BESURE Study 2004-2010: Baltimore site of National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS)

The National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) system is a CDC-funded project currently conducted in 21 metropolitan areas 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, Baltimore, Maryland

	Wave 1	Wave 2
Men who have sex with men (MSM)	**June 2004 – April 2005**	**July – Oct 2008**
Data collection method	Venue-based Sampling	Venue-based Sampling
Recruited MSM*	645	448
HIV prevalence	37.7%	37.5%
Percent with unrecognized HIV infection	58.4%	78.4%
Injection drug users (IDU)	**Aug 2006 – Jan 2007**	**Sept – Dec 2009**
Data collection method	Respondent Driven Sampling	Respondent Driven Sampling
Recruited IDU*	539	507
HIV prevalence	11.9%	16.2%
Percent with unrecognized HIV infection	50.0%	41.2%
Heterosexuals at risk (HET)	**July – Oct 2007**	**Sept – Dec 2010**
Data collection method	Venue-based Sampling	Respondent Driven Sampling
Recruited HET*	332	338
HIV prevalence	3.9%	6.3%
Percent with unrecognized HIV infection	83.3%	62.5%

*With completed survey, HIV test, and reported risk behavior (MSM, IDU, or HET) during past 12 months

Publications

National HIV Behavioral Surveillance

2005 MMWR HIV Prevalence, Unrecognized Infection, and HIV Testing Among Men Who Have Sex with Men — Five U.S. Cities, June 2004–April 2005
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5424a2.htm

2006 MMWR Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Risk, Prevention, and Testing Behaviors — United States, National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System: Men Who Have Sex with Men, November 2003–April 2005 http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5506a1.htm

2009 MMWR HIV-Associated Behaviors Among Injecting-Drug Users — 23 Cities, United States, May 2005–February 2006 http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5813a1.htm

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

BESURE

German D, Sifakis F, Maulsby C, Towe VL, Flynn CP, Latkin CA, Celentano DD, Hauck H, Holtgrave DR. (2011). Persistently high prevalence and unrecognized HIV infection among men who have sex with men in Baltimore: The BESURE Study. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 57(1): 57-87. PubMed PMID:21297479.

Gindi RM, Sifakis F, Sherman SG, Towe VL, Flynn C, Zenilman JM. The Geography of Heterosexual Partnerships in Baltimore City Adults. Sex Transm Dis. 2011 Apr;38(4):260-6. PubMed PMID: 20966827.

Towe VL, Sifakis F, Gindi RM, Sherman SG, Flynn C, Hauck H, Celentano DD. Prevalence of HIV infection and sexual risk behaviors among individuals having heterosexual sex in low income neighborhoods in Baltimore, MD: the BESURE study. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2010 Apr 1;53(4):522-8. PubMed PMID: 19875965.

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