
The National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) system is a CDC-funded project conducted in 21 cities in the United States, including Baltimore. The purpose is to measure HIV prevalence, HIV risk behaviors, HIV testing behaviors, and exposure to prevention services over time among persons at high risk for infection. NHBS has three cycles focusing on different groups: men who have sex with men (MSM), injection drug users (IDU), and heterosexuals at risk of HIV infection (HET). Information from NHBS guides prevention and HIV counseling and testing services in Baltimore. It also helps guide and improve overall HIV/AIDS surveillance, and provide a better understanding of trends in HIV infection in Baltimore and throughout the United States.

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene receives funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to participate in the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) System and to collect data for the Baltimore-Towson metropolitan area. In Baltimore, the NHBS is performed as a collaboration between the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and operates as the Behavioral Surveillance Research Study or BESURE.

Survey methods and sample characteristics, BESURE 2004-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wave 1</th>
<th>Wave 2</th>
<th>Wave 3</th>
<th>Wave 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men who have sex with men (MSM)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data collection method</td>
<td>VBS</td>
<td>VBS</td>
<td>VBS</td>
<td>VBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total MSM in past year*</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV prevalence</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence unrecognized HIV infection</td>
<td>58.4%</td>
<td>78.4%</td>
<td>67.3%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Injection drug users (IDU)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data collection method</td>
<td>RDS</td>
<td>RDS</td>
<td>RDS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total IDU in past year recruited*</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>617</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV prevalence</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence unrecognized HIV infection</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heterosexuals at high risk (HRH)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data collection method</td>
<td>VBS</td>
<td>RDS</td>
<td>RDS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total recruited *</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>505</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV prevalence</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence unrecognized infection</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Complete survey and HIV test
RDS=Respondent Driven Sampling; VBS=Venue Based Sampling
Note: Differences in HIV prevalence and unrecognized infection may be due to sample differences across waves.

Contact:
Colin Flynn, ScM, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: colin.flynn@maryland.gov
Danielle German, PhD, MPH, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: danielle.german@jhu.edu
Ju Park, MHS, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: ju.park@jhu.edu

BESURE Office Phone: 410-230-0936
BESURE Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/besurebaltimore
For more info: http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CHSE/SitePages/behavioral-surveillance.aspx
Publications

National HIV Behavioral Surveillance

  [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6306a1.htm]
- 2013 MMWR HIV Infection Among Heterosexuals at Increased Risk - United States, 2010. [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6210a2.htm?s_cid=mm6210a2_e]
- 2012 MMWR HIV infection and HIV-associated behaviors among injection drug users – 20 cities, United States, 2009. [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6108a1.htm]
- 2011 MMWR HIV Testing Among Men Who Have Sex with Men -- 21 Cities, United States, 2008 [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6021a3.htm?s_cid=mm6021a3_w]
- 2011 MMWR Characteristics Associated with HIV Infection Among Heterosexuals in Urban Areas with High AIDS Prevalence - 24 Cities, United States, 2006-2007 [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6031a1.htm?s_cid=mm6031a1_e&source=govdelivery]
- 2010 MMWR Prevalence and Awareness of HIV Infection Among Men Who Have Sex With Men — 21 Cities, United States, 2008 [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5937a2.htm?s_cid=mm5937a2_w]