

Studies Conducted by the Research Unit of the HIV Epidemiology and Field Services Program

The Research Unit in the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (NYC DOHMH) HIV Epidemiology and Field Services Program (HEFSP) actively participates in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded epidemiologic projects, in collaboration with its community partners, to complement the HIV/AIDS case reporting system. The Research Unit's activities provide valuable epidemiologic, clinical, and risk behavior information that contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of the New York City HIV epidemic. Current projects conducted by the Research Unit in collaboration with the CDC include the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System (NHBS), the Medical Monitoring Project (MMP), and the Never In Care (NIC) project.

Current Projects:

The National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System (NHBS)

The objectives of NHBS are to estimate the prevalence of HIV infection, the frequency and correlates of HIV risk behaviors, HIV testing history, and exposure to and use of local HIV prevention services. The CDC currently funds 25 project areas around the U.S. that represent over 70% of new HIV infections to conduct NHBS. NHBS is an anonymous, cross-sectional study which includes different annual cycles among men who have sex with men (MSM), injection drug users (IDU), and high-risk heterosexuals (HET). MSM are recruited from MSM-oriented social venues and IDU and HET are recruited using respondent-driven sampling (RDS), which uses participants' social networks to recruit other eligible participants. All NHBS cycles consist of an interview and an HIV test. Data have been collected for the MSM cycle in 2004 and 2008, the IDU cycle in 2005 and 2009, and the HET cycle from 2006-2007 and in 2010. To supplement behavioral data from MSM populations not reached through NHBS-MSM, previous studies of MSM have included the Web-Based HIV Behavioral Surveillance (WHBS) study (2006-2007), the Brothers y Hermanos study (ByH) (2005-2006) among Black and Latino MSM, and the House Ball Survey (HBS) (2004) among young, predominantly Black and Latino/a, gay and transgender persons who attend and participate in dance and fashion competitions known as "balls".

Preliminary findings of various NHBS projects were published in the HIV Epidemiology & Field Services Research Unit Report (October 2007). An update of NHBS projects was released in June 2010. These reports are available online in our program website: http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/dires/epi_reports.shtml#research

The research staff also prepared several interim reports in the form of slide presentations which can be downloaded in our program website with this link: http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/dires/epi_resupdates.shtml

The Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) Project

Two studies focus on HIV infected persons. These include the MMP among HIV-infected patients in care and the supplemental NIC project targeting HIV-infected persons who have never accessed HIV medical care. The MMP is an ongoing, national multi-year study of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) who are receiving medical care for HIV. The study is cross-sectional with annual multi-stage probability samples of patients receiving care within a defined period (January through April of each project year). The CDC currently funds 23 project areas around the U.S., which represent over 80% of AIDS cases, to conduct MMP. At this time, MMP has collected data on samples of patients receiving care in 2005, 2007, 2008, and 2009. The MMP uses data from structured interviews and medical record abstractions to estimate the prevalence of clinical outcomes, describe HIV-related and other health behaviors, determine accessibility and use of health and support services, assess the prevalence and frequency of HIV-related risk and preventive behaviors, and examine variations by geographic area, patient characteristics and other correlates. This information will help to determine the health related needs of PLWHA and to guide policy, funding and planning decisions to improve their quality of care.

In April 2010 the MMP team published the first preliminary findings on our program website at: http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/dires/epi_resupdates.shtml

The Never In Care (NIC) Project

The CDC has funded New York City along with four other project areas to implement the NIC research project to study the demographics, behavioral risks, and barriers to care of adults who delay entry into HIV medical care at least 3 months after HIV diagnosis (2007-2010). NIC uses surveillance data to define the population of persons who are newly diagnosed with HIV and who have not entered care (defined as having surveillance-documented viral load or CD4 tests) within the 3-month period since first being diagnosed.

Completed Projects:

A previous study of HIV infected persons in care, the Computer-Assisted Behavior Survey (CABS) (2004), assessed risk behaviors in HIV-infected patients at four hospital-based primary care HIV clinics in NYC. Those eligible had to be on antiretroviral therapy, 18 years or older, literate in English, and sexually active in the previous 12 months.

Another previous study, the Correction Case Management at Rikers Island (CCARI) longitudinal intervention study (2001-2006), was a randomized controlled trial of two approaches to discharge planning with incarcerated males at Rikers Island. The study's aims included an assessment of reductions in drug use and in HIV risk behaviors.

Findings of both the current and completed projects are in the 2007 research report in our program website:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/dires/epi_reports.shtml#research and in the form of slide presentations which are also available in our program website at: http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/dires/epi_resupdates.shtml.

Our research staff also published the results of our current and previous research projects in professional journals and presented at many conferences.

Publications:

1. Jenness S, Neaigus A, Hagan H, Wendel T, Gelpi-Acosta C and Murrill C. "Reconsidering the Internet as an HIV/STD Risk for Men Who Have Sex with Men." *AIDS Behav.* 2010 Jul 28. DOI 10.1007/s10461-010-9769-x
2. Jenness S, Begier E, Neaigus A, Murrill C, Wendel T, Hagan H. "Unprotected Anal Intercourse and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in High-Risk Heterosexual Women." *American Journal of Public Health.* 2010 Jun
3. Jenness S, Neaigus A, Hagan H, Murrill C, Wendel T. "Heterosexual HIV and Sexual Partnerships Between Injection Drug Users and Noninjection Drug Users." *AIDS Patient Care and STDs.* 2010 Mar 9; 24(3): 175-181.
4. Jenness S, Murrill C, Liu KL, Wendel T, Begier E, Hagan H. "Missed Opportunities for HIV Testing Among High-Risk Heterosexual." *Sexually Transmitted Diseases.* 2009 Nov; 36(11): 704-710
5. Bernstein KT, Liu KL, Begier EM, Koblin B, Karpati A, Murrill C. "Same-sex Attraction Disclosure to Health Care Providers Among New York City Men Who Have Sex With Men." *Arch Intern Med.* 2008 Jul 14; 168(13):1458-64,2008. PMID:18625927
6. Koblin BA, Murrill C, Xu G, Camacho M, Liu KL, Raj-Singh S, Torian L. "Awareness of HIV prevention strategies under development: Word on Street." *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr Hum Retrovirol.* 2008 June;48:232-4.
7. Marks S, Murrill C, Sanchez T, Liu, KL, Finlayson T, and Guilin V. "Self-Reported Tuberculosis Disease and Tuberculin Skin Testing in the New York City House Ballroom Community." *Am J Public Health.* 2008 June;98:1068-1073.
8. Lauby JL, Millett GA, LaPollo AB, Bond L, Murrill C, Marks G. "Sexual risk behaviors of HIV-positive, HIV-negative, and serostatus-unknown Black men who have sex with men and women." *Arch Sex Behav.* June 03, 2008.
9. Wheeler DP, Lauby JL, Liu KL, VanSlutyman L, Murrill C. "A comparison of characteristics and predictors of sexual risks among black men who have sex with men or with men and women." *Arch Sex Behav.* May 29, 2008.

10. Murrill C, Liu KL, Guilin V, Colón ER, Dean L, Buckley L, Sanchez T, Finlayson T, Torian L
 "HIV Prevalence and Associated Risk Behaviors in New York City's House Ball Community." *Am J Public Health*. 2008 April;98:1074-1080.
11. Freudenberg N, Moseley J, Labriola M, Daniels J, Murrill C
 "Comparison of health and social characteristics of people leaving New York city jails by age, gender, and race/ethnicity: implications for public health interventions." *Public Health Reports*. 2007 Nov-Dec;122:733-743.
12. Koblin BA, Murrill C, Camacho M, Xu G, Liu KL, Raj-Singh S, Torian L.
 "Amphetamine use and sexual risk among men who have sex with men: Results from the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance Study – New York City." *Subst Use Misuse* 2007;42:1613-1628.

Conference Abstracts:

2009 National HIV Prevention Conference. Atlanta, GA -- August 23-26, 2009

1. Neaigus A, Jenness S, Wendel T, Murrill C, Hagan H.
 Individual and Partner Characteristics Associated with Sex Partner Concurrency Among High-Risk Heterosexuals. Abstract no. B06-2
2. Jenness S, Neaigus A, Wendel T, Murrill C, Hagan H.
 HIV Infection and Sexual Partnerships Between Heterosexual Non-Injectors and Injection Drug Users. Abstract no. B10-1

XVII International AIDS Conference. Mexico City, Mexico -- August 3-8, 2008

1. Navejas M, Burke R, Liu KL, Raj-Singh S, Murrill C.
 Factors associated with multiple sex partners in the same encounter (group sex) among New York City (NYC) men who have sex with men (MSM) recruited online.

2007 National HIV Prevention Conference. Atlanta, GA December 2-5, 2007

2. Jenness S, Hanna D, Murrill C.
 Barriers to Care among Adults Newly Diagnosed with HIV in New York City – Results from the Never in Care Study Formative Research. Abstract no. B13-2 pages 257-258.
3. Navejas M, Liu KL, Raj-Singh S, Murrill C.
 Participation in online HIV prevention among men who have sex with men (MSM) who use the internet to meet sex partners in New York City. Abstract no. C15-4 pages 27-28.

135th APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition. Washington, D -- November 3-7, 2007

1. Jenness S, Hagan H, Liu KL, Wendel T, Woodall A, Raj-Singh S, Murrill C. Association of Syringe Source and Syringe Sharing in New York City. Abstract no. 145629.

2005 National HIV Prevention Conference. Atlanta Georgia, June 2005

2. Moseley J, Gordon C, Murrill C, Torian L.
"An evaluation of discharge planning and community case management services for incarcerated adult males at Rikers Island: Correction Case Management at Rikers Island (CCARI)". Abstract #: M3-L0304 page 73
3. Murrill C, Guilin V, Dean L, Liu KL, Junquera Y, Ascencio R, White B, Torian L.
"HIV Prevalence and Risk Behaviors Among Persons Active in the New York City House Ball Community". Abstract #: T3-B0501

12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. Boston, MA, February 2005.

1. Murrill C, Beatty M, Raj-Singh S, Buckley L, Gurtman A, Jones S, Liu KL, and Torian L.
Self-reported Sexual Risk Behaviors among HIV-infected Patients Attending 4 New York City HIV Clinics. Abstract no. 976.

You can also view the publications, conference abstracts and posters in our website with the following links.

Conference Abstracts

http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/dires/epi_abstracts.shtml

Conference Posters and Presentations:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/dires/epi_posters.shtml

Published Articles & Book Chapters:

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Research Unit, HIV Epidemiology & Field Services Program
Bureau of HIV Prevention and Control, NYC DOHMH

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