

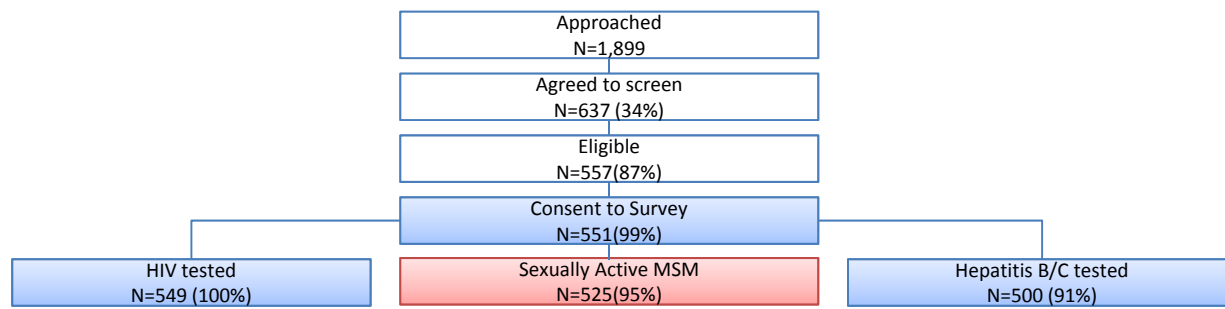


## National HIV Behavioral Surveillance among Men Who Have Sex with Men(MSM) NHBS – MSM4, 2014

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. In 2014, the Los Angeles County (LAC) Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP) completed the fourth 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 born and self-identify as male, and be a resident of Los Angeles County. Eligible men completed a behavioral survey administered by trained interviewers and were offered rapid HIV and standard hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV) testing. All testers received HIV counseling and referrals for social and medical services as needed. From July through November 2014, 1,899 men were approached for recruitment. Of the 637 who agreed to be screened, 557 (87%) were eligible and 551 consented to participate in the behavioral survey (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1. NHBS Screening, Eligibility and Participation**



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, 40% were Latino, 19% were Black and 35% were White. 83% were US-born, 82% reported some college education and 77% had health insurance. In addition, 84% identified as homosexual and 15% as bisexual. Most participants were recruited from bars (54%) and dance clubs (21%).

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

	White (n=149)	Black (n=102)	Latino (n=211)	Total (n=525)
<b>HIV Testing History</b>				
Ever tested	97%	97%	93%	95%
Tested in the past 12 months	77%	69%	70%	72%
<b>Self-Reported HIV Status</b>				
Positive	7%	23%	10%	11%
Negative	87%	73%	83%	82%
Unknown	6%	4%	7%	6%
<b>Sexual Behavior in the past 12 months</b>				
No. of casual male partners, mean(median)	12(4)	11(2)	7(3)	10(3)
Sex with Females	6%	12%	10%	9%
Unprotected anal sex with a male partner	70%	63%	69%	67%
Exchanged sex for drugs/money	7%	13%	5%	7%
<b>STI diagnosis in the past 12 months *</b>				
	17%	24%	13%	17%
<b>Knowledge and Use of PrEP and PEP †</b>				
Had heard of PrEP/PEP	76%	67%	52%	63%
Willing to take daily PrEP/PEP	60%	53%	59%	58%
Had used PEP	9%	1%	3%	4%
Had used PrEP	4%	3%	3%	3%

\*Self-report of diagnosis by a health-care provider with any STD in the 12 months before the interview.

†Included only participants self-reporting HIV-Negative or unknown HIV status; PrEP: Pre-exposure prophylaxis; PEP: Post-exposure prophylaxis.

HIV prevalence was higher in Black MSM although Black MSM were not more likely to engage in unprotected anal sex than White or Latino MSM ( Table 1).

- 72% of MSM had been tested for HIV in the previous 12 months.
- 24% of Black MSM compared with 17% of Whites and 13% of Latinos had been diagnosed with an STI in the previous 12 months.
- HIV prevalence among all MSM was 16% (Table 2). HIV prevalence among Blacks was 34% as compared with Whites (9%) and Latinos (15%).

**Table 2. HIV Prevalence, Awareness, HBV status, Linkage and ARV use**

	No. HIV+	HIV Prevalence	Unaware of HIV infection	No Antibodies to HBV	Linkage to care within 3 months <sup>†</sup>	Currently on ARV <sup>†</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Age<sup>1</sup></b>						
18-29	28	12%	54%	31%	73%	93%
30+	56	20%	21%	47%	90%	98%
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>						
White	14	9%	21%	45%	100%	100%
Black	35	34%	31%	28%	78%	91%
Latino	31	15%	39%	40%	85%	100%

<sup>1</sup> Significant differences between 18-29 years old and 30+ in HIV prevalence (P<.01), unaware of HIV infection(P<.01)and susceptible to HBV(P<.001).

<sup>2</sup> Significant differences between Blacks and Whites ,and Blacks and Latinos in HIV prevalence (P<.0001) and susceptible to HBV(P=.02).

<sup>†</sup> Includes participants with a confirmed positive HIV test result in the survey who reported having previously tested positive for HIV.

**Younger MSM are more likely to be unaware of their HIV infection: (see Table 2)**

- Among 18-29 year olds who tested HIV positive, 54% were unaware. Among 30+ year olds, 21% were unaware.
- Among the 84 positives, 32% were unaware of their infection including 39% of Latino MSM and 31% of Black MSM.

**Linkage to care**

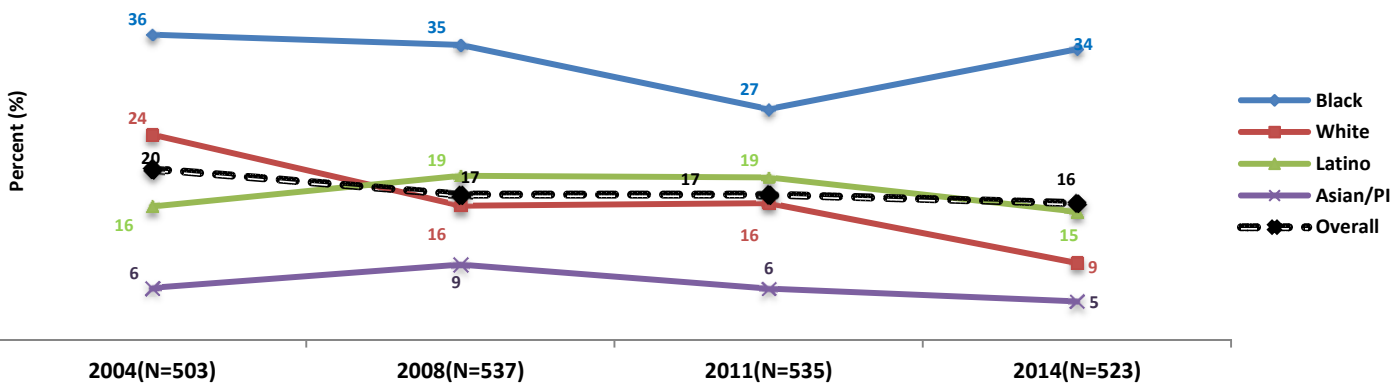
Among MSM who self-reported HIV positive:

- 86% were in care within 3 months of diagnosis.
- 96% were currently on ARVs.

**MSM report unprotected anal sex with serodiscordant partners and with partners of unknown status, thus providing opportunity for further HIV transmission (Data not shown).**

- 33% of HIV positive MSM who were unaware of their HIV seropositive status reported unprotected anal sex with a partner of HIV-negative or unknown status at last sex
- 21% of HIV positive MSM who were aware of their HIV seropositive status reported unprotected anal sex with a partner of HIV-negative or unknown status at last sex

**Figure 2. NHBS HIV Prevalence in MSM by Race/Ethnicity, Los Angeles County, 2004-2014**



**HIV prevalence has decreased among White MSM and remained relatively high for Black MSM**

- In 2014, HIV prevalence among Black MSM (34%) remained significantly higher than White and Latino MSM
- NHBS HIV prevalence have decreased from 24% to 9% in white MSM from 2004 to 2014
- Similar decreases have not been observed in Black and Latino MSM