I. Community Norms, Stigma, and Perceptions About the AIDS Epidemic among Black MSM: A Qualitative Investigation

Authors: Leo Wilton, Darrell Wheeler, Beryl Koblin, and Kenneth Mayer

There is a void in HIV prevention research that focuses on the lived experiences of Black MSM in relation to how the influence of community norms, stigma, and perceptions about the AIDS epidemic permeate the lives of Black MSM. As such, the aim of this qualitative investigation is to explore the role that community norms, stigma, and perceptions about the AIDS epidemic are situated in the lives of Black MSM. The focus group data from six cities will be used in this research project. More specifically, the objectives of this proposed study are to: (1) Better understand the lived experiences of Black MSM within geographic-specific contexts; (2) Explore factors (e.g., protective and risk factors) that influence HIV/STI testing patterns and health care utilization of Black MSM; and (3) Describe the way(s), that stigma and social norms (e.g., based on race, gender, social class, sexuality) affect HIV/STI testing patterns and health care utilization of Black MSM.