Geographical Differences, Substance Use, and HIV Risk Among Black Men Who Have Sex with Men

Potential authors: Irene Kuo, Manya Magnus, Christopher Chauncey Watson, other authors

Background: Black men who have sex with men (MSM) are at high risk for HIV infection, yet the role of substance use on HIV risk among black MSM has not been fully explored. Preliminary analyses from HPTN 061 have suggested that black MSM are a heterogeneous group, in terms of demographic characteristics, behaviors, and biological outcomes. Data from HPTN 061 may provide important information on the potential heterogeneity that exists by substance use and geographic location, which may partially explain differential HIV risk.

Rationale: Substance use among black MSM, particularly among black MSM at high risk for HIV, has not been well described. In addition, there is a paucity of research on the role of substance use among black MSM and sexual risk behaviors and HIV risk, and the interaction of geographic location.

Objectives: The purpose of this paper is to describe substance use patterns among black MSM by geographical location and examine associations with HIV sexual risk behaviors and prevalence of recent HIV infection.

Hypotheses: This paper would be descriptive in nature. It would focus on characterizing substance use in HPTN 061 and the association with HIV risk and risk behaviors by geographical location. It is thought that different sites will have different patterns of substance use, which in turn, may have varying levels of association with HIV risk behaviors.

The data would be: Multi-site, quantitative. This paper would use baseline data only to characterize the initial study sample.

The product would be: A peer-reviewed journal article

Community participation: Investigators will solicit input from the sites, the Black Caucus, the Qualitative Working Group, and from community members.