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Examining the relationship between HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitude, practices and HIV/AIDS stigma among Bahamian college students 18-35

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Statement of the Problem: The study of HIV/AIDS have made leaps and bounds in examining the cause, prevalence and prevention of HIV/AIDS since its meager and obscure beginning in 1981. HIV related stigma and discrimination exist worldwide, although they manifest themselves differently across countries, communities, religious groups and individuals. Stigma is the most significant barrier to public action against HIV/AIDS. Stigmatization can have a negative impact on those who are affected, which can result in emotional and psychological instability. The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between HIV/AIDS-related knowledge, attitude, practices and HIV/AIDS stigma among Bahamian college students 18-35. This study will be a correlational descriptive study design with a sampling total of 250 participants. The Theory of Planned Behavior will be the theoretical framework directing this study.

Results: It is hypothesized that the results will find that there will be (a) a negative relationship between Bahamian college students' HIV/AIDS attitudes and HIV/AIDS stigma; (b) there will be a positive relationship between Bahamian college students' HIV/AIDS knowledge and HIV/AIDS stigma; (c) there will be a negative between Bahamian college student's HIV/AIDS practices and HIV/AIDS stigma; and that selected demographic variables will have a significant relationship with HIV/AIDS stigma.

Conclusion & Significance: The results obtained will be used to provide supporting evidence regarding the HIV/AIDS stigma in The Bahamas and also assist in developing educational programs regarding HIV/AIDS.

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