

Special Issue

Frontiers in STI/HIV Prevention in Marginalized Populations

Message from the Guest Editors

One in five persons in the United States has a sexually transmitted infection including HIV (STD/HIV), equating to 68 million infections, and resulting in USD 16 billion in direct medical costs. Most, 98%, of these infections include chlamydia, trichomoniasis, genital herpes, and HPV (<https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/prevalence-incidence-cost-2020.htm>). Suffering from STI/HIV ranges from social and physical discomfort, through infertility, to death. Fortunately, STI/HIV can usually be prevented. Unfortunately, there are political, systems, cultural, social, educational, and psychological barriers and risk factors that undermine prevention. These barriers and risk factors tend to be greatest among persons who have the least resources, power, and status in American society. Hence, if rates of STI/HIV are to be effectively reduced, interventions are needed to address the barriers and risk factors most affecting marginalized populations. This supplement contains a compendium of manuscripts addressing the needs, targeted risk factors, approaches, and capacity for effective STI/HIV preventive intervention within marginalized populations.

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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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