perceived benefits. To ensure that African American adolescents practice safe sexual behavior, the target population would weigh the benefits that come with the aspect (Jeihooni et al., 2018). Therefore, the program would ensure that the benefits are well articulated so that these adolescents can purpose to uphold the program’s recommendation.

Another concept related to the selected theoretical framework is perceived barriers. The barriers entail the feeling of obstacles hindering the performance of the recommended action. Therefore, a person ends up encompassing cost and benefit analysis weighing the expense and effectiveness of the proposed course of action. Since the program also seeks to provide free medical services to the target population, a majority would be quick to analyze the advantages of accessing such services. In case they feel an alteration of their privacy, these adolescents would hesitate to share their health needs. However, if the program upholds privacy and motivates them to undergo frequent health check-ups, the target population would end up upholding it.

References

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