

Experiences of Substance Use Behavior Among Young Black MSM

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This qualitative study will examine the unique experiences of substance use behavior among young Black MSM in the Bay Area. Black young adults between the ages of 13-25 are one of the largest populations of people being diagnosed with new infections of HIV/AIDS. The prevalence of HIV among young Black men who have sex with men (MSM) is three to four times higher than white MSM.

Young Black MSM are runaways and homeless, forcing them to survive on the streets by becoming sex workers, engaging in unprotected anal intercourse because either they or their partner is high or buzzed on drugs or alcohol. Studies cite crack cocaine use, sex while high on crack cocaine, marijuana and alcohol, or sharing needles for injection drugs as strongly associated with HIV infection among young Black MSM. It is often difficult for these young adults to negotiate safer sex practices with their partners, including discussion of their HIV-positive status