

Project STYLE Program Updates



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SPNS YMSM of Color All-Grantees Meeting

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Agenda

- Program activity updates
- Project local multi-site data analyses
- Next steps



Program Highlights

- Ongoing community outreach and testing events
- Increased focus on reaching Latino MSM



Ongoing HIV Testing Events

- La Fiesta Del Pueblo- 48 tested
- Nuestra Feria De Salud- 96 tested
- NLAAD at NC State- 15 tested
- NC Central- 197
- Visions Nightclub- 35
- UNC-Chapel Hill World AIDS Day- 165





Demographic Analysis (N=59)

- Mean age 20.6
- 88% Black, 12% Latino
- 64% identify as homosexual/gay, 19% as bisexual, 17% as “other”
- 92% report being either comfortable or very comfortable with their sexual orientation



Disclosure of HIV Status

- 58% disclosed to their mother, 32% to their father
- 42% disclosed to their sister, 30% to their brother
- 59% disclosed to their friends, 49% to their steady boyfriends, and 31% to their sex partners



Sexual Risk Behaviors

- At LAST sexual encounter:
 - 71% engaged in unprotected insertive oral sex
 - 65% engaged in unprotected receptive oral sex
 - 22% engaged in unprotected insertive anal sex
 - 25% engaged in unprotected receptive anal sex



HIV Testing Behaviors and Mental Health

- Mean number of times tested for HIV 4.6 (range 1-40)
- Most frequently cited reason for getting tested (for test that was positive)- “I was sick” 34%
- Mean CES-D Score: 16.34 > 16 (score indicating possible depression)



Intriguing Emerging Qualitative Themes

- Significance of female support
- The “Obama Effect”



What are the primary support networks in your life?

Um, my grandmother... 'Cause I feel like primary support in unconditional regardless. So no matter what it's...that ain't gon' change. You can say I'm gonna lose a finger and that ain't gon' change. You know what I'm saying, so that's why I say my grandmother.

(23 y/o BMSM)



Importance of Female Caregivers

[my grandmother] has never once said nothing out the way. Umm she respects my privacy you know as far as my status is concerned and even, like I said when I gave ya'll her number to talk to her and her and her only, because she don't never say nothing about it. You know she ask me if I'm feeling OK, but that's what that is you know what I'm saying. And so in that you know that's where it all lies. (23 y/o BMSM)



Who are the most important influences in your life?

R: my mother...my grandmother.

I: And how do they influence you?

R: Influencing me to see the doctor and keep my health up, as far as working, as far as being independent, maintain an equal balance of life.

I: what are the primary support networks in your life?

R: I don't have any besides my mother.

(20 y/o BMSM)



The Obama Effect

- What is the impact of Obama's election to the presidency on young Black men?
- Conversation emerged from qualitative interviews
- Further exploration of this issue is needed





The Obama Effect

“Now the thing is our president might just be African-American so anything is very well possible.”

21 y/o BMSM

“ I mean, there’s no black person that is out here that cannot be anybody. We’re now going into a new year and we have a black president so there is nothing...there is no Black person in America who can say...there is no excuse.

19 y/o BMSM



The Obama Effect

“I remember being in school in 92-93, I had a white teacher that told me we would never have a black president. So in the next year election of having a black president if I don't get nothing else I'm gonna get a degree.”

22 y/o BMSM



The Obama Effect

“It says that there is another goal to reach. There is another black role model. Now being a black man is just that, you’re a black man and you have no excuse for why you cannot go further in life.”

20 y/o BMSM



Retention in Care Evaluation

- Review of UNC clinic records pre- and post- SPNS to evaluate both linkage to and retention in clinical care
- Evaluation will include clinical parameters and use of ancillary support services



SNAP: Social Networks and Partnerships

- To date all index negatives (N=30) enrolled; 18 index recent
- (At least) 6 manuscripts in the works
 - Network study methods
 - Coping with HIV diagnosis (mixed methods)
 - Racial network segregation
 - Network description (+ vs -)
 - Risk factors for infection modeling paper (age mixing)
 - Social support, sexual abuse and mental health



Next Steps

- Increased dissemination activities
 - Abstracts submitted to several national and local conferences
 - Preparing manuscripts based on local qualitative and quantitative data
 - “Community Presentations” to provide information to project participants and local partners



Next Steps: Grants

- Two R21's submitted 1/5/09
 - Neurobehavioral profile of acute/recently infected MSM
 - Social networks and venues: identifying novel approaches to HIV prevention among Mexicans in the Southeast
- Identification of new funding sources for program activity sustainability (CDC grant)