

# Horizons Project Children's Hospital of Michigan

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## Objectives

- Frame the HIV epidemic in Michigan
- Explain the Horizons' approach to HIV care and Prevention Services for YMSMC
- Explore risk and resiliency factors for YMSMC
- Discuss the use of social networks in YMSMC prevention and outreach programming




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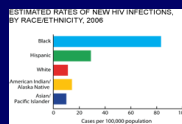
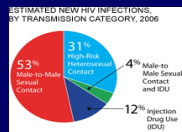
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## According to the CDC.....

- Recent analysis (of the HIV epidemic) revealed some significant challenges:
  - HIV incidence has been steadily increasing among gay and bisexual men since the early 1990s, confirming a trend suggested by prior data showing increases in risk behavior.
  - New infections among blacks are at a higher level than any other racial or ethnic group
  - The new estimates highlight the need for expanded HIV prevention services and should serve as a wake-up call that the US HIV/AIDS epidemic is far from over.



Hall HI, Song R, Rhodes P, Prejean J, An Q, Lee LM, Karon J, Brookmeyer R, Kaplan EH, McKenna MT, Janssen RS for the HIV Incidence Surveillance Group. Estimation of HIV Incidence in the United States. JAMA. August 6, 2008;300(5):520

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## HIV Epidemiology in Michigan

- MDCH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Section estimates that as of July 2008:
  - There are 18,000 people (2,880 ages 13-24) living with HIV/AIDS in the state of Michigan (MI)
    - African Americans accounted for 68% of all reported HIV/AIDS cases in MI; yet comprise 23% of the population
  - Approximately 69% of the Michigan HIV/AIDS cases reside in the Detroit Metropolitan Area (DMA)
    - 42% in the city of Detroit

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## HIV Epidemiology in Michigan

- Between 2002-2006 youth ages 13-24:
  - Have experienced a steady increase in the number of new diagnoses
  - ¾ of these new diagnoses are African American youth
  - Young men who have sex with men (YMSM) account for the majority of these diagnoses

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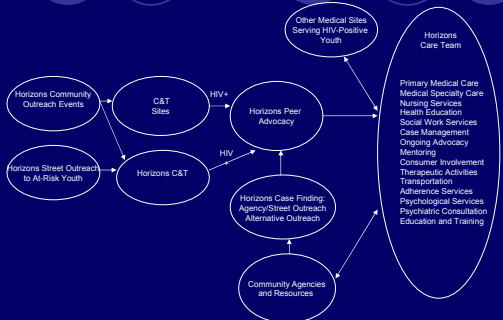
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## Horizons Project's Continuum of Care




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## Current Horizons Program Statistics

- 156 clients enrolled in services
  - 154 have been seen once
    - 70% are men (n=108)
- From Jan. 2007- Aug. 2008
  - 73 new HIV youth were referred to services
    - 89% showed for intake (n=65)
    - 79% showed for 1<sup>st</sup> appt. (n=58)
    - 86% were men (n=63)
- From July 2007-2008:
  - 41 YMSMC were referred to care
  - 85% completed intakes
  - 94% made their 1<sup>st</sup> appt.
  - 91% are enrolled in our SPNS initiative

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## Brothers Saving Brothers

(PI: Angulique Outlaw, PhD)

- Intervention Description:
  - BSB—SPNS is a Counseling and Testing paradigm using Motivational Interviewing outreach and Traditional field outreach face-to-face and on-line to get YAAMSM to know their HIV status
  - BSB is a 3-session behavioral skills intervention aimed at reducing HIV infection specifically among young African American gay and bisexual men.

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## What is a Social Network?



- A **social network** is a **social structure** made of nodes (in our case mechanisms of outreach) that are tied by one or more specific types of interdependency, such as values, visions, ideas, friendship

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## Using Social Networks to Inform Outreach



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## Let's Look at the Two R's

● **Risk:** exposure to the chance of injury or loss; a hazard or dangerous chance

● **Resiliency:** 1. The power or ability to return to the original form after being stretched; elasticity. 2. The ability to recover readily from illness, depression, adversity, or the like.

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## Experience has shown.....

- Risk Factors to be
  - Multiple partners
  - Inconsistent condom use
  - Sex under the influence of....
  - Unacknowledged risk
  - Poor testing habits

- Resiliency Factors to be
  - Youth
  - Inconsistent condom use
  - Peer support network
  - Age of technology
    - Cell phone
    - Internet
      - IM
      - Social Network Sites

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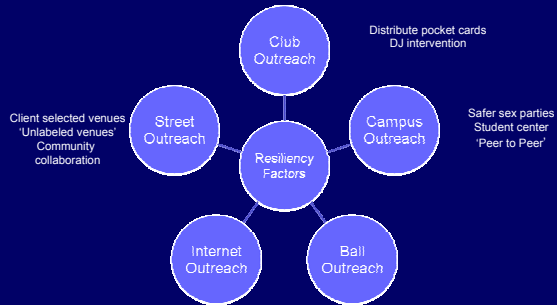
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## Using Social Networks to Inform Outreach



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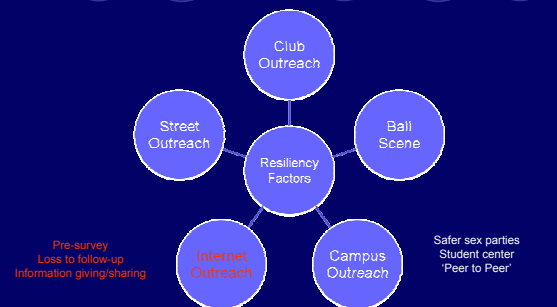
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## Using Social Networks to Inform Outreach



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## Internet Survey

- Online survey to assess sexual behavior among online African American YMSM and determine possible barriers to HIV C&T for this population
  - 550 Email invitations sent
  - 317 responses to the invitation
  - 270 valid surveys from African American YMSM
    - Age 18-24 (Average age of 20.33 years)

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## Findings from the Internet Survey

### Risk Behavior

Sexual Behavior	% "Yes"
At least one sexual partner past 90 days	84*
At least one female partner past 90 days	20
Sexual intercourse (anal and/or vaginal) without a condom in the past 30 days	42
Receptive anal intercourse without a condom in the past 30 days	30
Insertive anal intercourse without a condom in the past 30 days	25
Vaginal intercourse without a condom in the past 30 days	11
Believe placed self at risk for HIV in the past 90 days	28

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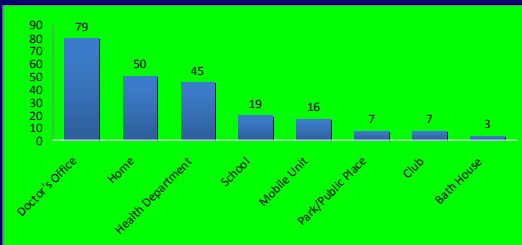
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## Findings from the Internet Survey

### Preferred HIV Counseling & Testing Venues




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## Internet Use at Horizons Project

- Emailing (email to cell)
  - Used to contact youth who may not answer their phones, have limited calling plans, or who do not have phones
- MySpace and Facebook (social networking)
  - Used to locate hard to reach clients
- Conduct online outreach on YMSM specific sites to offer HIV C&T, provide HIV/STD information, recruit for group-level prevention and referrals for services
  - Visit: adamforadam, menfornow, blackgaychat

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## Challenges to Internet Outreach

- Staff skills
  - Typing
  - Use of appropriate slang
  - Professionalism
- Subject concerns
  - Confidentiality
  - "What's in it for me?"

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## Program Challenges & Future Directions

- Funding
  - Internet research activities are in the 'early stages of promise'
- Staffing
  - Need for continuing education and limit setting
  - Need for combined outreach strategies
- Quality Assurance
  - Adherence to outreach protocol(s)
  - Documentation

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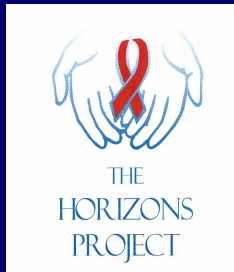
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## For More Information Contact

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<http://www.peds.med.wayne.edu/horizons>



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