



YAYA FACT SHEET

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HIV/AIDS and Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)

The term, *men who have sex with men (MSM)*, refers to all men who have sex with other men, regardless of how they identify themselves (gay, bisexual, or heterosexual). In the United States, HIV and AIDS have had a tremendous impact on MSM.

Consider these facts:

- AIDS has been diagnosed for more than half a million MSM. Over 300,000 MSM with AIDS have died since the beginning of the epidemic.
- MSM made up more than two-thirds (68%) of all men living with HIV in 2005, even though only about 5% to 7% of men in the United States reported having sex with other men.

Sexual Risk

Sexual risks account for most HIV infections in MSM. These risks include unprotected sex and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

- Not using a condom during anal sex with someone other than a primary HIV-negative partner continues to be a significant threat to the health of MSM.
- STDs (such as syphilis and gonorrhea) increase the risk for HIV infection and are persistent health issues for MSM. Not only do STDs increase one's chances of becoming infected with HIV, they also can indicate high-risk sexual behavior, which facilitates the transmission of HIV infection.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offer interventions that have been proven effective for MSM. These interventions can be tailored to various audiences, such as African-American MSM.

- **Many Men, Many Voices** is a group STD/HIV prevention intervention for gay men of color and MSM who do not see themselves as gay or bisexual.
- **Mpowerment** presents HIV prevention, safer sex, and risk-reduction messages in a community-building format for young MSM.
- **Popular Opinion Leader** brings together and trains key opinion leaders to encourage safer sex as the norm in their social networks of MSM.
- **Healthy Relationships** develops the skills and self-efficacy of people living with HIV/AIDS
- **Peers Reaching Out and Modeling Intervention Strategies (PROMISE)** uses peers (including MSM who do not see themselves as gay) to help people adopt practices to reduce or eliminate risk factors for HIV infection.

CDC is also conducting research to test new interventions for MSM and to improve access to HIV testing for MSM who are unaware of their HIV serostatus.

Sources: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/msm/index.htm>
<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/msm/challenges.htm>