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# Unprotected Anal Intercourse (UAI) among young MSM in New York City

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**High Risk Behavioral Surveillance 2009-2011:** The High Risk Behavioral Surveillance (HRBS) project is an anonymous survey conducted among young MSM in NYC. By recruiting respondents from both online and inperson venues, DOHMH intends to minimize any potential sampling bias that may occur by using a singular approach. Respondents must be between 18 and 40 years of age and a resident of NYC. Sexual orientation is not included as an eligibility criterion, although respondents must have engaged in anal sex (insertive, receptive or both) in the six months prior to being surveyed. Additionally, respondents must be born male, although reported gender is not considered an eligibility requirement.

To access the related Epi Data Brief, go to www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/datatabrief13.pdf





Table 1. Sample Characteristic, 2009-2011.

Source: High Risk Behavioral Surveillance (HRBS) 2009-11.

Characteristic	n	%
Overall	1622	100.0
Age		
18-20	217	13.4
21-30	952	58.7
31-40	453	27.9
Race/ethnicity		
White, non-Hispanic	894	55.1
Black, non-Hispanic	393	24.2
Hispanic	335	20.7
Education		
High school or less	211	13.0
Some college or more	384	23.7
4-Year Degree	668	41.2
Graduate Degree	347	21.4
Country of Birth		
US born	1347	83.1
Foreign born	262	16.2
Borough		
Bronx	143	8.8
Brooklyn	390	24.0
Manhattan	880	54.3
Queens	184	11.3
Staten Island	25	1.5
HIV status		
HIV-negative	1267	78.1
HIV-positive	140	8.6
Unsure/Refusal	41	2.5
Never Tested	162	10.1



Table 2. Unprotected Anal Intercourse (UAI) at last sex by sample characteristics, 2009-2011.

Source: High Risk Behavioral Surveillance (HRBS) 2009-11.

Characteristic	n	%	p value
Overall	696	42.9	-
Age			
18-20	82	37.8	Referent
21-30	401	42.1	0.899
31-40	213	47.0	0.023
Race/ethnicity			
White, non-Hispanic	381	42.6	Referent
Black, non-Hispanic	157	40.0	0.077
Hispanic	158	47.2	0.035
Education			
High school or less	89	42.2	Referent
Some college or more	179	46.6	0.942
4-Year Degree	265	39.7	0.119
Graduate Degree	157	45.2	0.864
Country of Birth			
US born	591	43.8	Referent
Foreign born	99	37.8	0.073
Borough			
Bronx	56	39.2	Referent
Brooklyn	159	40.8	0.717
Manhattan	389	44.2	0.088
Queens	85	46.2	0.070
Staten Island	7	28.0	0.140
HIV status			
HIV-negative	516	40.7	Referent
HIV-positive	91	65.0	< 0.001
Unsure/Refusal	19	41.4	0.820
Never tested	65	40.1	



## Table 3. Unprotected Anal Intercourse (UAI) at last sex by risk behaviors, 2009-2011.

Source: High Risk Behavioral Surveillance (HRBS) 2009-11.

Characteristic	n	%	p value
Overall	696	42.9	
Number of sexual partners, six months	s		
Less than 6	512	42.5	Referent
More than 6	171	44.1	0.461
Partner type at last sexual encounter			
Steady	395	60.3	Referent
Casual	298	31.2	<0.001
Partner type, six months			
Steady only	268	62.5	Referent
Casual only	241	30.6	<0.001
Both	184	46.6	0.917



Table 4. HIV Testing in the past year by sample characteristics and risk behaviors, 2009-2011.

Source: High Risk Behavioral Surveillance (HRBS) 2009-11.

Characteristic	n	%	p value		
Overall	1075	66.3	-		
Age					
18-20	132	60.8	Referent		
21-30	649	68.2	0.170		
31-40	294	64.9	0.151		
Race/ethnicity		0 217			
White, non-Hispanic	586	65.6	Referent		
Black, non-Hispanic	272	69.2	0.152		
Hispanic	217	64.8	0.372		
Education		<u> </u>			
High school or less	134	63.5	Referent		
Some college or more	245	67.3	0.973		
4-Year Degree	458	68.7	0.229		
Graduate Degree	230	66.3	0.571		
Country of Birth		00.0	0.0.1		
US born	901	66.9	Referent		
Foreign born	167	63.7	0.324		
Borough	10,	00.7	0.021		
Bronx	102	71.3	Referent		
Brooklyn	260	66.7	0.540		
Manhattan	590	67.1	0.394		
Queens	108	58.7	0.083		
Staten Island	15	60.0	0.528		
HIV status	13	00.0	0.520		
HIV-negative	979	77.3	Referent		
HIV-positive	73	52.1	0.006		
Unsure/Refusal	15	7.4	0.211		
Number of sexual partners, six month		7.1	0.211		
Less than 6	791	65.6	Referent		
More than 6	264	68.0	0.375		
Partner type at last sexual encounter		00.0	0.575		
Steady	438	66.9	Referent		
Casual	629	65.8	0.655		
Partner type, six months					
Steady only	273	63.6	Referent		
Casual only	515	65.4	0.448		
Both	279	70.6	0.028		
Unprotected Anal Intercourse at last sex					
Reporting UAI	434	62.4	Referent		
No UAI	637	70.0	0.001		



## **Survey Methodology and Protocol**

Men who have sex with men (MSM) account for only a small proportion of New York City's population, yet account for the majority of new HIV infections. Although HIV incidence has leveled off among other high-risk groups in NYC, in recent years new HIV diagnoses have been increasing in young MSM age 13-29, and MSM of color (black and Hispanic MSM). High risk sexual practices – including unprotected anal sex, multiple concurrent partners, and sex under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol – are drivers of HIV transmission in NYC.

In response to this increase in HIV incidence, the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control conducts bi-annual surveys with young men living in NYC who have sex with men. The main objective of the surveillance activity is to evaluate the frequency of high-risk behaviors among MSM while tracking potential behavior changes over time. By recruiting respondents from both online and in-person venues, DOHMH minimizes any potential sampling bias that may occur by using a singular approach. Respondents must be men (who were born male), between 18 and 40 years of age and residents of New York City. Sexual orientation is not included as an eligibility criterion, although to qualify respondents must have engaged in anal sex (insertive, receptive or both) with a man in the six months prior to being surveyed.

#### Online Website Selection and Recuitment

Online surveys are administered by respondent self-selection via click-through banner ads placed on six websites including popular social networking and dating websites with content geared to MSM. Data collection occurs bi-annually in the spring and fall, and the online banner ads are posted for thirty days. Banner ads are geocoded to appear only for New York City-based users, and potential respondents who 'click through' the ads are directed to the survey and screened for eligibility. All ineligible respondents are directed to a DOHMH landing page with HIV/AIDS information. Eligible respondents are directed to an informed consent form. Respondents who consent proceed to the survey and those that do not consent are similarly directed to a landing page. Data collected from incomplete surveys are not analyzed, and respondents reporting a zip code or neighborhood outside of New York City as their place of residence are excluded from data analysis.