

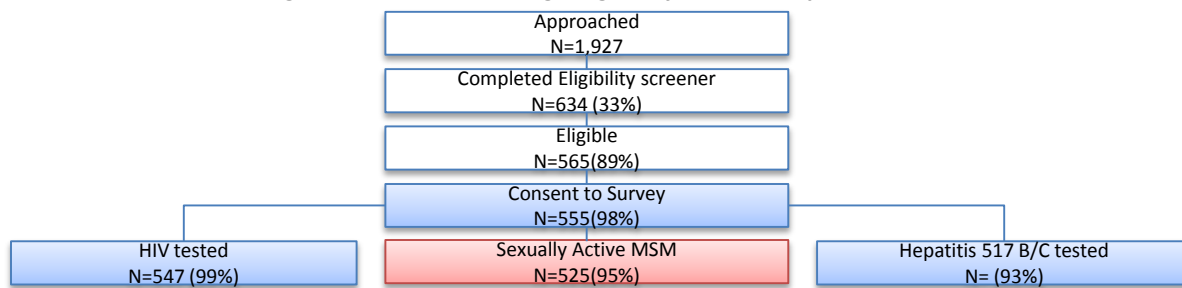
National HIV Behavioral Surveillance among Men Who Have Sex with Men(MSM) NHBS-MSM5, 2017

NHBS is a CDC-funded behavioral surveillance system that has been implemented each year since 2004 in 20 cities nationwide to help state and local health departments monitor HIV risk behaviors among groups at highest risk for HIV infection. NHBS-MSM in Los Angeles County (LAC) is designed to generate estimates that are representative of the overall population of MSM in LAC. In 2017, the LAC Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP) completed the fifth cycle of NHBS among MSM in LAC.

Time location sampling was used to randomly select venue-day-times for participant recruitment. Recruitment venues ranged from bars and dance clubs to social organizations and sex clubs. Participants had to be at least 18 years of age, have had oral or anal sex with another man in their lifetime, have been assigned male sex at birth, self-identify as male, and be a resident of LAC.

Participants completed an interviewer-administered, anonymous standardized questionnaire about HIV-related behaviors. All participants were offered anonymous rapid HIV and standard Hepatitis B and C testing. All testers received HIV counseling and referrals for social and medical services as needed.

Figure 1. NHBS Screening, Eligibility and Participation



Demographics and Other Characteristics

Between July and October 2017, 1,927 men were approached for recruitment. Of the 634 who agreed to be screened, 565 (89%) were eligible and 555 consented to participate in the behavioral survey (see Figure 1). Among the men who consented to the survey, 525(95%) had been sexually active in the previous 12 months. Of these, 47% were under the age of 30, 41% were Latino, 28% were White and 21% were Black. 83% were US-born, 79% reported some college education and 86% had health insurance. 86% identified as homosexual and 14% as bisexual. Most participants were recruited from bars (43%) and dance clubs (25%).

Table 1. HIV Testing History, Sexual Behavior, STD Diagnosis and Knowledge and use of PrEP/PEP

	White (n=148)	Black (n=111)	Latino (n=214)	Total (n=525)
HIV Testing History				
Ever tested	98%	98%	98%	98%
Tested in the past 12 months*	90%	83%	83%	84%
Self-Reported HIV Status				
Positive	15%	26%	14%	11%
Negative	84%	72%	84%	82%
Unknown	1%	2%	2%	2%
Sexual Behavior in the past 12 months				
No. of casual male partners, mean(median)	18(7)	9(4)	12(5)	13(5)
Sex with Females	5%	12%	12%	9%
Condomless anal sex with a male partner	77%	71%	79%	76%
Exchanged sex for drugs/money	7%	11%	7%	8%
STD diagnosis in the past 12 months **				
	24%	28%	25%	25%
Knowledge and Use of PrEP and PEP †				
	n=125	n=82	n=184	n=434
Had heard of PrEP	98%	92%	95%	95%
Had used PrEP in the past 12 months	36%	22%	29%	29%
Used PrEP daily for at least 2 months in a row % (n)	91% (41)	61% (11)	67% (36)	74% (94)
Had used PEP	6%	5%	8%	6%

* Excludes participants who were diagnosed with HIV over a 12 months prior to the interview

** Self-report of diagnosis with any STD by a health-care provider in the 12 months prior to the interview

† Includes only participants who self-reported as HIV-Negative or unknown HIV status

PrEP: Pre-exposure prophylaxis; PEP: Post-exposure prophylaxis.

PrEP use among HIV-Negative/Unknown HIV status: (Table 1)

- 95% had heard of PrEP, 48% had discussed the option of taking PrEP with a health care provider and 29% had used PrEP in the past 12 months.
- Of those who had used PrEP within the past 12 months(n=127), 74% reported having used PrEP daily for at least 2 months in a row.

HIV Prevalence and Sexual Risk Behavior

- HIV prevalence among all MSM was 21% (Table 2). HIV prevalence among Blacks was greater (36%) compared with Whites (15%) and Latinos (18%).
- Median number of casual sexual partners was 4 among Blacks, 5 among Latinos and 7 among Whites. (Table 1)
- 79% of Latinos, 77% of Whites and 71% of Blacks reported condomless anal sex with a male partner.

Table 2. HIV Prevalence, HIV Infection Awareness, Hepatitis B Virus Prevalence, Linkage to Care , Antiretroviral (ARV) Drug Use and Viral Suppression

	HIV Positive	HIV Prevalence	Unaware of HIV infection	No Antibodies to HBV	Linkage to care within 3 months†	Currently on ART‡	Undetectable Viral load £
Total	109	21%	17%	36%	70%	90%	91%
Age¹							
18-29	33	13%	33%	38%	82%	95%	81%
30+	76	28%	11%	35%	66%	88%	95%
Race/Ethnicity²							
White	22	15%	0%	41%	69%	95%	90%
Black	39	36%	26%	34%	72%	86%	83%
Latino	39	18%	23%	35%	77%	93%	100%

Note: The average age of HIV-positive White, Black and Latino MSM was 48, 38 and 37 years respectively.

¹Significant differences between 18-29 years old and 30+ : HIV prevalence (P<.01), unaware of HIV infection(P<.01).

² Significant differences between Blacks vs. Whites and Blacks vs. Latinos : HIV prevalence (P<.0001), unaware of HIV infection(P<.05).

† Includes only participants who reported having previously tested positive for HIV.

£ Self reported result of most recent viral load test among participants currently on ARV and with a viral load test within the previous 12 months.

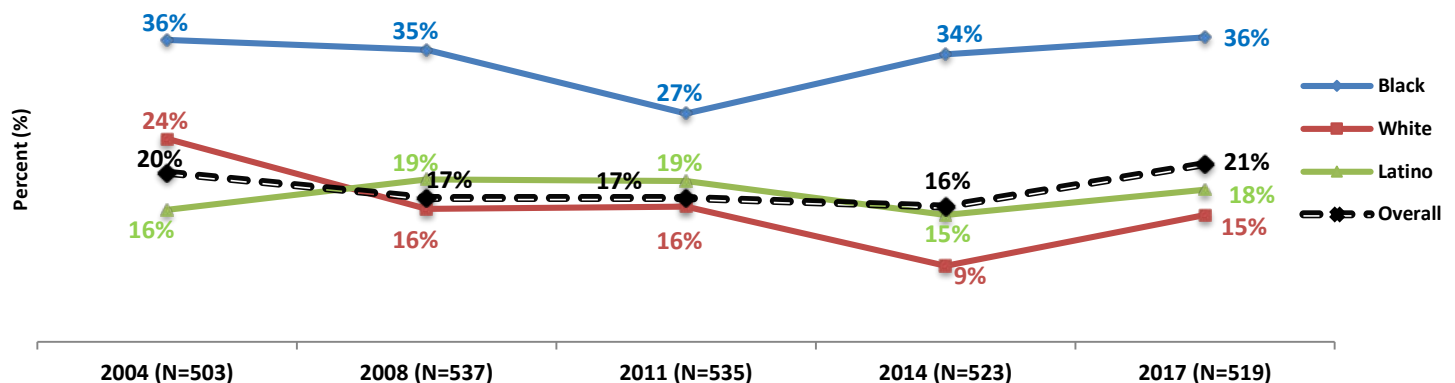
Awareness of HIV-Positive Status: (Table 2)

- At time of interview, 33% of HIV+ 18-29 year-olds compared with 11% 30+ year-olds were unaware they had HIV.
- 26% of HIV+ Black MSM and 23% of HIV+ Latino MSM, compared with 0% of HIV positive White MSM were unaware they had HIV.

Viral Suppression among HIV-Positive MSM (Table 2)

- 90% of previously diagnosed HIV-positives reporting being on antiretroviral therapy (ARTs). Of those, 91% reported they were virally suppressed at their most recent viral load test.

Figure 2. NHBS HIV Prevalence in MSM by Race/Ethnicity, Los Angeles County, 2004-2017



HIV prevalence among Black MSM remains relatively high

- As in previous years, HIV prevalence in 2017 among Black MSM (36%) remains significantly higher than White (15%) and Latino (18%) MSM.

PrEP uptake has increased significantly from 3% in 2014 (data not shown) to 29% in 2017