Multivariate Analyses

The first logistic regression shown in Table 3, which predicts receipt of information on AIDS, STDs or condoms from a medical source, indicates that non-Hispanic black men and Hispanic men are more likely to report having received information from a medical professional than are white men.* Health insurance status, provider type and prior sex education are not significantly related to having talked with a doctor or nurse in the 12 months prior to the survey. Respondents who had had a physical exam or an STD test in the previous 12 months are more likely to have talked with a doctor or nurse during the same time period. Respondents who reported having spoken with a parent about all six sexuality topics in 1988 or who reported having talked to a doctor in Wave 2 are much more likely to report having talked to a doctor or nurse in the 1995 wave. Finally, respondents who became sexually active before age 15 are less likely to have talked to a physician or nurse about reproductive health topics.

In the regression results predicting the likelihood of having attended a lecture or received a brochure about AIDS or STDs, being non-Hispanic black or Hispanic is positively associated with having received AIDS or STD information in the last 12 months. Being in school, regardless of employment, is highly correlated with having received a medical professional or talking to a medical provider about AIDS or STDs. College graduates are also more likely to report information receipt than are those with only a high school diploma. Respondents who received a physical exam in the last 12 months are more likely than others to report having attended a lecture or received a brochure.

Discussion

This article documents how men in their early 20s, who are generally employed and not in college, get prevention information about AIDS and STDs. Almost all of these young adults are exposed to media messages about such topics, but about two-thirds are informed by more direct sources, such as from family, friends or medical professionals, or through lectures or brochures. The examination of those who received direct information revealed certain demographic traits that are useful in identifying who is less likely to get AIDS or STD messages. White non-Hispanic males reported getting prevention messages less frequently than black or Hispanic men. Those without a high school degree were less likely to have more direct discussions or formal instruction about these topics.

After controlling for a host of social, demographic and other traits, we find that black or Latino men are much more likely to get information about reproductive

*The racial difference exists even in cases where STDs have been diagnosed. Among the small percentage who were told that they had an STD, black men were three times more likely to have discussed STDs with a medical professional than were white males. Most discussions occurred outside the context of a diagnosed STD.