



NATIONAL HIV RESEARCH STUDY OF BLACK MEN FACT SHEET

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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- Nearly all the men surveyed (89%) know what the HIV virus is; even more (97%) know how the virus is transmitted.
- Less than half (40.5%) of those responding have attended a safer sex workshop; slightly more than half (52%) have attended an AIDS education program.
- Virtually all the men (97%) claimed knowledge of what constitutes safe or unsafe sex.

BEHAVIOR

- Slightly more than half the men surveyed (54%) always or almost always engage in safer sex.
- Only half the men who indicated that they engage in anal sex always or almost always use a condom.
- One-third of the men indicated they have vaginal sex; of those, only 30 percent always or almost always use a condom.
- Twenty percent of those surveyed would be likely to engage in unsafe sex even if they were HIV-positive or had AIDS.
- At least a third of those surveyed have changed their behavior, restricting themselves to one sexual partner, seeing the doctor more often and/or drinking less or not at all.
- More than half the men surveyed (59%) have been tested for HIV.
- Forty percent of those who have not been tested indicated it would be too much to handle if they discovered they were positive, and/or were concerned about the confidentiality of test results.

ATTITUDES

- Seventy-five percent of the men surveyed are worried about the possibility of HIV infection.
- Almost 90 percent of the men surveyed believe people with AIDS are often discriminated against.
- Over 80 percent believe most of the public has a negative attitude about AIDS patients.
- Less than half the men surveyed (41%) feel strongly they would share an HIV-related diagnosis with family members; even fewer (39%) feel strongly that their family would be supportive throughout the course of HIV-related illness.

- Seventy percent of those surveyed believed Black men who have AIDS are often forgotten when it comes to caring and helping.
- Less than half the men surveyed are aware that Blacks die from AIDS faster than whites.
- More than 80 percent of the men surveyed believe religious people should be more sympathetic towards people who have AIDS.
- Almost 80 percent of those surveyed believe education is key to increasing safer sex practices.

BACKGROUND

- Number of Men Surveyed: 900
- Age Range: 16-68 (mean 31.8)
- Privately, 75 percent identify themselves as gay or homosexual; publicly, 52 percent identify themselves as gay or homosexual.
- Among the men expressing a religious preference (70 %), 78 percent were Protestant; 14 percent Catholic; six percent "No organized religion;" two percent Muslim.
- Occupationally, 33 percent identified themselves as professional; 17 percent as sales/clerical; 13 percent were unemployed; eleven percent skilled laborers; eleven percent managerial; ten percent unskilled laborers; two percent craftsmen; one percent retired.
- In response to the question of income, 27 percent made less than \$12,000; 46 percent made \$12,000 to \$28,000; 25% made \$25,000 or more.
- Educationally, nine percent were not high school graduates or GED certified; 24 percent were high school graduates or GED certified; 36 percent had attended junior college or some four-year college; 30 percent had completed four-year college or advanced degrees.

For more information on the National HIV Research Study of Black Men, or other programs and publications of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, write or call us at 631 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, 415/749-6700; Fax 415/749-6706.