

HIV Status Disclosure Patterns Among Street Drug Users

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Overview

- The HIV epidemic in Connecticut has disproportionately affected drug users.
- One key piece of information that would potentially reduce transmission rates is knowing the HIV status of their drug using peers.
- Little research has been conducted on HIV disclosure by drug users.

HRS Overview

- Examines street drug users risky HIV behavior and site use.
- Ethnoepidemiological Social Network Study
- Total sample included 293 IDUs and/or CCUs

Methods

- First, we will examine characteristics of ego that are associated with higher rates of HIV disclosure across individuals.
- Second, we will examine the characteristics of alters that increase the likelihood of disclosure at the individual level.

Methods

- In other words, part one examines what characteristics of the individual make them more likely to disclose to their network members overall while part two looks at specifically who an individual is likely to disclose to among their network members.

Results – Ego Characteristics

- Assessed the characteristics of the HIV+ individual that were associated with higher disclosure rates.
- Specifically, demographics, network size, sexual risk behaviors, number of HIV+ people they know and AIDS beliefs.

Results – Ego Characteristics

- 31 of the participants with network data self-identified as being HIV+
- Items associated with higher disclosure rates were “You can change your behavior so you won’t get or spread HIV” ($p < .05$) and “You’ve already changed your sexual behavior to reduce your risk of getting or spreading HIV ($p < .1$)”

Results – Ego Characteristics

- Items not associated with higher disclosure rates included race/ethnicity, gender, age, homelessness, drug use variables, type of site they used, history of std or hepatitis, or the number of people they knew with HIV.

Results – Alter Characteristics

- Assessed the characteristics of the participants that identified the HIV+ individual that were associated with higher disclosure rates.
- Specifically, demographics of the “alter” and relationship characteristics with the HIV+ individual (sex w/, drugs w/, days contact, trust, etc)

Results – Alter Characteristics

- 65 ties identified between HIV+ participants and other participants that named them.
- Of the 65, 20 (38.5%) stated that the HIV+ individual had disclosed their HIV status to them.

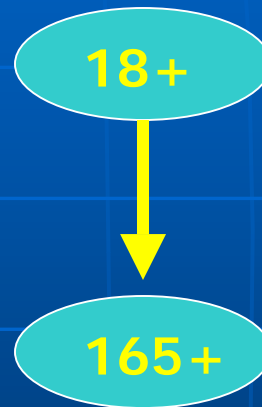
Results – Alter Characteristics

- Items associated with higher disclosure rates were:
 - “Close with” ($p < .06$)
 - “Not in Life” ($p < .001$)
 - “Could go to X if needed money” ($p < .05$)
 - “Could go to X if needed advice” ($p < .05$)”

Results – Alter Characteristics

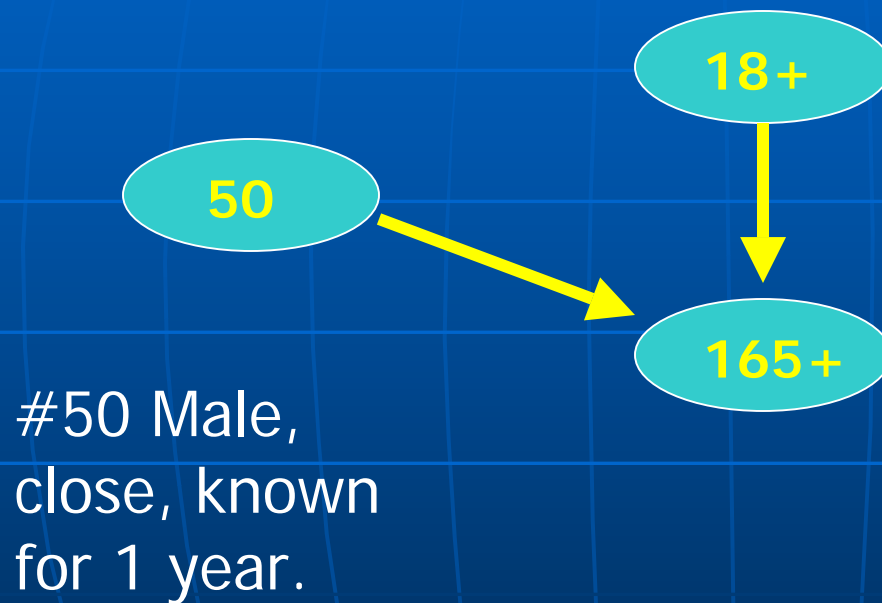
- Items not associated with higher disclosure rates included:
 - Having sex with the HIV+ individual
 - “Alter’s” HIV status
 - Kin or Not
 - Length of time Known

Case Study 1: Latino Network #165

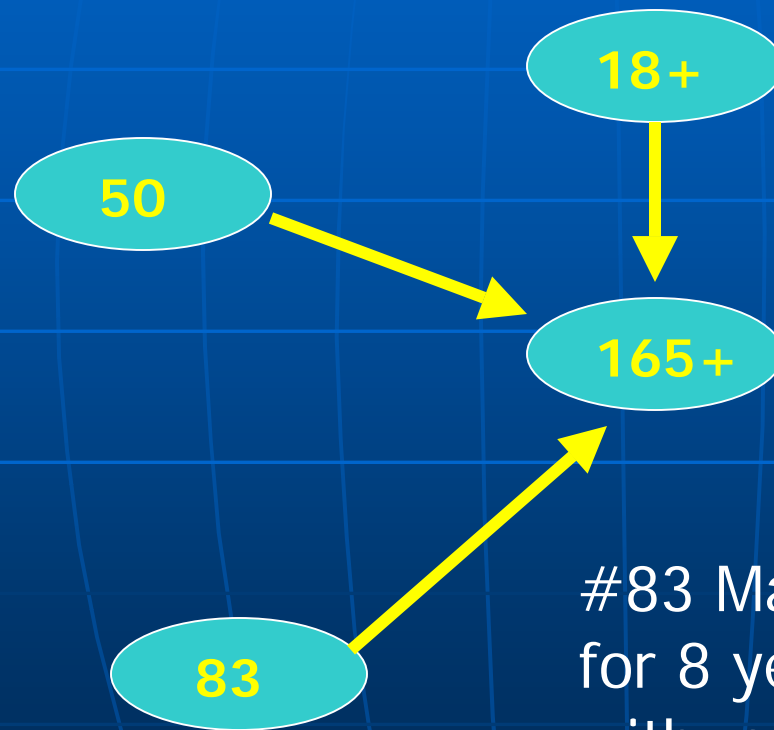


Female, close,
known for 12
years, lived
with, could go
to for money, a
place to stay
and/or advice.
18 is also HIV+

Case Study 1: Latino Network #165

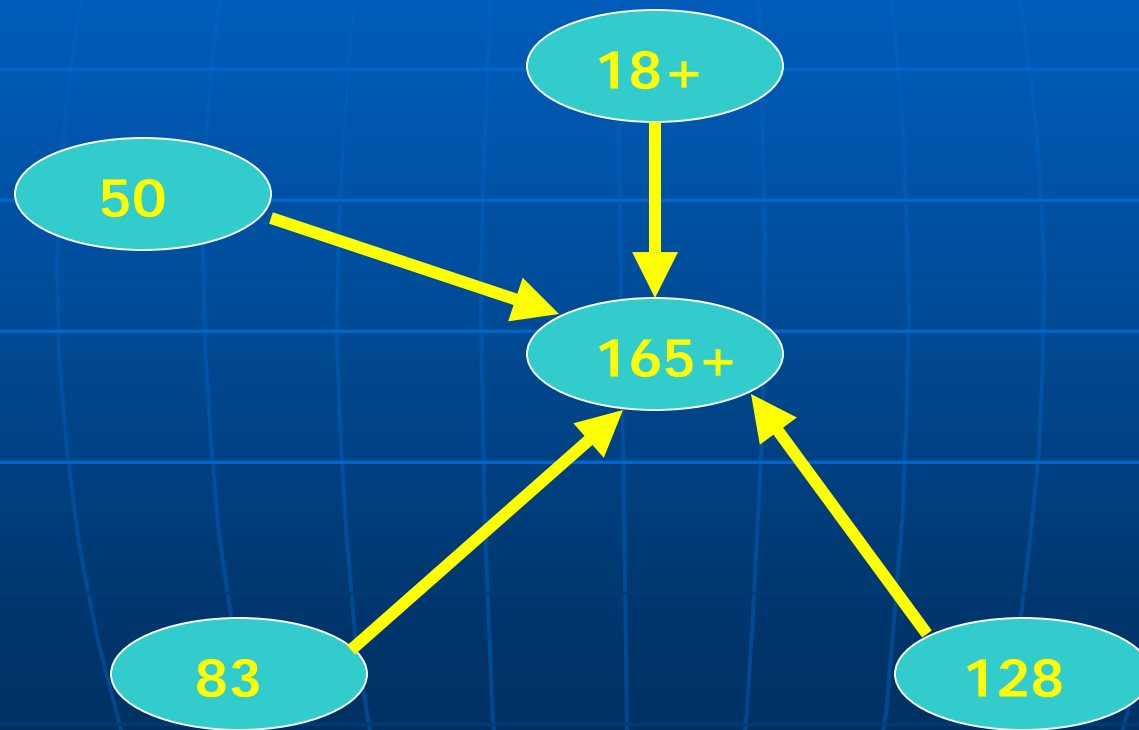


Case Study 1: Latino Network #165



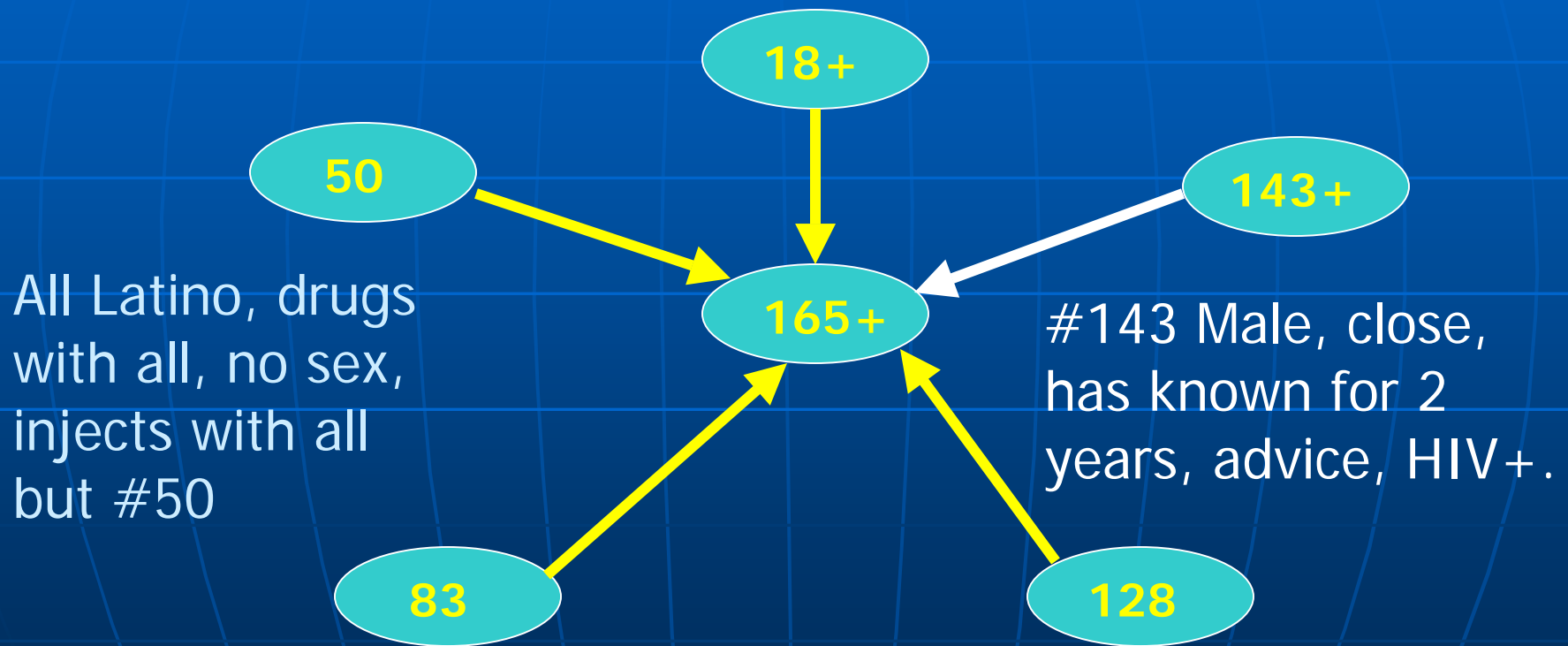
#83 Male, has known for 8 years, lived with, could go to for money, a place to stay and advice.

Case Study 1: Latino Network #165



#128 Male, has
known for 1 year.

Case Study 1: Latino Network #165

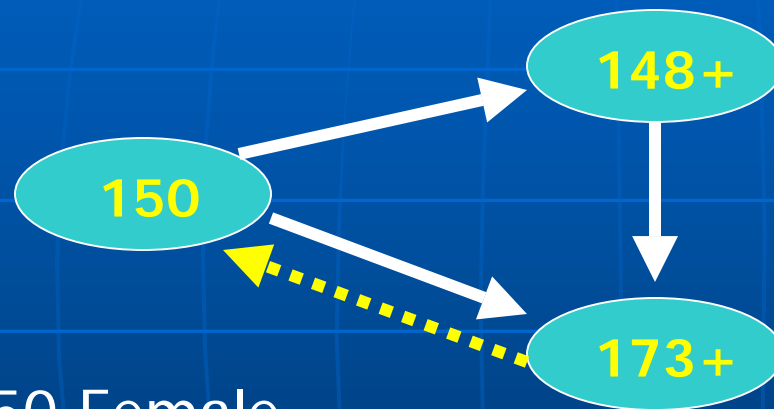


Case Study 2: Af Am Network #173



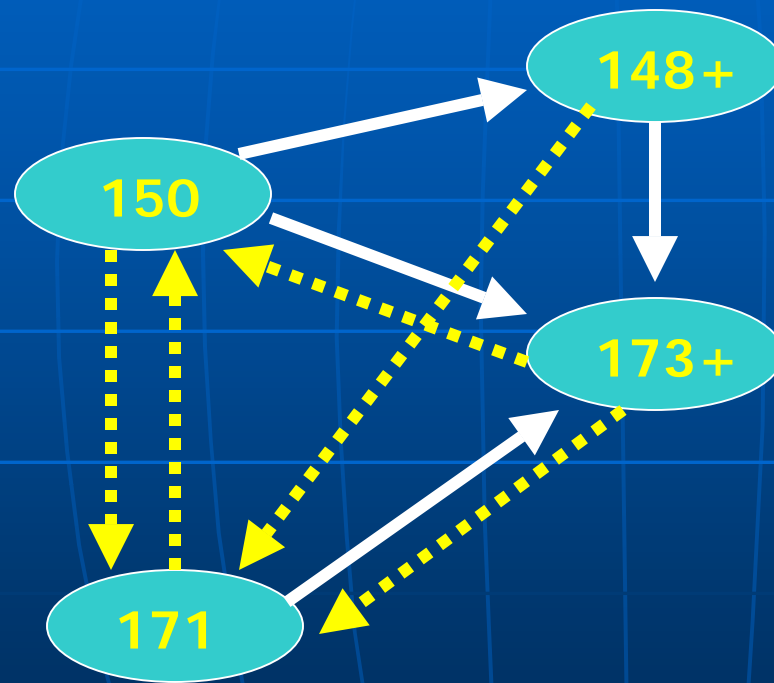
148 Male,
known for 20
years, could go
to for money, a
place to stay
and/or advice.
148 is also
HIV+

Case Study 2: Af Am Network #173



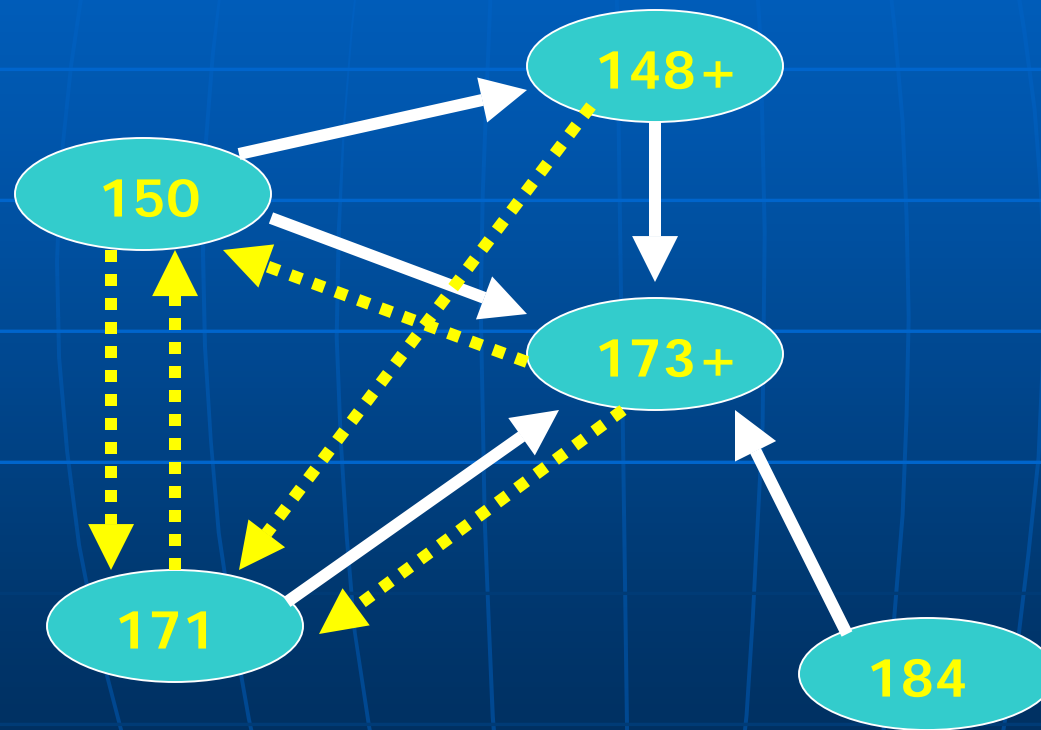
#150 Female,
known for 2
years, could go
to for money a
place to stay
and/or advice.

Case Study 2: Af Am Network #173



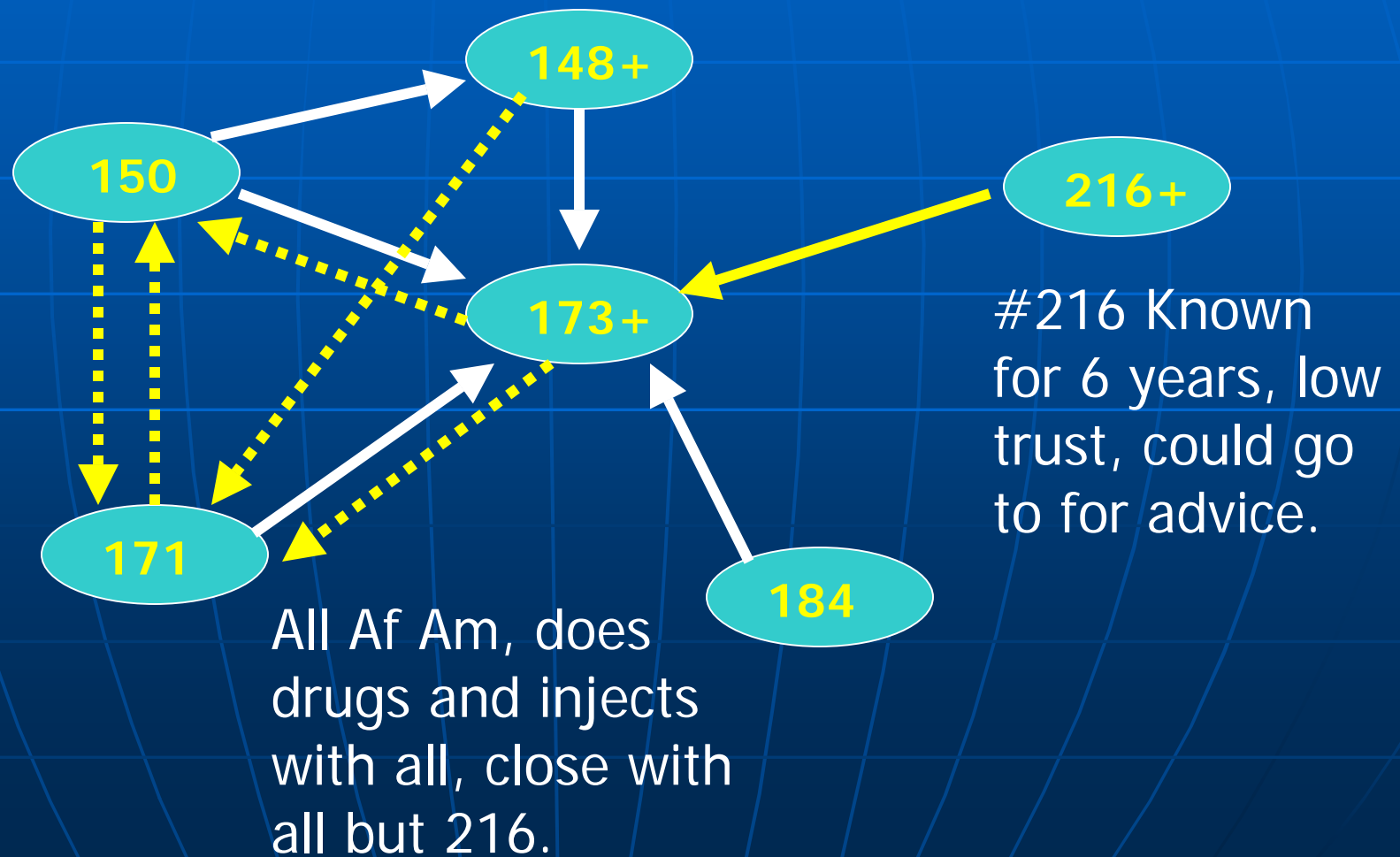
#171 Male,
known for 20
years, lived
with, could go
to for money
and/or advice.

Case Study 2: Af Am Network #173



#184 Male,
known for 20
years.

Case Study 2: Af Am Network #173



Discussion

- Ego characteristics tend to be associated with positive changes since being HIV+.
- Alter sexual involvement with HIV-positive egos *not* associated with HIV disclosure.
- A small sample, thus generalizability may be limited, but it is a start.
- Accuracy in reporting issue.
- Study raises issues about complexities of disclosure and relationship issues.