



National HIV Behavioral Surveillance Among Men Who Have Sex with Men (NHBS-MSM3)



The Florida Department of Health, HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis Section in partnership with the University of Miami and the CDC continues to conduct National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) in Miami-Dade County, Florida. NHBS involves a repeated, cross-sectional survey and HIV testing 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 third round of data collection among MSM was conducted from July through December 2011 in Miami-Dade County. Venue-day-time-space sampling (VDTS) was used to recruit a sample of 512 MSM. Venues included: dance clubs (37%); bars (14%); sex venues (14%); house/ball events (10%); cafes/restaurants (9%). Consenting participants completed an anonymous interview consisting of the core NHBS questionnaire and a local questionnaire tailored to Miami-Dade County, Florida. Participants were offered anonymous HIV counseling and testing, as well as referrals to psychosocial and healthcare services.

◆ NHBS-MSM3 Eligibility

- Eligibility was limited to persons who reported residence in Miami-Dade County; being male (not transgender); being at least 18 years of age; not previously participating in NHBS-MSM3; and the ability to complete the interview in English or Spanish language. Analysis was limited to men reporting oral or anal sex with another male in the last 12 months.

◆ Demographic Characteristics of the Sample (N=511)

- 2/3 (68%) were Hispanic, 1/5 (18%) were black, 12% were white, and 2% other race/ethnicity
- The mean age was 33 years
- 4/5 (80%) self-identified as gay or homosexual; 1/5 (19%) as bisexual
- Nearly half (47%) were born outside the U.S.; 18% identified Cuba as their country of origin
- Half (50%) were without health insurance at the time of their interview
- 1/3 (33%) reported an annual income under \$20,000
- 1/7 (15%) were unemployed at the time of the interview
- 1/3 (34%) were depressed (CES-D 10 scale)
- 1/4 (25%) graduated high school or GED; 1/4 (27%) have at least an undergraduate degree
- 7% were incarcerated in the past 12 months
- 96% have never been homeless

◆ HIV Prevalence and Undiagnosed Infection

- Nearly 1/4 (22%) tested HIV positive. Of these, 1/3 (32%) were unaware of their infection
- HIV positivity rates across racial/ethnic groups and knowledge of infection varied:
 - 28% of black MSM tested HIV positive; 50% were unaware of their infection
 - 20% of Hispanic MSM tested HIV positive; 29% were unaware of their infection
 - 20% of white MSM tested HIV positive; 8% were unaware of their infection

◆ HIV Testing Behaviors

- Nearly all (92%) have tested for HIV in their lifetime
- 2/3 (64%) tested for HIV in the past 12 months¹
- Variables associated with not testing for HIV in the past 12 months include: age 50 or higher

◆ Receipt of Prevention Services in the Past 12 Months

- The majority (69%) received free condoms from an HIV prevention provider or MSM venue
 - Of these, 4/5 (81%) reported using the condoms
- 14% reported participation in an individual-level intervention²
- 4% reported participation in a group-level intervention³

- ◆ **Sexual Risk Behaviors in the Past 12 Months among those of self-reported HIV negative or unknown status (N=429)**
 - Of men who had anal sex with a male partner (n=394), the majority (66%) had unprotected anal sex at least once
 - 4/5 (83%) had more than one male sex partner
 - 1/6 (17%) had more than 10 male sex partners
 - 1/7 (14%) had sex with men and women in the past 12 months
 - 1/4 (25%) of black MSM, 1/8 (12%) of Hispanic MSM, and 7% of white MSM
- ◆ **Sexual Risk Behaviors (self-reported HIV negative or unknown status): Main Male Partners⁴**
 - Nearly 2/3 (61%) had a main male partner in the past 12 months
 - Of the MSM with a main male partner (n=261), 2/3 (67%) had unprotected anal sex with a main partner in the past 12 months
 - Of those reporting sex with a main male partner at last sex act (n=106), over 1/4 (29%) reported not knowing the partner's HIV status
- ◆ **Sexual Risk Behaviors (self-reported HIV negative or unknown status): Non-Main Male Partners⁵**
 - 4/5 (84%) had a non-main male partner in the past 12 months
 - Of the MSM with a non-main male partner (n=360), over 1/3 (36%) had unprotected anal sex with a non-main partner in the past 12 months
 - Of those reporting sex with a non-main male partner at last sex act (n=249), 2/3 (67%) reported not knowing the partner's HIV status
- ◆ **Sexual Risk Behaviors: Potentially Serodiscordant Male Partners**
 - Of those who self-reported as HIV positive (n=82), 1/2 (52%) reported having unprotected anal sex with a male partner of HIV negative or unknown status in the past 12 months
 - Of those who self-reported as HIV negative (n=370), 3% reported having unprotected anal sex with an HIV positive male partner in the past 12 months
- ◆ **STI Testing in the Past 12 Months (N=507)⁸**
 - Syphilis – tested: 40%; tested positive: 4%
 - Gonorrhea – tested: 39%; tested positive: 4%
 - Chlamydia – tested: 37%; tested positive: 2%
- ◆ **Syphilis Testing and Infection among HIV negative and HIV positive MSM⁸**
 - Tested for Syphilis in the past 12 months:
 - 33% (129/390) of HIV negative MSM; 62% (70/113) of HIV positive MSM
 - Tested positive for Syphilis in the past 12 months (p=0.18):
 - 3% (11/390) of HIV negative MSM; 5% (6/113) of HIV positive MSM
- ◆ **Alcohol and Drug Use in the Past 12 Months**
 - Nearly 2/3 (60%) reported heavy drinking⁶; nearly 1/2 (44%) reported binge drinking⁷
 - Non-injection drug use was common: marijuana (42%), cocaine (24%), Ecstasy (16%), downers (i.e., Xanax, Valium) (9%), amphetamines (i.e., crystal, speed) (7%)

¹ Analysis excludes persons diagnosed with HIV over 12 months ago

² An individual-level intervention is defined as 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)

³ A group-level intervention is defined as an organized session involving a small group of people to discuss ways to prevent HIV

⁴ A main partner is defined as a sex partner to whom one feels committed to above anyone else (e.g., boyfriend, life partner)

⁵ A non-main partner is defined as either a casual sex partner to whom one does not feel committed or know very well

⁶ Heavy drinking is defined as having five or more alcoholic drinks in one sitting in the past 12 months

⁷ Binge drinking is defined as having five or more alcoholic drinks in one sitting at least once a month in the past 12 months

⁸ Syphilis, gonorrhea and Chlamydia testing and infection based on self-report; HIV serostatus based on HIV test result

For additional information about NHBS in Florida, contact John-Mark Schacht, Project Coordinator or Marlene LaLota, M.P.H., Principal Investigator at (850) 245-4336, or visit our website: preventhivflorida.org