

# 2012 Profile of HIV in Michigan (Statewide)

## Ranked Behavioral Group: MSM

Data from enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS) & National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS)

### Overview:

Men who have sex with men (MSM) are the number one ranked behavioral group in Michigan for HIV infection. MSM remain the single largest behavioral group affected by the epidemic and account for over half (53 percent) of all reported HIV-positive persons, including MSM/IDU. MDCH estimates that there are approximately 11,070 MSM living with HIV infection in Michigan. This includes an estimated 910 HIV-positive males whose risk is a combination of having sex with other males and injecting drugs (table 8, page 101).

### Race/ethnicity:

MSM account for most HIV infections among males in Michigan for all racial and ethnic groups. When considering reported cases among MSM and MSM/IDU of all races (8,470 reported cases), white males make up 47 percent (4,015 cases); black males account for 46 percent (3,883 cases); and Hispanic males account for four percent (367 cases) (table 11, page 105).

### Age at HIV diagnosis:

Among MSM (including MSM/IDU), the highest proportion of all persons living with HIV infection were 30-39 years old at diagnosis (36 percent). MSM is the predominant mode of transmission for males ages 13 and up; male-male sex accounts for 76 percent and 78 percent of infections among those ages 13-19 years and 20-29 years at diagnosis, respectively (table 13, page 107).

### Late HIV diagnoses:

Of the 15,753 persons living with HIV infection in Michigan, 54 percent (8,565 cases) have progressed to stage 3 HIV infection. Of these, 3,594 (42 percent) were diagnosed with stage 3 HIV infection at the time of their initial diagnosis (late HIV diagnosis). MSM make up 55 percent (4,725 cases) of persons living with stage 3 infection, of whom 41 percent (1,951 cases) had late HIV diagnoses (table 8, page 101). This is higher than among other behavioral groups, suggesting that MSM get tested for HIV later in the course of their infections.

### Geographic distribution:

In both the Detroit Metro Area (DMA) and Out-State Michigan, MSM (including MSM/IDU) comprise the single largest mode of transmission. About two thirds (61 percent) of HIV-positive MSM statewide reside in the DMA, which is similar to the proportion of all cases that reside in the DMA. Within high prevalence counties, MSM comprise 53 percent of persons living with HIV infection, while in the lower prevalence counties 60 percent of reported persons living with HIV infection are MSM (data not shown in tables; see figure 3 on page 18 for high/low prevalence county classification).

### Sex partners and condom use:

MSM were interviewed about their sexual partners and condom use for the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) project. It is important to note that HIV status is not a requirement for participation; thus, the majority of NHBS participants are HIV-negative. Among 362 males who reported having sex with another male in the 12 months prior to their NHBS interviews in 2008, 52 percent (n=190) reported having sex with a main partner and 44 percent (n=159) reporting sex with a casual partner at last sexual encounter. The remaining four percent (n=13) reported last sexual encounter with an exchange partner (a partner with whom goods, such as drugs or money, were exchanged for sex) (see footnote of figure 23 for definitions of partner types). Sixteen percent (n=58) reported having

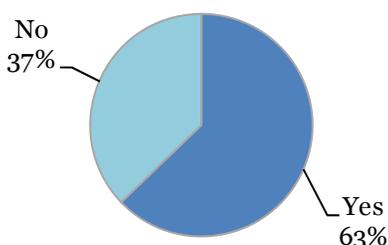
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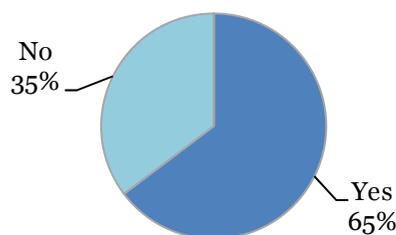
Data from National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS)

both insertive and receptive anal sex at last sexual encounter. As shown in figures 21 and 22, of the 156 male respondents who reported receptive anal sex, 63 percent (n=98) reported their partners used condoms the last time they had sex. Of the 187 male respondents who reported having insertive anal sex, 65 percent (n=121) reported using condoms.

**Figure 21: Condom use during receptive anal sex among MSM (NHBS, 2008) (n=156)**

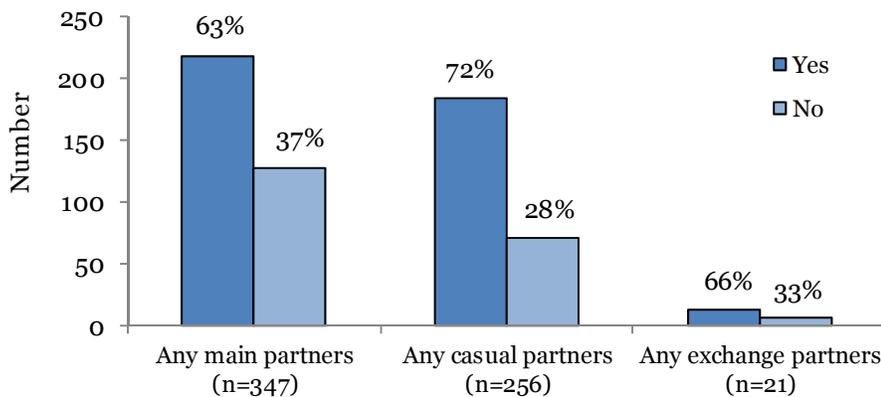


**Figure 22: Condom use during insertive anal sex among MSM (NHBS, 2008) (n=187)**



Male respondents classified their sexual partners in the 12 months prior to interview by partner type. Sixty-eight percent (n=246) reported having sex with a main partner(s), 61 percent (n=222) reported having sex with a casual partner(s), and 7 percent (n=25) reported sex with an exchange partner(s). Figure 23 shows condom use by sexual partner type for MSM reporting anal sex in the 12 months prior to interview. Note that the graph takes into consideration all partners that a respondent listed; therefore, only 246 respondents said they had one or more main partners, but there were 347 partnerships considered for condom use. Thirty-seven percent of respondents (n=128) reported not using condoms with main partner(s) and 28 percent (n=72) reported unprotected sex with casual partner(s).

**Figure 23: Condom use during anal sex by partner type\*† among MSM (NHBS, 2008)**



\*Categories are not mutually exclusive, meaning one person may be represented in more than one category.

†A main partner was defined as a man you have sex with and who you feel committed to above anyone else; a partner you could call your boyfriend, significant other, or life partner. A casual partner was defined as a man you have sex with but do not feel committed to or don't know very well. An exchange partner was defined as a man you have sex with in exchange for things like money or drugs.

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Data from Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) & enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS)

**Table 4: Number of sexual partners in the past 12 months of HIV-positive persons in care\*† (MMP, 2009)**

	MSM (n=53)	MSW only (n=25)	WSM (n=23)
One	26 (53%)	19 (76%)	22 (96%)
Two or more	25 (47%)	6 (24%)	1 (4%)
No. of partners (range)	1-30	1-4	1-4

Data from the Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) show that MSM were more likely to report two or more different partners in the 12 months prior to interview than persons in other risk groups (table 4). Half of all MSM reported unprotected sex with at least one partner in the 12 months prior to interview.

It is important to note that both the NHBS and MMP are conducted in the Detroit Metro Area and therefore may not be representative of all MSM in the state. Please see the data source descriptions (pages x and xi) in the Forward for further information on these projects.

\*Men who have sex with men (MSM), men who have sex with women only (MSW Only), women who have sex with men (WSM); note that these MSM and MSW are mutually exclusive categories.

†Includes oral, anal, and vaginal sex.

### Behaviorally bisexual males:

Case reporting data are collected statewide but have only limited information on male bisexual behavior. Case reports are completed by health care providers and surveillance staff reviewing medical records rather than through interviews with HIV-positive persons. Only 57 percent of all completed case reports have complete ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answers to both of the following: "Before the 1st positive HIV test/AIDS diagnosis, patient had: Sex with male" and "Before the 1st positive HIV test/AIDS diagnosis, patient had: Sex with female." Based on these complete forms, 57 percent of all MSM (including MSM/IDU) reported also having sex with females. These more complete forms also show that three percent of females report having sex with behaviorally bisexual males. These data should be viewed as minimum estimates of these behaviors as 43 percent of case reports did not have the two questions answered completely.

### Trends and conclusions:

The estimated number of new HIV infections among men who have sex with men (MSM) remained stable from 2006 to 2010, while the estimated number of new HIV infections among MSM who were also IDU (MSM/IDU) decreased an average of 17 percent per year. MSM and MSM/IDU together constituted 51 percent of all new diagnoses in

2010 (Trends). The majority of new MSM and MSM/IDU cases are black (figure 24). There were no statistically significant increases or decreases in number of new diagnoses in MSM or MSM/IDU in any racial/ethnic group. “Other” in this figure includes Hispanics and individuals of other or unknown race.

**Figure 24: New HIV diagnoses among MSM by race, 2006-2010**

