

The Florida Department of Health, HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis Program in partnership with the University of Miami and the CDC continues to conduct National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) in Miami-Dade, 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 second round of data collection with IDUs occurred July – November 2009. Respondent-driven sampling (respondents refer their IDU associates, friends, etc.) was used to recruit 963 IDUs in Miami-Dade County, of whom 608 were eligible for participation. Consenting participants completed an anonymous interview consisting of the core NHBS questionnaire and a local questionnaire tailored to Miami-Dade, Florida. NHBS-IDU2 participants were offered anonymous HIV counseling and testing, as well as referrals to psychosocial and healthcare services.

◆ **IDU2 Sample**

- 608 completed the questionnaire and testing for HIV infection
- Eligibility was limited to persons who reported injecting non-prescription drugs in the past 12 months; had physical evidence of recent injection (e.g., fresh track marks, abscesses) or knowledge of injection practices; reported residence in Miami-Dade county; reported being 18 years of age or older; were male or female (not transgender); did not report previous participation in the NHBS-IDU2 study cycle; and were alert and able to complete the questionnaire in English or Spanish

◆ **Demographic Characteristics of the Sample (excludes self-reported HIV positives, N=544)**

- The mean age was 46 years; 52% of sample were between the ages of 30 – 49 yrs
- 20% were white, 36% black, 42% Hispanic, and 2% other
- 78% male and 22% female
- 42% self-reported hepatitis C (HCV) infection
- 82% identified as heterosexual, 17% identified as bisexual
- 75% met depression criteria (according to CES-D 10)
- More than 3/4 (77%) were without health insurance
- Nearly half (49%) were homeless in past 12 months
- Over half (59%) were incarcerated in past 12 months
- Nearly 2/3 (64%) have at least a high school education
- 2/5 (42%) had annual income under \$5,000

◆ **Characteristics of Injection Drug Use**

- 88% reported injecting for over 5 years; median years of injection is 24
- Nearly 1/2 (49%) of cocaine injectors reported injecting cocaine more than once a week
- Nearly 2/3 (60%) of crack injectors reported injecting crack more than once a week

◆ **Types of Drugs Injected in Past 12 Months**

- The vast majority (97%) reported heroin injection
- Nearly 3/4 (70%) reported speedball (heroin and cocaine together) injection
- Half (50%) reported cocaine injection; nearly 1/3 (31%) reported crack injection
- 15% reported Oxycontin® (oxycodone) injection
- 4% reported amphetamine (Crystal, Speed, Crank, etc.) injection

◆ **Injection Risk Behaviors in Past 12 Months**

- 2/3 (67%) reported sharing syringes or injection equipment
 - Higher among younger IDUs (age 18 – 29)(83%)
- Nearly 1/2 (46%) reported sharing syringes in the past 12 months
- 2/3 (65%) reported sharing other injection equipment in the past 12 months

◆ **Sexual Risk Behaviors – Men***

- Over 2/3 (69%) reported unprotected vaginal sex with a female partner
- Over 1/3 (36%) reported unprotected anal sex with a female partner
- 11% reported unprotected anal sex with a male partner
- 9% reported unprotected vaginal or anal sex with both a male and female partner

◆ **Sexual Risk Behaviors – Women***

- Over 3/4 (79%) reported unprotected vaginal sex with a male partner
- 1/4 (26%) reported unprotected anal sex with a male partner

◆ **HIV Seroprevalence**

- 1/7 (14%) tested HIV positive (11% males; 21% females)
- 1/4 (27%) who tested positive were unaware of their HIV status (26% males; 27% females)
- 10% self-reported as HIV positive (N=608)

◆ **HIV Testing**

- 9/10 (90%) have tested for HIV in their lifetimes
- More than half (52%) have tested for HIV in the past 12 months**
- The most frequently reported facilities administering participants' most recent HIV test include correctional facilities (28%), outreach programs (14%), and hospitals (14%)

◆ **HCV Testing**

- About 1/4 (28%) reported testing for HCV in their lifetime
- 1/8 (12%) reported testing for HCV in the past 12 months

◆ **Receipt of Prevention Services in Past 12 Months & Healthcare Experiences**

- 1/3 (34%) reported receiving free condoms
- Only 3% reported receiving an individual-level intervention
- Only 2% reported participation in a group-level intervention
- Half (55%) reported visiting a healthcare provider in the past 12 months; of these, half (51%) were offered an HIV test
- Of the participants who self-reported being HIV positive, half (54%) reported currently taking HIV medication

◆ **History of Substance Abuse Treatment**

- Nearly 1/3 (30%) report never participating in substance abuse treatment in lifetime
- Nearly 1/2 (48%) report participating in substance abuse treatment in lifetime
- 1/5 (21%) report participating in substance abuse treatment in past 12 months

◆ **Beliefs on How HIV Can Be Transmitted**

Participants received the following list and stated whether or not they believed that each item represents a means by which HIV can be spread. The percentages represent "yes" responses.

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|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Sharing needles/syringes to inject drugs (100%) | • Receiving a blood transfusion (89%) | • Food (4%) |
| • Vaginal sex (99%) | • Donating blood (75%) | • Drinking fountains (3%) |
| • Anal sex (98%) | • Mosquitoes (31%) | |
| • Oral sex (91%) | • Using public toilets (10%) | |

* includes main, casual and exchange (money, drugs, etc.) partners

** excludes persons diagnosed with HIV infection over 12 months ago