



Describe the substance use experiences of HIV-positive young Black men who have sex with men (MSM) between the ages of 13-24 in San Francisco

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INTRODUCTION

The prevalence of HIV among young Black men who have sex with men (MSM) is three to five times higher than white MSM. In addition, young Black MSM have had a 40% increase in incidence of HIV infections between 2005-2009 being three times the general population in the developing world.

Previous research studies also show that young men who inject or crack cocaine, marijuana and alcohol, or sharing needles and syringes are strongly associated with HIV infection among young MSM.

OBJECTIVES

The goal of this study is to offer insight into the range of factors and attitudes surrounding the use of substances among young Black MSM. The study will also contribute to the understanding of substance use patterns among young Black MSM who are HIV positive.

OBJECTIVES

1. Recruitment from: CDCs and ASO in SF
 - Bay Area Promote
 - Latin Street Youth Services

Participant demographics
 n=44 (originally from North Carolina, Ohio, Richmond, East Bay)

Age: 18-24
 3 - HS education, 1 - Some College
 3 - Unemployed/looking for job
 1 - Working Part time

HIV diagnosis date
 April 2007 - November 2012
 Sex initiation age 13-18
 Drug initiation as young as age 17

METHODS

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

- 1) Initial need through of all participants and verified with audio recording
- 2) Open coding - general content analysis line-by-line, chunk-by-chunk
- 3) Refining of codes collecting
- 4) Selecting factors emerging
- 5) Categories developed
- 6) Consensus about them
- 7) Member verification

FINDINGS - THEMES

2 general trajectory - shared themes

Theme 1 - "WANT TO GET HIV POSITIVE"
 All participants think or are about to get some form of HIV. They talk about HIV being infectious, passing through blood, sperm, or in addition, there is a real scary moment in drug use and sex in the family.

Theme 2 - "WANT TO GET HIV POSITIVE"
 All participants think or are about to get some form of HIV. They talk about HIV being infectious, passing through blood, sperm, or in addition, there is a real scary moment in drug use and sex in the family.

Theme 3 - "WANT TO GET HIV POSITIVE"
 All participants think or are about to get some form of HIV. They talk about HIV being infectious, passing through blood, sperm, or in addition, there is a real scary moment in drug use and sex in the family.

Theme 4 - "WANT TO GET HIV POSITIVE"
 All participants think or are about to get some form of HIV. They talk about HIV being infectious, passing through blood, sperm, or in addition, there is a real scary moment in drug use and sex in the family.

LIMITATIONS

- Small purposive sample size
- Limited age range of participants
- Only done with HIV positive young Black MSM in San Francisco
- All participants recruited from community-based organizations

SUMMARY - CONCLUSIONS

Surprisingly, the results of this study do not draw the same conclusions as previously cited studies with HIV-positive young Black MSM to other cities. It appears that the high exposure, prevalence, and incidence of methamphetamine in San Francisco among the predominantly white MSM population reached an extent of these young Black men. For a follow-up to this study, it would need to be important to look out the rest of the older men who are the "trucks and jets" since it is likely that older white MSM would be in a position to afford drug use to offer these young men money to engage in sex.

Other core study findings:
 -> HIV Disclosure education
 -> Relationship building
 -> Creating new partnerships with CDCs and ASOs
 -> Working with HIV physician on future projects
 -> Comparative analysis of other young MSM groups

ULTIMATE GOAL: Be involved in developing educational programs with targeted prevention messages specifically tailored to the young Black MSM community that address the substance use risks encountered in San Francisco.

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