



HPTN 064

The Women's HIV Seroprevalence (ISIS) Study

What is the ISIS study?

ISIS is a federally funded study conducted to estimate the overall new HIV infection rate in women at risk for HIV acquisition in the United States. ISIS is funded by the National Institute of Allergy And Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

Why is HIV prevention important in the United States?

HIV continues to spread. In 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that an estimated 56,300 new HIV infections occurred in the US. The CDC also reported that some populations continue to experience a disproportionate number of new infections; 53% occurred in men who have sex with men (MSM), nearly 45% occurred in Blacks, roughly 17% occurred in Hispanics and approximately 25% occurred in women. Better strategies for HIV prevention are needed, especially those that involve entire communities and that focus on those populations that are most affected by the HIV epidemic.

Why is it important to study HIV in women?

HIV/AIDS is a leading cause of death among Black women in the US. Two-thirds of new infections among women occur in Black women, despite the fact that Black women account for just 14% of the US female population. Multiple factors have been associated with HIV acquisition among women including poverty, lack of access to medical care, poor knowledge about HIV/AIDS, lower social status, financial dependence on male partners, assortative mixing (mixing of low and high risk sexual networks) within high HIV prevalence communities, feelings of invincibility, low self-esteem, and alcohol and drug use.

 **ISIS**
a women's study

What communities were included in ISIS? Why?

The following communities were included in ISIS: DeKalb and Fulton County, GA, Durham and Wake County, NC, Washington D.C., Baltimore, MD, Newark, NJ, Bronx, NY and Harlem, NY. Eligibility areas within the communities were defined using methodology adapted from the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance Heterosexual Pilot (NHBS-

HET), which combines US Census poverty data with state health department HIV prevalence data in a standardized algorithm to identify census tracts or zip codes where there is a high risk of HIV transmission. However, in contrast to NHBS-HET, ISIS used cohort follow-up as well as state-of-the-art laboratory methods to estimate the new HIV infection rate at all study sites.

What were the procedures in ISIS?

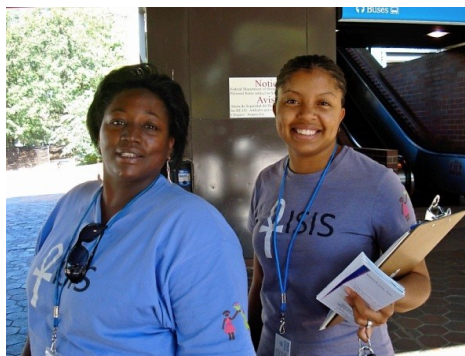
Women from ten communities in six distinct geographical areas in the eastern part of the US were enrolled. Participants were followed from 6 to 12 months with repeat HIV testing to determine the HIV recent infection rate. Information on risk behaviors was also collected. Additionally, to better understand relevant issues to HIV prevention in women, four of the ten communities conducted semi-structured interviews and focus groups with women enrolled in ISIS. Focus groups with men from these communities were also conducted to understand male attitudes on HIV testing as well as some of the relevant barriers to testing.

Will ISIS be able to tell me about the new HIV infection rate in my community?

ISIS was designed to help estimate the overall HIV recent infection rate across communities, therefore, new infection data about each specific community will not be available.

What were the demographics of the women enrolled in ISIS?

A total of 2,099 women between the ages of 18 and 44 were enrolled in 14 months (from May 2009 to July 2010). Ninety-percent of ISIS participants are Black women and 12% identified as Hispanic/Latina ethnicity. ISIS maintained high rates of retention at 6 and 12 months ($\geq 93\%$).



Were referrals given to participants from sites?

Sites reported non-HIV care related referrals for a number of issues including substance abuse, mental health services, domestic violence, family planning, food provision, housing services, utility support, job support/training, child services, clothing acquisition and other wellness and preventative health care services. Women who tested HIV positive during the study were also given referrals for HIV care.

What remains to be done in ISIS?

All ISIS follow-up visits were completed on February 28, 2011. The necessary laboratory work is currently being performed and collected information is being assessed. Once all the information is analyzed and the laboratory studies completed, the findings will be shared with the community. Future study efforts focusing on women at increased risk for HIV infection are being discussed and will be dependent on funding availability.

To learn more about the HIV Prevention Trials Network, visit www.hptn.org.