

Abstract

This study examined the applicability of Fishbein and Ajzen's (1975) theory of reasoned action (TORA) in predicting the intentions of Hong Kong runaway girls to tell their partners to use condoms. 102 local runaway girls between 12 to 18 participated this study. Results strongly support the utility of TORA in predicting girls' intentions with attitude predominating. However, Ajzen's (1985) perceived behavioral control (PBC), perceived risk (RISK), and specific knowledge (KNOW) failed to contribute unique prediction on intention. Traumatic experiences moderated the intention and NORM relation. Subjects, with low level of traumatic experiences, were more likely to intend to use condoms in accordance with their NORM. In contrast, intentions were less likely influenced by NORM among girls with high level of traumatic experiences. These two experience groups also differed in their perceived risk of unwanted pregnancy. Implications for developing effective interventions targeted for local missing girls are also discussed.