

Lessons Learned from a Retreat on Retention of Black MSM in the BROTHERS Study

**Dr. Sheldon D. Fields and Christopher Chauncey Watson
for the HPTN-061 Black Caucus**

2011 National HIV Prevention Conference

Atlanta, GA

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Objectives

Discuss the HPTN 061 (BROTHERS) Study schema

Discuss lessons learned and challenges in attempting to retain participants in HPTN 061

Discuss the profile of the retained participants in HPTN 061

Discuss retention recommendations for researchers who are attempting to engage Black MSM in various studies

HPTN 061: BROTHERS Study

- A community-level pilot study
 - To obtain the information needed to design a full, community-wide randomized trial
- Being conducted in six U.S. communities
 - Atlanta, NYC, Boston, LA, San Francisco, Washington, DC
- To determine the feasibility and acceptability of a multi-component HIV-prevention intervention with Black MSM
- Recruitment of Black MSM
- Uptake of the intervention components by Black MSM
 - Agree to HIV testing
 - Agree to STI testing
 - Use peer navigation
- Two Year Study: 12mth recruit, 12mth F/U



UNITY
A BLACK MEN'S STUDY

brothers



Study Site Logos

Challenges Related to Retention

- Locator information
- Arrest and outstanding warrants
- Lack of means of transportation
- Housing issues
- Self-realization of sero-conversion
- Already having access to services
- Staff not the face of the study
- ACASI – To Long
- Scheduling follow-up appointments
 - Oracle system
 - At-A-Glance
- No incentive for PHN services

Retention Retreat

- **Setting:** National Conference Center, Leesburg, VA
- **Date:** December 3 -5, 2010
- **Participants:** 18 Black Caucus members and invited guest
- **Facilitation:** Working group model
 - *Facilitator:* Dr. Sheldon D. Fields, Black Caucus Chair
- **Charge:** Assess study retention issues and develop recommendations to improve retention in the study

Retreat Participants

- ***Dr. Sheldon D. Fields – Black Caucus Chair****
- ***Christopher Chauncey Watson****
- Dr. Lawrence Bryant
- Jonathan Paul Lucas
- S. Wakefield
- Craig Hutchinson
- Dr. Michael Arnold
- Christopher Hucks-Ortiz
- Yovannys Kenney
- Dr. LaRon E. Nelson
- Rudolph Carn
- Borris Powell
- Chadwick K. Campbell
- Dr. Leo Wilton
- Gregory D. Victorienne
- Jamaal Clue
- Jermel L. Wallace
- Dr. Darrell P. Wheeler – Study Co-Chair

* ***Abstract Presenters:*** On Behalf of the HPTN 061 Black Caucus Group

HPTN 061 Retention Analysis

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Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Washington, DC

Recruitment Results *

✓ Between 7/09 and 8/10, the six sites screened 5,886 participants to enroll 1,561 participants.

Men screened were recruited at

- Public venues (33.0%)
- Clinical sites and community-based organizations (9.4%)
- Referred via social media, word of mouth and/or screened by phone (51%).

✓ Reasons for ineligibility varied with respect to recruitment type after adjusting for clustering based on specific screening location

✓ The most common reasons for ineligibility were

- Not reporting UAI in the last 6 months (65.6%)
- Living out of the area/planning to move (14.2%)

Total Recruited

n = 1554

Eligible for Follow Up

n=1468

*Overall 26 week
Retention*

94%

*Overall 52 Week
Retention*

79%

Number Expected	(%)	26 week Retention (%)	52 week Retention (%)
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Community Recruited	89	81	78
Referral	11	78	81

Enrollment Category

Refused HIV Testing	4	84	78
HIV -	75	80	78
HIV +, ND	12	90	86
HIV+, In care*	5	--	--
HIV+, Not in Care, UAI with HIV -/Unkwn	5	--	--
HIV+, Not in Care, UAI with HIV + only	<1	58	2

Number Expected	(%)	26 week Retention (%)	52 week Retention (%)
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Age at Enrollment

18-20	7	7	79
21-30	27	28	79
31-40	19	18	72
41-50	34	33	82
51-+60	13	12	78
60+	1	1	91

Median Age

39

Gender

Male	98	81	79
Transgender	2	89	74

Number Expected	(%)	26 week Retention (%)	52 week Retention (%)
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Household Income

Less than \$5,000	25	76	74
\$5,000-\$9,999	13	84	80
\$10,000-\$19,999	22	81	78
\$20,000-\$29,999	13	83	82
\$30,000-\$39,999	10	82	79
\$40,000-\$49,999	6	82	86
\$50,000-\$59,999	4	75	73
\$60,000-\$69,999	2	90	85
\$70,000-\$79,999	1	75	54
\$80,000+	4	87	89

Number Expected	(%)	26 week Retention (%)	52 week Retention (%)
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Highest Education

8th grade or equivalent or less	1	67	64
Some high school	16	75	76
High school graduate or equivalent	35	81	75
Vocational/trade/technical school	2	85	73
Some college or 2 year degree	33	82	83
Finished college	10	84	83
Masters or other advanced degree	3	80	77

Currently Working

Yes	31	83	80
Full-time	46	83	82
Part-time	54	82	78
No	69	80	78
Unemployed	78	79	79
Retired	3	96	100
Unable to work (disabled)	20	80	72

Number Expected	(%)	26 week Retention (%)	52 week Retention (%)
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Ever Accepted PHN

Yes	68	81	79
<i>PHN Visits</i>			
0	59	72	64
1 to 10	37	100	100
11 to 20	4	100	100
More than 21	1	100	100
No	32	80	92

Self-reported Sexual Identity per acasi

Homosexual	25	83	84
Gay	40	83	84
Bisexual	39	78	75
Straight	5	83	71
Heterosexual	4	81	64

Number Expected	(%)	26 week Retention (%)	52 week Retention (%)
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Trust in health care providers

I trust the health care providers I see in my health care setting

Strongly Disagree	11	75	66
Disagree	6	84	83
Neither disagree/agree	18	78	75
Agree	40	83	82
Strongly Agree	25	83	81

Trust in research

I trust the staff I have worked with in research studies

Strongly Disagree	7	82	71
Disagree	4	94	90
Neither disagree/agree	15	80	73
Agree	52	88	84
Strongly Agree	22	89	86

Number Expected	(%)	26 week Retention (%)	52 week Retention (%)
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Providers who are more like me in terms of race make me feel more comfortable than providers who are different from me

Strongly Disagree	17	76	74
Disagree	23	83	75
Neither disagree/agree	33	81	80
Agree	18	86	82
Strongly Agree	9	80	84

Providers who are more like me in terms of sexual orientation make me feel more comfortable than providers who are different from me

Strongly Disagree	13	77	72
Disagree	18	83	76
Neither disagree/agree	31	80	78
Agree	23	82	81
Strongly Agree	15	84	85

Number Expected	(%)	26 week Retention (%)	52 week Retention (%)
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I am more comfortable with research staff who are like me in terms of sexual orientation than those who are different than me

Strongly Disagree	13	82	79
Disagree	22	93	85
Neither disagree/agree	39	86	83
Agree	19	86	90
Strongly Agree	7	92	88

I am more comfortable with research staff who are like me in terms of race than those who are different than me

Strongly Disagree	12	85	78
Disagree	16	94	86
Neither disagree/agree	38	87	84
Agree	22	87	83
Strongly Agree	11	86	88

Number Expected	(%)	26 week Retention (%)	52 week Retention (%)
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Internalized Homophobia Scale

1 <= Scale < 2	40	83	83
2 <= Scale < 3	31	83	79
3 <= Scale < 4	23	75	70
4 <= Scale < 5	5	83	77
5 <= Scale < 6	1	83	80

Social Support Scale

1 <= Scale < 2	15	81	71
2 <= Scale < 3	21	80	77
3 <= Scale < 4	28	83	83
4 <= Scale < 5	36	80	82

Depression Scale (CES-D)

0 <=Scale <= 15	57	82	82
16 <= Scale	43	80	78

What do we know?

- Current retention = 94% (26 weeks), 79% (52weeks)
- Peer Health Navigation engages participants and increase retention
- Participants engaging in current health care services have higher retention rates
- 69% of participants are reportedly \leq 300% poverty level

What do we know?

- Lower support systems = lower retention
- ~50% of participants experience depression according to the CES-D model
- 70% of “hard to reach” have no contact information
- Opportunities exist with younger population (18-30), affluent men, homeless, incarceration
- Withdrawal from study

Results: Retention Report

- Where are the **BROTHERS** – Released March 8, 2011
 - http://www.hptn.org/research_studies/HPTN061StudyDocuments.asp#BlackCaucus
- 3 Major Areas of Concern
 - Burden/Benefit Analysis
 - Transportation, Visit length, ACASI, Reimbursement,
 - Intervention Delivery
 - Cultural competency, Confidentiality, Staffing, Recruitment, Contacts
 - Community Engagement
 - Locator form, Dedicated retention staff, Staff support and feedback, monthly communications
- The retention report is online (See Above)
 - Detailed recommendations for each area identified

Results: Lessoned Learned

- Black MSM have competing life demands
 - Prioritize their lives differently
- Black MSM Retention must be:
 - Proactively Planned: Not at afterthought
 - Benefits must outweigh the study burden
- Logistical Issues of Concern for Black MSM
 - Length of interviews
 - Clinic/lab hours
 - Transportation
 - Compensation
- More counselor engagement between study visits
- More mental health support
- Historical Mistreatment Addressed
 - Racism and Homophobia

Additional Information

- Social Media

 facebook.com/HIVPTN

 twitter.com/HIVPTN

- Websites

– www.hptn.org

– www.blackmenstandtogether.org

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- HPTN 061 Black Caucus
- HPTN 061 Protocol Team



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