

# Heterosexuals at Increased Risk of HIV Infection in Miami-Dade: NHBS-HET2 Cycle Preliminary Results

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# National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) Background

- In 2000, CDC and its partners developed an HIV Prevention Strategic Plan with four national goals to reduce new HIV infections
    - Goal 4: By 2005, strengthen the capacity nationwide to monitor the epidemic, develop and implement effective HIV prevention interventions, and evaluate prevention programs
- 
- National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System developed

## NHBS Background (cont.)

- First funded by CDC in 2002
- In metropolitan areas with high AIDS prevalence
- Eligible: states & directly funded cities

# Current NHBS Sites



# NHBS Objectives

"Effective HIV prevention programs rely primarily on changing behavior; therefore, behavioral data are needed to inform these programs." [1]

- NHBS provides data on trends in
  - Risk behaviors
  - HIV testing behaviors
  - Use and impact of prevention services
  - HIV prevalence and incidence

[1] Lansky A, Abdul-Quader AS, Cribbin M, et al. Developing an HIV behavioral surveillance system for injecting drug users: the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System. *Public Health Reports* 2007; 122(suppl 1):48-55.

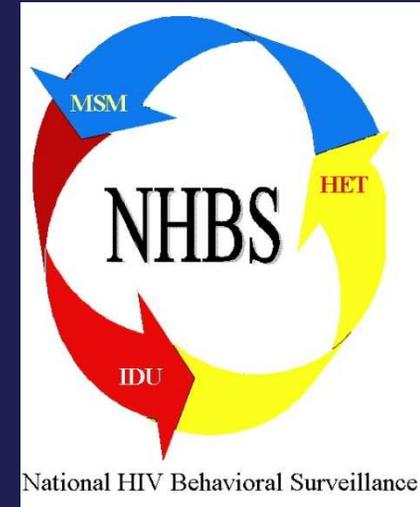
# Population

- Persons at high risk for HIV infection
  - Men who have sex with men (MSM)
  - Injection drug users (IDU)
  - Heterosexuals at increased risk of HIV infection (HET)
- Metropolitan Statistical Area residents
  - Miami-Dade County

Sample size: 500 from each cycle

# Overall Strategy

- Conducted in 12-month cycles
  - One group per cycle (MSM, IDU, HET)
  - Different sampling methods per cycle/group
  - Formative research done for each cycle
  - Same populations and MSA over time
- Core Questionnaire
- Consistent eligibility criteria
  - 18 years of age or older
  - Resident of MSA



# Data Collection

- MSM study cycle (NHBS-MSM)
  - Venue-day-time-space sampling (VDTS)
    - Participants in randomly selected venues are systematically recruited and interviewed
- IDU study cycle (NHBS-IDU)
  - Respondent-driven sampling (RDS)
    - Participants recruit each other from within their networks
- HET study cycle (NHBS-HET)
  - Venue-based sampling (HET1)
  - Respondent-driven sampling (HET2 ->)

# Data Collection

- Questionnaire
  - Core Questionnaire
    - Behavioral risks for HIV, HIV testing, exposure to/use of prevention services
  - Local Questionnaire
    - Any other local topics
    - Awareness/use of specific prevention programs

# Assessing Characteristics of Population X In ON-going surveillance

The logo for ACXION is centered on a rectangular background with a vertical gradient from yellow at the top to blue at the bottom. The text 'ACXION' is rendered in a bold, metallic, 3D-style font with a yellow-to-orange gradient and a glowing effect. The 'X' is significantly larger and more prominent than the other letters.

ACXION

# Interviewing Van



# Behavioral Surveillance Among Heterosexuals at Increased Risk for HIV Infection

- Targets heterosexuals who have low SES (defined as having an income that is not above HHS poverty guidelines, or whose educational attainment is not greater than high school)
- Poverty data examined by area
  - 2000 census poverty data by census tract
- Poverty data analyzed to produce standardized rates by census tract
- Census tracts with high rate of poverty determined “high-risk areas” (HRAs)
- “Seeds” for initial RDS recruitment chosen from these HRAs

# NHBS-HET2 Eligibility Criteria

- 18-60 years of age
- Lives in Miami-Dade County
- Male or female (not transgender)
- Reports vaginal or anal sex with a person of the opposite sex in the past 12 months
- Able to complete interview in English or Spanish
- Not a previous NHBS-HET participant within same cycle

# NHBS-HET2 Sample

- Started: July 2010
- Ended: Nov 2010
- Eligible participants interviewed: 577
- Eligible participants tested for HIV: 576

\*Results are preliminary

# NHBS-HET2 Demographic Characteristics

N=537\*

- Mean age: 39 years
- 58% male, 42% female
- Hispanic 23%
- Black 74%
- White 3%
- Other <1%

\* Excludes self-reported HIV positive

## Characteristics of HET2 Sample

- 82% identify as heterosexual, 17% as bisexual
- 2/3 (63%) without health insurance at time of interview
- Half (52%) have annual income under \$5,000
- 1/3 (38%) have less than high school education
- 52% depressed (according to CES-D 10)
- 1/4 (25%) incarcerated in past 12 months
- 48% used marijuana, 30% used cocaine and 17% used crack in past 12 months
- 5% self-reported being hepatitis C positive
- 1/4 (25%) were currently homeless

## HIV Seroprevalence – HET2

- 1 in 12 (8.7%) participants tested HIV positive
  - 6.2% of males
  - 11.8% of females
- 1 in 3 (36%) participants who tested HIV positive did not know they were HIV positive
  - 55% of males
  - 24% of females

# HIV Seroprevalence – HET2

- Of participants reporting heterosexual risk behavior only (N=466)\* , 1 in 13 (7.5%) tested HIV positive
  - 4% of males
  - 11% of females

\* Analysis excludes persons reporting IDU or MSM risk behavior (ever)

## HIV Seroprevalence – HET2 (cont.)

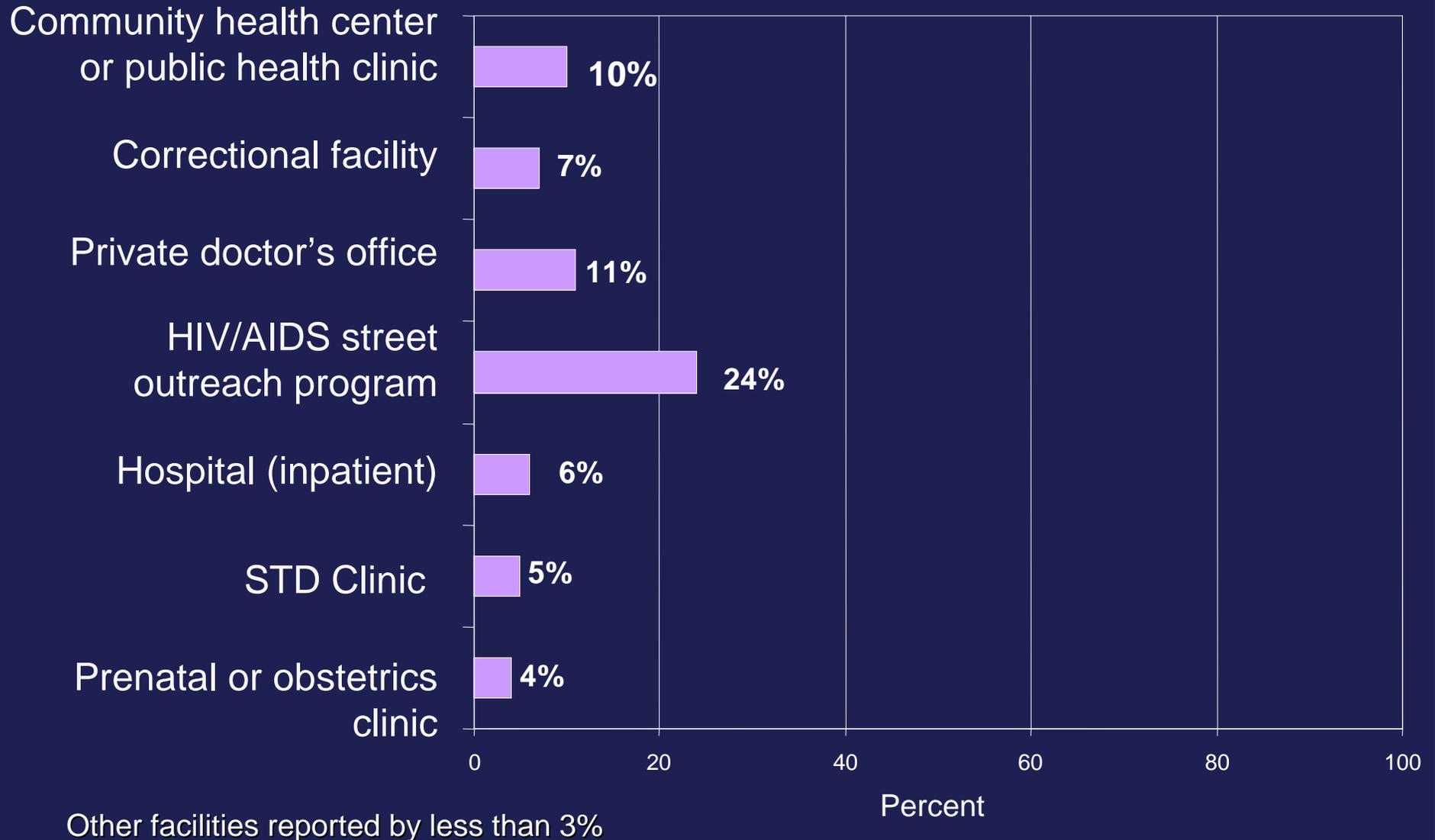
- Variables associated with an HIV positive test result:
  - Homelessness
  - Hepatitis C positive
  - Crack use in the past 12 months

# HIV Testing - HET2

- 4/5 (83%) have tested for HIV in their lifetime
- 41%\* tested for HIV in the past 12 months
  - Variables associated with not testing for HIV in the past 12 months:
    - Hispanic ethnicity
  - Variables associated with testing for HIV in the past 12 months:
    - Female
    - Ages 23-29
    - Alcohol or drug treatment in past 12 months
    - Injection drug use
    - Having health insurance
    - Higher income

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

# Facility Administering Most Recent HIV Test in Past 12 Months – HET2 (N=383)



# Healthcare Experiences – HET2

- Half (53%) of the sample visited a healthcare provider in the past 12 months
  - Of those who saw a healthcare provider\*, 45% were offered an HIV test
- Of the participants who self-reported being HIV positive, almost 2/3 (60%) reported currently taking HIV medication

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

## Sexual Risk Behaviors in Past 12 Months – HET2 - Males

- Nearly 2/3 (61%) reported unprotected vaginal or anal sex with a main partner\*
- Almost half (46%) reported unprotected vaginal or anal sex with a casual partner\*\*
- 1/4 (25%) reported unprotected vaginal or anal sex with an exchange partner\*\*\*

\* Someone you have sex with and who you feel committed to above anyone else (e.g., girlfriend/boyfriend, wife/husband, significant other, life partner)

\*\* Someone you have sex with but do not feel committed to or don't know very well

\*\*\* Someone you have sex with in exchange for things like money or drugs

## Sexual Risk Behaviors in Past 12 Months – HET2 - Males (cont.)

- Over 3/4 (78%) reported more than 1 sex partner
- 12% reported unprotected vaginal or anal sex with male and female partners
  - 9% among black men
  - 20% among Hispanic men

## Sexual Risk Behaviors in Past 12 Months – HET2 - Females

- 3/4 (74%) reported unprotected vaginal or anal sex with a main partner\*
- 1/4 (26%) reported unprotected vaginal or anal sex with a casual partner\*\*
- 16% reported unprotected vaginal or anal sex with an exchange partner\*\*\*
- 2/3 (63%) reported more than 1 sex partner

\* Someone you have sex with and who you feel committed to above anyone else (e.g., girlfriend/boyfriend, wife/husband, significant other, life partner)

\*\* Someone you have sex with but do not feel committed to or don't know very well

\*\*\* Someone you have sex with in exchange for things like money or drugs

# Alcohol and Drug Use – HET2 (N=537)

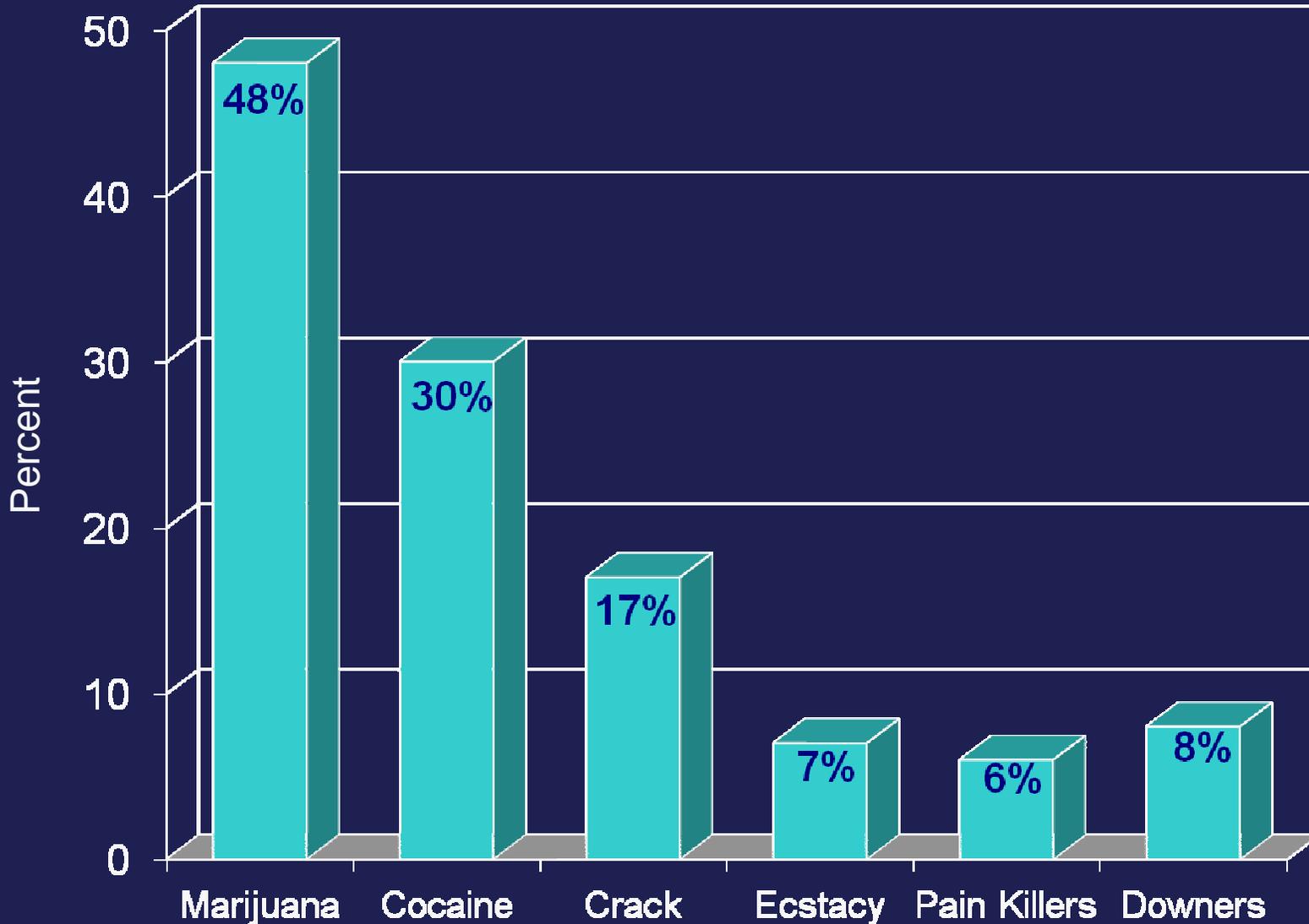
- Almost half (48%) reported marijuana use
- 30% reported cocaine and 17% reported crack use
- Less than 2% injected drugs in the past 12 months
- 4% reported ever injecting drugs
- Over 2/5 (45%) reported heavy alcohol use\* in the past 30 days
  - 1/2 (52%) of males
  - 1/3 (36%) of females

\*5 or more drinks in one sitting for males; 4 or more drinks in one sitting for females

## Alcohol and Drug Use At Last Sex Act with an Opposite-Sex Partner – HET2

- Half (50%) of the sample used alcohol and/or drugs at last sex act with an opposite sex partner
  - Alcohol use (alone):
    - 29% of males
    - 22% of females
  - Drug use (alone):
    - 10% of males
    - 3% of females
  - Alcohol and drug use:
    - 20% of males
    - 13% of females

## Types of Non-Injection Drugs Used in Past 12 Months – HET2 , N=537

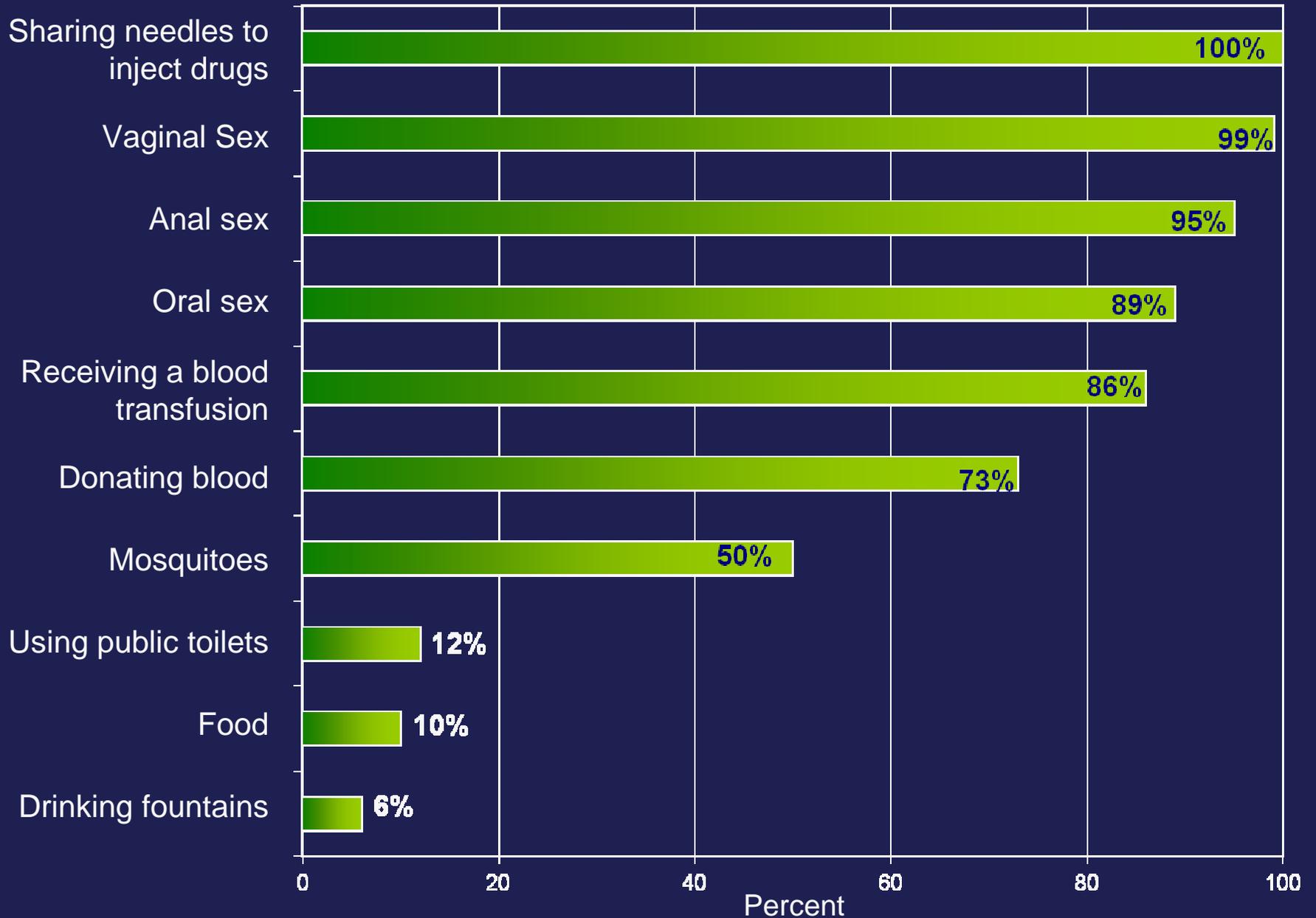


Use of amphetamine, heroin, hallucinogens, club drugs, and poppers reported by less than 5%

## Frequency of Drug Use – HET2 Cocaine or Crack Users

- Of the cocaine users (N=159), nearly 2/3 (62%) reported using cocaine at least once a week
- Of the crack users (N=92), 3/4 (75%) reported using crack at least once a week
  - 8% reported using crack more than once a day

# Beliefs on How HIV Can Be Spread – HET2 (N=537)



# Receipt of Prevention Services in Past 12 Months – HET2

- Over 1/4 (29%) received free condoms
  - 3/5 (60%) of these say they used the free condoms
- Only 2% report participating in an individual-level intervention\*
- Only 2% report participating in a group-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)

\*\*an organized session involving a small group of people to discuss ways to prevent HIV

## **Areas of Concern for Heterosexuals in Miami-Dade County based on NHBS-HET2**

- High HIV seroprevalence: 8.7%
- Large portion with undiagnosed HIV infection: 36%
- Significant rates of unprotected sex with main, casual, and exchange partners
- HIV transmission myths common
- Low receipt of HIV prevention interventions

# Areas of Concern for Heterosexuals in Miami-Dade County based on NHBS-HET2

- Substance abuse, particularly cocaine and crack
- Low use of drug treatment
- High level of depression
- High level of homelessness
- Majority without health insurance
- High level of incarceration

# Recommendations

- Increase HIV testing efforts in areas with high rates of poverty and HIV
- Increase HIV prevention intervention delivery to both HIV negative and HIV positive persons living in areas with high rates of poverty and HIV
- Enhance partnerships to address intersecting HIV and substance abuse epidemics
  - Focus attention on crack and cocaine problem
- Ensure strong linkage systems to psychosocial and healthcare services

# Limitations

- Data are preliminary
- Data are predominantly self-reported and subject to recall bias
- Data are cross sectional and time order cannot be established
- Findings can only be generalized to the population meeting eligibility criteria who were recruited by RDS methods

# NHBS Website

- Visit [www.FloridaAIDS.org](http://www.FloridaAIDS.org)
  - Scroll down to Prevention link
  - Then follow NHBS link
- NHBS site has links to publications, presentations, and fact sheets
  - Local and national findings
  - Categorized by population (MSM, IDU, HET)

# Contact Information

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