





An In-depth Look at the
Risk Behaviors and
Service Needs of At-
Risk MSMs in CT

Scott Clair, Paul Boticello, Joseph
Ornato



Sample Characteristics (N=331)

- 97.5% Males 2.5% Transgenders
 - Ethnicity: 45% White 22% Hispanic
26% African American 7% Other
 - Average Age 33 years
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Sample Characteristics


- Monthly Income: 36% < \$1000 12% >\$4000
- Sexual Orientation: 84% Gay 14% Bisexual
- HIV status: 22% HIV +



The Risks



Risk Perception


- All scenarios assume unprotected receptive anal sex with an HIV + partner
 - No Tx: 91% High Risk
 - Drug Tx: 83% High Risk
 - “Undetectable” Viral Load: 82% High Risk
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Risk Behavior

- 6% Injected Drugs in last 6 months
- 13% Have given sex for money or drugs
- 12% Have bought sex for money or drugs



Anonymous Partners

- 45% had an “anonymous” partner in last 6 months.
 - 18% **ALWAYS** used a condom for oral sex with an anonymous partner
 - 51% **ALWAYS** used a condom for anal sex with an anonymous partner
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Talking About HIV

- 55% “never” or “rarely” ask their partner their HIV status.
- 53% “never” or “rarely” tell a partner their HIV status.
- 54% “never” or “rarely” talk about HIV risks with their partner.



Meeting the Needs

Service Needs

- 70% had **NEVER** attended an HIV Prevention Session
- 53% **could not name** an agency that provided HIV Prevention services
- 91% said to get tested for HIV would be “easy” or “very easy”
- **BUT** 38% had **NEVER** been tested for HIV

Reasons for Not Attending


- 32% Already Know Info
- 31% Don't Know about a program
- 18% Monogamous
- 10% Nothing New to Learn
- 8% Tired of Hearing About HIV
- 8% Practicing Safe Sex Now
- 8% Don't Want to Know
- 2% Already HIV +



**“Target People
Like Me”**



How to Increase Attendance

- Advertise
 - Evenings Preferred
 - Make it more of a social function
 - Incentives
 - “Target to broader population than just to gays, associate gays with HIV & that is a turnoff.”
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Where Do We Go
From Here?



Conclusions

- Various Risky Behaviors are still present in the population.
 - Need to advertise better, incentives might help.
 - Recognize that this is a **DIVERSE** population.
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