

HIV Epidemiology Program: Research Activities

Update and Preliminary Findings

**Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

July 2005



NYCDOHMH HIV Epidemiology Program's Research Activities

- National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS)
- Brothers y Hermanos
- House Ball Survey
- Computer-Assisted Behavioral Surveillance and Medication Adherence (CABS)
- Evaluation of Correction Case Management at Rikers Island (CCARI)

National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS)

- Cross-sectional survey to assess current trends in risk behaviors and HIV prevalence/incidence among 500-600 MSM--data collection conducted July 2004 – February 2005
- Among participants interviewed (557), 24% were Black, 28% were Latino, and 39% were white. 31% between 18-24 years, 37% between 25-34.
- At least 1 episode of UAI with a male partner in last 12 months was reported by 48% of participants (14% reported UAI with an HIV+ partner or unk. status)

NHBS (II)

- Among 347 testers, HIV prevalence was approximately 18% (9% among 18-24 years, 29% among 30-39 years, 36% among Blacks, 14% among whites, and 14% among Latinos)
- Amphetamine use during past 12 months reported by 13% of participants. HIV prevalence 20% among users vs. 16% among non-users. Cocaine use reported by 29% participants, Ecstasy use by 19%.
- 2005 cycle will target injection drug users. Respondent driven sampling will be utilized for recruitment.

Brothers y Hermanos

- Epidemiological study of risk factors for HIV in Black and Latino MSM residing in three U.S. Cities (NYC, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles).
- Phase I: Focus groups and in-depth interviews conducted among 160 men.
 - Emergent themes include: description of sub-cultures, isolation, experiences of discrimination, sexual risk taking, and factors of resiliency
- Phase II: Quantitative interview and HIV testing being implemented in 2005 among 500 Black MSM

House Ball Survey

- Venue based cross-sectional survey to measure risk behaviors and HIV prevalence among 504 persons participating in New York's House Ball scene
- Mean age 24 years. 55% of participants were Black, 40% Latino. 18% self-identified as transgender. 15% of participants were female.
- HIV prevalence approximately 17%.

House Ball Survey (II)

- UAI with a male partner reported by 27% of sexually active participants. Among persons who self-identified as HIV negative or of unknown status, 10% had UAI or UVI with an HIV+ male partner or male partner of unknown status.
- Crystal Meth use during past 12 months reported by 5% of participants. Cocaine use reported by 10% participants, Ecstasy use by 10%.
- Stressful life events experienced by 65% of participants (at least one event in the past 12 months.)

Computer-Assisted Behavioral Surveillance and Medication Adherence (CABS)

- Study gathered self reported risk behavior information and medication adherence among 1,100 HIV infected patients using computer-assisted self interviews (CASI)
- Mean age 46 years. 41% of participants Black, 36% Latino. Mean duration of HIV infection 10 years.
- 70% of participants reported sexual activity in previous 12 months. Females compared to males were more likely to have unprotected sex with a partner of the opposite sex (47% vs. 38%). 35% of males who reported having unprotected sex had an HIV- female partner.

CABS (II)

- 31% of sexually active males reported having had sex with another man during previous 12 months. 37% reported unprotected sex of whom 48% had a negative partner.
- 6% of participants were current drug injectors (of which 69% reported sharing needles or equipment). 9% of participants reported non-injection crack use, 5% cocaine use, 5% heroin use.
- 43% reported to have missed at least one dose of medication during the previous week

Evaluation of Correction Case Management at Rikers Island (CCARI):

- Randomized controlled trial of two approaches to discharge planning with incarcerated adult males at Rikers Island.
- Over **610** clients have been enrolled and randomly assigned to:
 - Discharge planning services in the jail only (**Jail-only arm**)
 - Discharge planning services in the jail and one year of active case management in the community post-release (**Jail & community arm**)
- 155 clients have had a follow-up interview.
- 68% of clients are Black, 30% Latino. Mean age 37 years.

CCARI (II)

- At baseline:
 - 81% reported illicit drug use within 30 days prior to incarceration, of whom 33% reported crack use, 28% cocaine, and 21% heroin.
 - 82% were sexually active 30 days prior to incarceration, of which only 21% consistently used condoms with main partner. 64% of persons with occasional partner used condoms consistently.
 - 94% had been arrested 2 or more times before their current arrest and incarceration.
- No significant difference across the study arms in occurrence of self-reported re-arrests at 12 mo f/u (~60% each arm).

2005 Research Activities

- Dissemination of 2004 survey results
- Morbidity Monitoring Project
 - National population based sample of HIV infected persons in care. Risk behaviors, medications and adherence, opportunistic infections, VL and CD4 counts, resistance testing, other service utilization (i.e. housing, prevention case management, mental health, etc.) data to be collected
- NHBS
 - IDU cycle
- Web-based HIV Behavioral Surveillance
- Brothers y Hermanos
 - Epidemiologic Survey