



# Understanding How Emotions Felt Towards Parents Influence Emerging Adults' Decision to Disclose Sexually Transmitted Infection Status to Parents

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WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD

# Sexually Transmitted Infections

- STIs continue to be a public health concern in the United States.
- Half of STI cases are documented to be among adolescents and emerging adults (18-25y.o.).
- STI contraction can impact psychological well-being, self-esteem, sexual self-concept, and physical health.
- Disclosing STIs help infected individuals cope with the diagnosis.

# Emerging Adulthood

- Emerging adulthood is characterized as a time to take on adult responsibilities and learn what it means to be an adult based on societal standards.
- Emerging adults feel in between.
- The pathway to emerging adulthood is not clear, nor are there social scripts for parent-child interactions during this time.



# Project Overview & Aims

- How do EA's emotions impact their willingness to disclose an STI?
- How does EA's willingness to disclose everyday events and issues to their parents mediate the disclosure of an STI?
- What role does information surrounding an STI diagnosis impact EA's likelihood to disclose and STI?
- What role does shame and stigma pertaining to an STI influence EA's disclosure to parents?

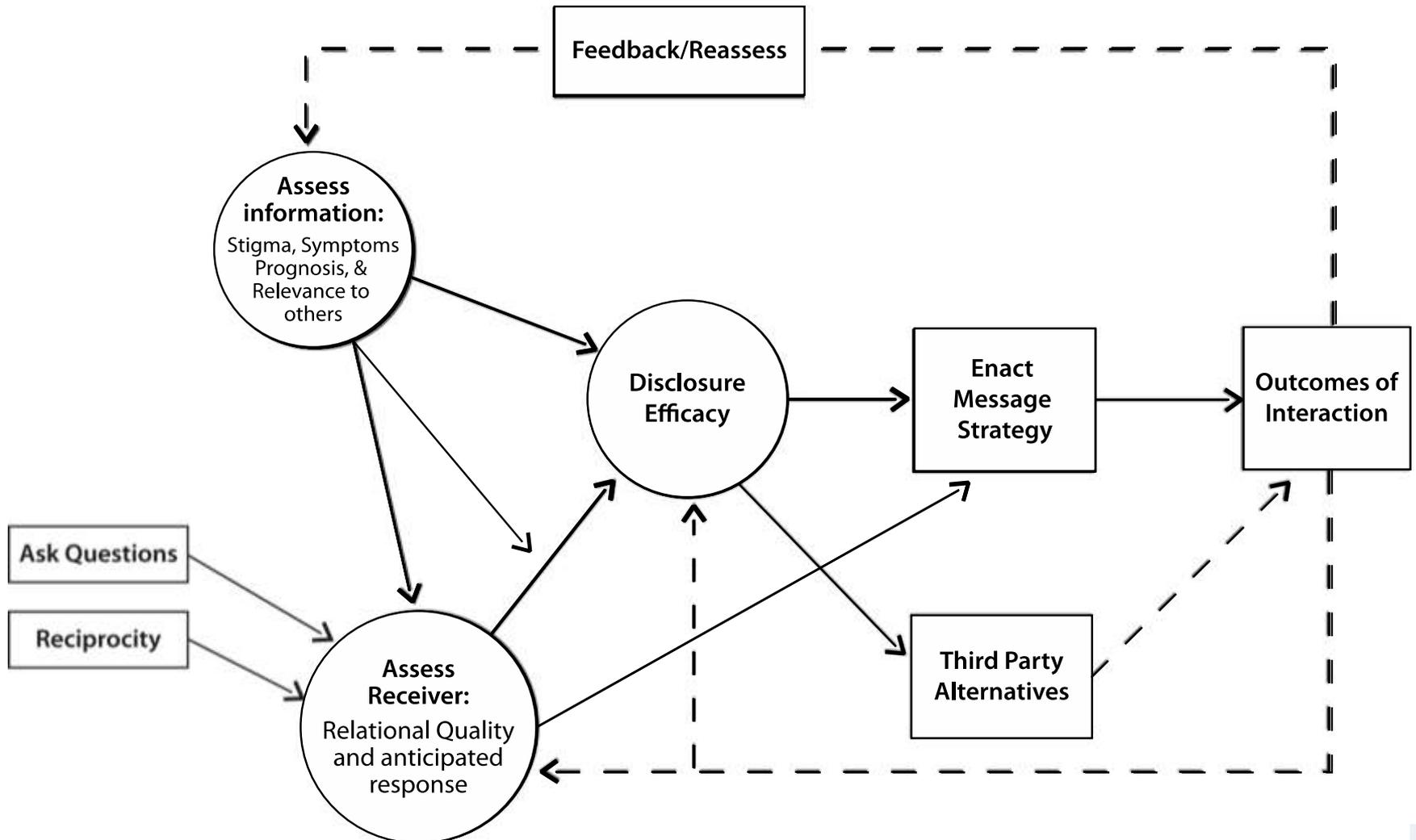
# Health Disclosure Decision-Making Model

## Simplified Disclosure Process Model



# Health Disclosure Decision Making Model

Proposed Health Disclosure Decision-Making Model (Greene, 2009)



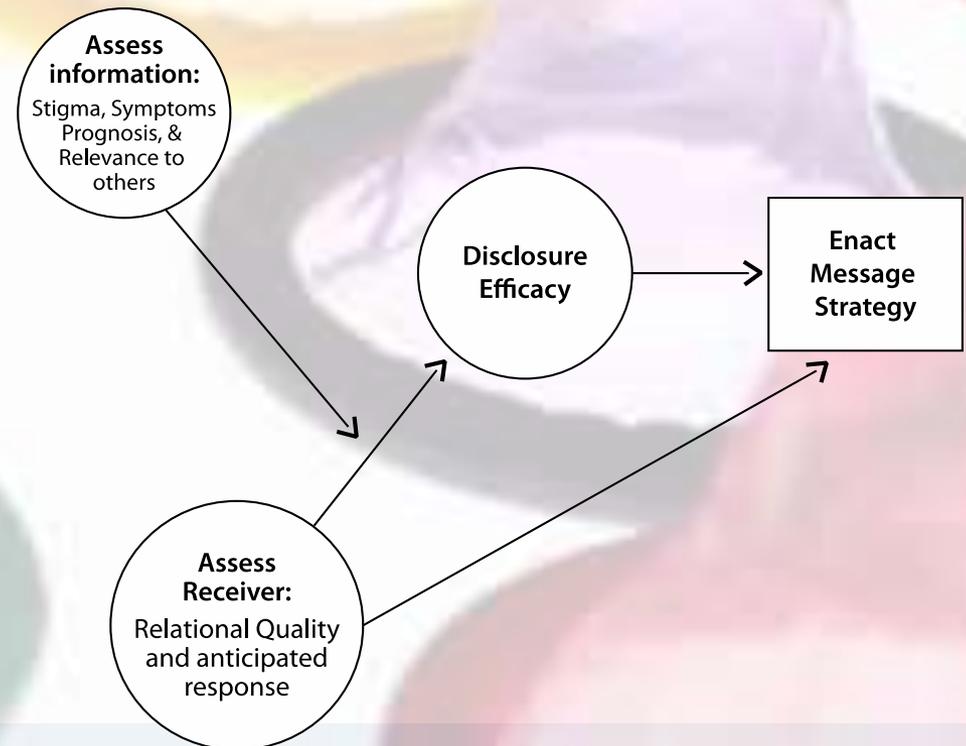
# Sample

- $n = 111$  undergraduate students
- Participants
  - Age ( $M = 20.55$ ;  $SD = 1.48$ ; range 18-25)
  - Gender (85.5% female;  $n = 94$ )
  - Race (71.2% White (Non-Hispanic))



# Method

- ▣ Assess Receiver
- ▣ Disclosure Efficacy
- ▣ Enact Message Strategy
- ▣ Assess Information



# Results

H1: Emerging adults' emotions felt towards their parents are positively associated with the likelihood they would disclose general topics to their parents.

Significant

H2: Emerging adults' emotions felt towards their parents are positively associated with the likelihood they would disclose an STI status to their parents.

a) Non significant

b) Significant

# Results\*\*

H3: Disclosure of general topics mediates the relationship between emerging adults' emotions felt towards their parents and the likelihood they will disclose and STI status to their parents.

a) Significant

b) Non Significant

H4: Stigma and shame felt towards STIs moderate the relationship between emotions felt towards parents and the likelihood to disclose an STI status.

Not Significant

# Results

RQ: How does the information surrounding an STI diagnosis, including prognosis, treatment necessary, and relevance to others impact EAs' likelihood to disclose an STI stat to a parent?

Unable to test

# Conclusions

- ▣ Emotions felt towards parent is positively associated with how much EAs disclose everyday events, as well as the disclosure of a **chronic** STI diagnosis.
- ▣ This relational quality is not associated with the disclosure of an **acute** STI diagnosis.
- ▣ Disclosure of everyday events, aka disclosure efficacy, mediates the relationship between relational quality and disclosure of an **acute** STI, but not that of a **chronic** STI.
- ▣ Shame and stigma have little influence.

# Implications

- ▣ The Health Disclosure Decision-Making Model
- ▣ Health & Family Communication



# Questions?

You seem pretty scared of catching swine flu for someone who's not remotely scared of catching STDs.



someecards



**THANK YOU!**

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