



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 rotating cycles so that data are collected from each risk group approximately once 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 first three cycles of data collection were conducted in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. The overarching goal of NHBS is to help evaluate and direct local and national prevention efforts.

Eligibility Criteria: Eligibility for each NHBS cycle listed below was limited to persons who reported residence in Miami-Dade, Broward, or Palm Beach counties; being between 18-50 years of age; not previously participating in the NHBS cycle; and the ability to complete the interview in English or Spanish.

NHBS-MSM: The first cycle of data collection (July 2004 – April 2005) focused on MSM. Venue-based sampling was used to recruit a sample of 1,540 MSM in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Staff was able to collect HIV testing data from a subsample of 258 MSM in Miami-Dade County. Eligibility for this study cycle was limited to men; analyses were limited to men who self-reported oral or anal sex with a male in the past 12 months.

NHBS-IDU: The second cycle of data collection (May 2005 – February 2006) focused on IDUs. Respondent-driven sampling (respondents refer others to participate) was used to recruit 934 IDUs in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. HIV testing was not included as a part of this study cycle, but was offered to participants upon completion of their interview. Eligibility for this study cycle was limited to persons who reported injecting non-prescription drugs in the past 12 months and had physical evidence of recent injection (e.g., fresh track marks, abscesses) or knowledge of injection practices.

NHBS-HET: The third cycle of data collection (January - October 2007) focused on heterosexuals at risk for HIV infection. For this cycle, CDC defined a heterosexual at risk for HIV infection as an adult with (1) a physical or social connection to a high-risk area and (2) at least one opposite-sex partner in the past year. High-risk areas were defined as geographic areas with high rates of heterosexually-acquired HIV and poverty. To identify these areas, staff used U.S. Census Bureau poverty data and Florida DOH HIV/AIDS case data. Within the selected high-risk areas, staff used venue-based sampling to obtain a sample of 1,224 eligible participants. While the research team conducted sampling in areas known to have high HIV/AIDS prevalence rates, staff did not target high-risk venues within these areas. The vast majority of the randomly selected venues from which participants were recruited (e.g., grocery stores, Laundromats, street venues) represent places people go to conduct common activities. Staff collected HIV testing data from participants in both counties (N=1,222). Eligibility for this study cycle was limited to persons who reported having vaginal or anal sex with a member of the opposite sex in the last 12 months.

Table 1. Miami-Dade and Broward County NHBS Findings, Three Risk Populations, 2004-2007

Measure	Population		
	MSM (2004-2005) N=1,540	IDUs (2005-2006) N=934	Heterosexuals (2007) N=1,224
Tested HIV+	21% (Miami serosurvey, N=258)	N/A	8% (7% excluding persons with IDU or MSM risk in lifetime)
Portion of sample with previously undiagnosed HIV infection	10% (Miami serosurvey, N=258)	N/A	4%
Self-reported as HIV+	16%	16%	4%
Tested for HIV in past 12 months*	70%	62%	40%
Top three reasons for not testing in past 12 months	1) Low risk for HIV, 2) afraid of finding out HIV+, 3) didn't have time	1) Low risk for HIV, 2) afraid of finding out HIV+, 3) didn't have time	1) Low risk for HIV, 2) afraid of finding out HIV+, 3) didn't have time
Ever tested for HIV	94%	96%	79%
Received free condoms in past 12 months	84%	56%	21%
Participated in an HIV prevention intervention (ILI or GLI) in past 12 months [†]	18%	14%	4%
Had unprotected sex at last sex act [§]	50%	67%	70%
Reused needle/syringe at last injection	--	29%	--
Reused injection equipment (e.g., cookers, cottons, water) at last injection	--	52%	--
Received free sterile syringes in past 12 months	--	3%	--
Received free sterile injection equipment in past 12 months	--	2%	--
Used crystal methamphetamine in past 12 months	18% (Subsample, N=946)	8%	--
Used crack or cocaine in past 12 months	15%	73%	28%
Participated in drug treatment in past 12 months	9% (Crystal meth users, N=175)	35%	11% (Crack or cocaine users, N=344)
Ever participated in drug treatment	18% (Crystal meth users, N=175)	69%	51% (Crack or cocaine users, N=344)

* Analysis excludes persons diagnosed with HIV over 12 months ago.

[†] ILI, individual-level intervention: a one-on-one conversation with an outreach worker, counselor, or prevention program worker about preventing HIV (excluding HIV pre- and post-test counseling sessions); GLI, group-level intervention: an organized session involving a small group of people to discuss ways to prevent HIV.

[§] Unprotected sex: vaginal or anal sex without the use of a condom during the entire act.