

The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS is collaborating with the University of Miami and the CDC to conduct National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) in South Florida. NHBS involves a repeated, cross-sectional survey of populations at high risk for HIV infection: men who have sex with men (MSM), injection drug users (IDU), and heterosexuals at risk for HIV infection (HET). NHBS activities are implemented in one-year cycles so that data are collected from each risk group every three years; these study cycles are referred to as NHBS-MSM, NHBS-IDU, and NHBS-HET. Individuals who consent to participate undergo an anonymous interview and are paid for their time. NHBS is conducted in over 20 US metropolitan statistical areas with high AIDS prevalence rates. The overarching goal of NHBS is to help evaluate and direct local and national prevention efforts.

The first cycle of data collection (July 2004 – April 2005) focused on MSM. Venue-based, time-space sampling was used to recruit a sample of 1,540 MSM in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Consenting participants completed an anonymous interview consisting of the core NHBS questionnaire and a local questionnaire tailored to South Florida. The Miami-Dade County site was able to implement a rapid HIV testing component, which included the serologic testing algorithm for recent HIV seroconversion (STARHS).

◆ **Eligibility and Analytic Criteria**

- Eligibility was limited to persons who reported being male or transgender and born male; residence in Miami-Dade, Broward, or Palm Beach counties; being 18 years of age or older; not previously participating in NHBS-MSM; and being able to complete the interview in English or Spanish.
- Analyses were limited to MSM (self-reporting oral or anal sex with a male in the past 12 months).

◆ **Broward County**

- Started January 2004, ended June 2004 (50 venues sampled)
- 747 completed surveys (698 MSM surveys)

◆ **Miami-Dade County**

- Started July 2004, ended April 2005 (46 venues sampled)
- 1,015 completed surveys (842 MSM surveys)

◆ **Miami-Dade County Surveys with HIV Testing**

- Started December 2004, ended April 2005
- 312 completed surveys (258 MSM surveys) with blood samples

◆ **Demographic Characteristics of the MSM Sample**

- The median age was 36 years (range: 18-81 years)
- 48% were white, 35% Hispanic, 12% black, and 5% other
- 6% had less than a high school education, 16% had a high school degree or GED, 30% had some college education, and 49% were college graduates/postgraduates
- The majority (81%) self-identified as gay
- About 1/5 met depression criteria (according to the CES-D 10 scale)
- 16% self-reported being HIV positive

◆ **HIV Prevalence — HIV Testing Data from Miami-Dade County (N = 258)**

- 54 (21%) tested HIV positive
- The median age for HIV+s was 34.5 years
- 29 (20%) of the 148 Hispanic MSM were HIV+, 10 (18%) of the 57 white MSM were HIV+, 10 (25%) of the 40 black MSM were HIV+, and 5 (39%) of the 13 other MSM were HIV+
- Of those who tested HIV+, 8 (15%) were recent infections (based on STARHS results)
- Of those who tested HIV+, 29 (55%) were previously aware of their HIV+ status

National HIV Behavioral Surveillance Among Men Who Have Sex with Men (NHBS-MSM)

◆ **Health Care Experiences**

- Almost all MSM have seen a health care provider in past 12 months
- Of those who saw a health care provider, less than half received a recommendation from the provider to get an HIV test
- Of the HIV+s, almost all have seen an HIV provider in the past 12 months, and the majority have taken antiretrovirals

◆ **Sexual Risk Behaviors**

- Almost 1/5 of MSM reported having sex with both men and women
- The majority of MSM had more than one sexual partner in the past 12 months
- Over 1/4 of MSM reported having more than ten sexual partners in the past 12 months

◆ **Knowledge of Sex Partners' Serostatus**

- Of the 1,030 MSM with a main partner, 15% did not know the serostatus of their main partner at last sex act
- Of the 1,165 MSM with a non-main partner, 64% did not know the serostatus of their non-main partner at last sex act

◆ **Main Partner: Sexual Risk Behavior with Most Recent Sex Partner**

- Nearly 1/2 of MSM reported having unprotected anal sex with a main partner
- Almost 1/5 of HIV+ MSM reported having unprotected insertive anal sex with a main partner
- Almost 1/5 of HIV- MSM reported having unprotected receptive anal sex with a main partner

◆ **Non-Main Partner: Sexual Risk Behavior with Most Recent Sex Partner**

- Almost 1/5 of MSM reported having unprotected anal sex with a non-main partner
- Few HIV- MSM report having unprotected receptive anal sex with a non-main partner

◆ **HIV Testing Experiences — Lifetime**

- Nearly all MSM (94%) have tested for HIV in their lifetime

◆ **HIV Testing Experiences — Past 12 Months**

- Over 2/3 (70%) of MSM tested for HIV in the past 12 months*
- The most frequently reported facilities administering participants' most recent HIV test include private doctor's offices, public health clinics, HIV counseling and testing programs, and HIV/AIDS street outreach programs
- The most frequently reported reasons for not seeking an HIV test in the past 12 months include perceived low risk for HIV infection, fear of an HIV-positive diagnosis, and not having time

◆ **Drugs Used in Past 12 Months**

- Over 1/3 of the sample reported marijuana use
- High rates (around 1/5 of sample) of use of amphetamines, cocaine, ecstasy, and poppers (amyl nitrates)
- Low use of opiates

* Analysis excludes persons diagnosed with HIV over 12 months ago

For additional information about NHBS in Florida, contact Dano Beck, MSW, or Marlene LaLota, MPH, at (850) 245-4336 or visit our website at www.FloridaAIDS.org.