

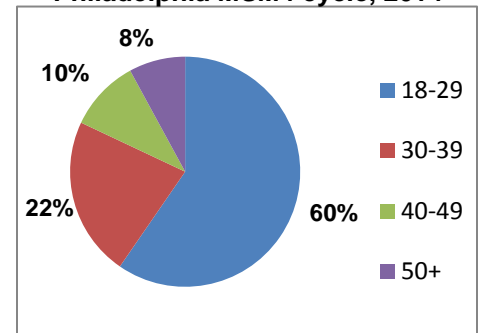
# National HIV Behavioral Surveillance: Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM4), Philadelphia 2014

## What is NHBS?

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health collaborates with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct behavioral surveillance in the Philadelphia Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). NHBS employs standardized anonymous questionnaires and optional HIV testing to better understand trends in HIV prevalence and risk behaviors among three sub-populations at highest risk of HIV infection in the United States: men who have sex with men (MSM), injection drug users (IDU), and high-risk heterosexuals (HET). Conducted annually in 20 MSAs in the United States, NHBS rotates between MSM, IDU, and HET populations in three-year rounds. The overarching goal of NHBS is to help evaluate and direct local and national HIV prevention efforts.

In 2014, the fourth cycle collecting data on men who have sex with men (MSM4) was conducted using venue-based sampling (VBS). Survey participants were recruited by surveillance staff from venues where 50% or more of the men attending the venue were MSM, until a sample size of 650 was reached. Potentially eligible venues included: bars, dance clubs, retail businesses, cafes and restaurants, health clubs, social or religious organizations, adult bookstores, bathhouse, street locations, parks, and special events such as gay pride festivals, raves and, circuit parties. Data collection for the MSM4 cycle was conducted between July and November 2014. Philadelphia previously participated in the MSM cycle in 2005 (MSM1), 2008 (MSM2), and 2011 (MSM3), and will participate again in the MSM cycle in 2017.

**Figure 1. Age distribution, Philadelphia MSM4 cycle, 2014**



## Who are the participants?

Eligible adults for the MSM4 cycle were at least 18 years of age, identified as male, were born male, lived in the Philadelphia MSA, could complete the interview in Spanish or English, and reported having oral or anal sex with a male at least once their lifetime.

Of the 983 individuals screened, 656 (66.7%) were eligible for the sample, consented, and completed the interview. For this analysis, we excluded anyone who did not report having oral or anal sex with a man in the last 12 months. Descriptive data from this sample are presented in Table 1.

The average age of the 656 eligible participants was 30. The majority of the sample was Black (52%). Over half (58%) of the sample completed more than a high school education. Only 62% reported full- or part-time employment and 18% had experienced homelessness at one point. Approximately 72% had health insurance and 84% had seen a medical provider in the past year. Nearly half (49%), reported using doctor's office/HMO, for care, 34% a clinic or health center, and 15% the emergency room.

**Table 1. Demographics of MSM4 Sample, 2014**

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>%</b>
Black/African American	52%
Hispanic	15%
White	26%
Other	6%
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	
Heterosexual	3%
Bisexual	27%
Homosexual	70%
<b>Self-reported HIV-positive</b>	
Yes	17%
No	83%
<b>History of homelessness</b>	
Never experienced homelessness	82%
Homeless previously, not currently	9%
Currently homeless	9%
<b>Education</b>	
Less than high school	8%
High school diploma/GED	34%
More than high school	58%
<b>Employment</b>	
Unemployed	22%
Unable to work for health reasons	4%
Full-time or part-time	62%
Full-time student	6%
Homemaker/Retired/Other	6%
<b>Ever held or arrested (lifetime)</b>	30%
Held or arrested past 12 months	(10%)
<b>Insured at time of interview</b>	72%
Privately insured	(40%)
Medicaid insured	(24%)
<b>Saw health provider in past 12 months</b>	84%

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## Sexual Risk Behaviors

- Average age of first MSM sexual encounter (oral or anal sex) was 16.9 years of age.
- 37% had 5+ sex partners in the preceding 12 months; the average number of sexual partners was 6 (median=3).
- Excluding those who self-reported as HIV-positive: 40% of participants reported receptive anal sex at time of last sex and 55% reported insertive anal sex at time of last sex. Of those who reported receptive anal sex at last sex, 51% used a condom the whole time; of those who reported insertive anal sex at last sex, 47% used a condom the whole time.
- Of those who self-reported as HIV-positive: 55% of men reported receptive anal sex at time of last sex and 53% of men reported insertive anal sex at time of last sex. Of those who reported receptive anal sex at last sex, 53% used a condom the whole time; of those who reported insertive anal sex at last sex, 43% used a condom the whole time.
- During last sex, 24% used alcohol, 9% drugs, 11% both alcohol and drugs, and 56% neither.
- 19% exchanged sex for money, drugs, or other goods in the past 12 months. Men who engaged in exchange sex reported an average of 9 partners (median=5) over the past 12 months.
- Only 57% knew the HIV status of their last sexual partner.

## Drug-Related Risk Behaviors

- 54% reported non-injection drug use in the past 12 months.
- In the past 12 months:
  - 89% used marijuana, 22% of total sample reported daily use.
  - 52% binge drank (5+ alcoholic drinks in one sitting more than once a month).
  - 33% used powder cocaine, 15% used crack cocaine.
  - 17% used painkillers.
  - 16% used benzodiazepines.
  - 9% used crystal meth (non-injection use only).
  - 4% used heroin (non-injection use only).

## What prevention services are MSM accessing in Philadelphia?

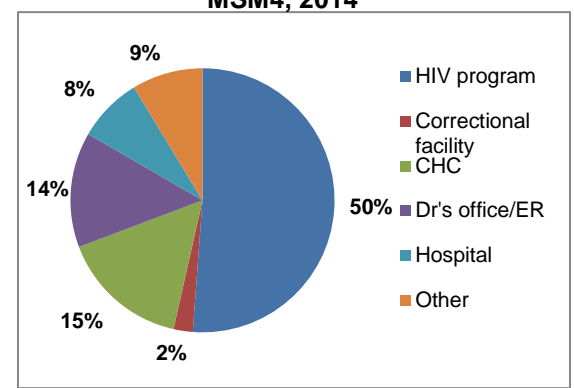
- In the past 12 months:
  - 63% received an STD test from a health care provider.
  - 67% received free condoms: 34% from a health center or clinic, 49% from an HIV/AIDS-focused organization, and 52% from a GLBTQ organization (more than one location could be listed); 80% used the free condoms they received.
  - Only 27% had a one-on-one conversation with an outreach worker or counselor and 16% participated in an organized group session to discuss HIV prevention.
- Within their lifetime:
  - 13% participated in an alcohol treatment program. Of those, 36% were within the past year.
  - 14% participated in a drug treatment program. Of those, 45% were within the past year.
- 58% strongly agreed or agreed with the statement “Most people in Philadelphia would discriminate against someone with HIV.”

## Self-Reported HIV Status, Testing, and PEP/PrEP

Approximately 94% of the MSM4 sample received an HIV test in their lifetime, and <1% (n=5) reported never obtaining results for their most recent test. Figure 2 shows the reported testing locations for their most recent HIV test. 75% of the sample who did not self-report as HIV positive reported having an HIV test in the past 12 months. Of those who had not tested for HIV in the past 12 months, the most commonly reported barrier to testing was a perception of being at low risk for acquiring HIV. Approximately 52% had heard of people who do not have HIV taking anti-HIV medicines (PEP or PrEP) and 59% would be willing to take these anti-HIV medicines daily themselves.

Of the 656 participants who were interviewed, 623 were tested for HIV following the survey. Of those tested for HIV, 26% (n=164) were HIV-positive; <1% had an indeterminate test result. The 164 HIV-infected participants included 109 self-reported positives and 55 newly diagnosed individuals.

Figure 2. Location of most recent HIV test, MSM4, 2014



For more information on NHBS, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/systems/nhbs/>