

Sound Bite Project for HPTN 061:

➤ Alcohol Use, Socio-Cultural Factors, and HIV Sexual Risk Behavior among Black MSM in 6 US Cities

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Epidemiological data in the United States (US) has demonstrated that Black men who have sex with men (MSM) have experienced high HIV prevalence rates. Much of the HIV behavioral research on MSM has identified unprotected anal intercourse (UAI) as a risky sexual behavior for acquiring and transmitting HIV. A growing number of studies have reported the influence of alcohol use on HIV sexual risk behavior in MSM. Research in this area has begun to examine racial/ethnic or between-group differences associated with alcohol use and HIV sexual risk behavior. However, there has been a significant void in research that has studied within-group differences on alcohol use in relation to HIV sexual risk behavior among Black MSM.

A key element in addressing HIV-related health disparities for Black MSM relates to the development of conceptual frameworks and interventions that are grounded within culturally relevant conceptualizations. HIV prevention research investigations have provided theoretical and empirical support in examining the impact of racism, homophobia, and poverty on HIV sexual risk behavior for MSM of Color. This proposed study will fill a significant void in HIV prevention research with respect to new empirical and conceptual knowledge in the development of prevention interventions focused on alcohol use and HIV sexual risk behavior that are grounded within culture-specific contexts for Black MSM.

This proposed project will focus on two specific aims:

- 1) To examine characteristics and correlates of alcohol use in relation to HIV sexual risk behavior among Black MSM using the HPTN 061 quantitative data from six US cities.

The primary objective is to examine the extent to which frequencies of alcohol use (non use, occasional use, and chronic use) relate to HIV sexual risk behavior among Black MSM in 6 US cities. The secondary objectives of this project are as follows: (1) examine the relationship between problematic alcohol use and HIV sexual risk behavior and (2) examine the relationship between alcohol use and other substances to assess if some of the relationships with adverse outcomes are similar independent of drug and whether some are exacerbated among those who drank and used drugs.

Data analyses will consist of univariate and multivariable logistic regression. For the purposes of the analyses, alcohol use will be categorized as follows:

(1) Non-Use (Never)

(2) Occasional Use (Collapse the [1] monthly or less and [2] 2 to 4 times a month responses into one category)

(3) Chronic Use (Collapse the [1] 2 to 3 times a week and [2] 4 or more times a week] responses into one category)

Demographic Factors:

age, sexual identity (gay versus non-gay), education, income, employment status, HIV status

Psychosocial Factors: depression (CES-D), problematic alcohol use (AUDIT), history of incarceration, history of childhood sexual abuse, receipt of money or goods for sex, provision of money or goods for sex

HIV Sexual Risk Behavior: (1) serodiscordant unprotected insertive anal intercourse (UIAI) with their last male casual sexual partners, (2) serodiscordant unprotected receptive anal intercourse (URAI) with their last male casual sexual partners, and (3) number of male sexual partners

- 2) To examine the interrelationships among alcohol use, socio-cultural factors, and HIV sexual risk behavior among Black MSM using the HPTN 061 quantitative data from six US cities.

It is hypothesized that socio-cultural factors (i.e., perceived racism, perceived homophobia, and internalized homophobia) will mediate the relationship between alcohol use and HIV sexual risk behavior (4 dependent variables: unprotected insertive anal intercourse [UIAI] with last male sexual partners, unprotected receptive anal intercourse [URAI] with last male sexual partners, any unprotected anal intercourse [UAI] with last male sexual partners [collapse UIAI and URAI into one variable], number of male sexual partners). Data analyses will consist of univariate and multivariable logistic regression. Multivariate regression analyses will control for relevant demographic variables (e.g., age, education, income, city, etc).

The analyses from this project will be used as preliminary data for a NIAAA R21 grant proposal, conference presentation, and journal article submission.