

Primary Prevention



Creating Community Between Young and Older African-American Men Who Have Sex with Men in the East Bay

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Project Description: This project seeks to explore ways to decrease social isolation and sexual risk behaviors of young African American men who have sex with men (AAMSM) by:

1) investigating survival strategies used by younger (18-25 years of age) and older AAMSM (40 years of age and over) to help them cope with their racial and sexual identities; 2) promoting contact with older AAMSM, who can provide informational support, emotional support, and serve as role models, and 3) exploring the development of a formal mentoring program between younger and older AAMSM at a community-based organization.

Ninety-six AAMSM will be recruited in the East Bay to complete surveys and participate in focus groups.

Significance: Young African-American men who have sex with men (YAAMSM) are at high risk of becoming HIV positive and are disproportionately represented in the number of new HIV infections being reported. YAAMSM report both social and emotional isolation from family and community structures (church, Black community, and gay white community) because of their sexual and racial identities, which in turn may be associated with risky sexual behavior. Culturally responsive intervention programs are needed to halt the spread of HIV among all AAMSM, especially the young.

This study expands on one of the interventions suggested by young AAMSM to address HIV in their communities.

Results from the study will be shared with AAMSM community for feedback.