



National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day April 10, 2017

Research and Resources for
Youth HIV/AIDS Prevention



Center for AIDS Prevention Studies
Prevention Research Center
Division of Prevention Science



Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS)

UCSF Prevention Research Center (PRC)

Research & Resources

This brochure lists research projects with Youth or young adults as well as helpful resources produced by CAPS/PRC. You might use it to:

- Stay up-to-date on research and learn what we found out from research
- Provide materials in trainings/presentations
- Advocate for services/funding
- Write grants
- Develop new or modify existing HIV prevention programs
- Evaluate current programs
- Connect with CAPS/PRC to develop new projects. Lead researchers (PIs) are listed for each study. Contact us below to connect.

Questions? Comments? Contact Daryl Mangosing via phone at 1-415-514-4590 or email at Daryl.Mangosing@ucsf.edu

This brochure was prepared by the CAPS **Community Engagement (CE) Core**, *which is previously known as the Technology and Information Exchange (TIE) Core.*

Acronyms

MSM: Men who have sex with men

PI: Principal Investigator (lead researcher on the study)

HIV Care, Testing, and PrEP

Connecting Resources for Urban Sexual Health: The CRUSH

Investigator: Janet Myers (Evaluation)

Due to the local HIV/AIDS epidemic in Alameda County among young MSM, the overall goal of the CRUSH project is to demonstrate the feasibility and effectiveness of integrating and implementing comprehensive sexual health services within a youth clinic to support HIV prevention and care engagement. Specifically, the study seeks to enhance the services provided by an existing model program for HIV-infected youth to strengthen linkage and retention in HIV care.

Utilizing a broad range of scientific and community partners, patients can arrive for scheduled or drop-in visits, receive regular HIV testing, and much more.

Research finding: *Since February 2014, CRUSH enrolled 262 HIV-negative participants, who were all screened and tested at baseline to receive pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). HIV tests are conducted at recurrent study visits. www.CRUSH510.org*



Photo: CRUSH Project

Technology to Connect At-Risk Youth to Testing

Investigator: Marguerita Lightfoot

Peer education and outreach strategies have been successful at reducing sexual risk behavior and increasing the use of health resources in adolescents and other at-risk groups, including adults residing in census tracts where STI rates are high. A potential vehicle for outreach to adolescents is socially interactive technologies (e.g., text messages).

The proposed study makes a significant public health impact by developing and pilot testing an innovative strategy to increase the number of high-risk adolescents receiving HIV screening and by examining the effectiveness of messaging diffused through the social network of adolescents.

MSM Self-Testing Project

Investigators: Marguerita Lightfoot, Sheri Lippman, Nicholas Moss (Alameda County Department of Public Health)

The overall study aims to enhance identification of undiagnosed HIV infection and increase linkage to HIV care among African American and Latino gay and other men who have sex with men (MSM) in Alameda County. The proposed intervention leverages a new technology, HIV self-testing, to increase testing among under-diagnosed African American and Latino MSM. We have enlisted recruiters to ask 5 peers they believe to be sexually active to complete a HIV self-test.

The use of peer-driven HIV self-testing has the potential to reach young MSM who don't normally test, accessing hard-to-reach populations.

Home Testing Among Young, African American Gay, Bisexual, & other MSM

Investigator: Greg Rebchook

Encouraging young, African American gay, bisexual, and other MSM (YAAMSM) to know their current HIV status in order to reduce the number of undiagnosed HIV cases is an important part of the National HIV/AIDS strategy, but little data exist about YAAMSM's experience with and attitudes toward home testing. To address this knowledge gap, we conducted an evaluation of an Mpowerment Project adapted for YAAMSM in Texas to learn more about their experience with and attitudes towards home testing for HIV.

Given the strong interest in home testing as an option for YAAMSM, the HIV prevention workforce should consider developing strategies to make home testing more widely available and affordable.

Research finding: *Among the HIV-negative or status unknown participants, 61% said that they are either extremely likely or somewhat likely to use a home kit in the future. Home testing use increased significantly from 19% in '13 to 27.5% in '14.*

Characterizing the Social Environment for STI Testing and Treatment and STI Testing Preferences for Young, Minority

Investigators: Sheri Lippman (PI), Marguerita Lightfoot, Jacqueline McCright and Susan Philip (San Francisco Department of Public Health)

We characterized the sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing and treatment environment for young, African American men in San Francisco by: 1) exploring STI services use, 2) barriers to care, and 3) preferences for future diagnostic technologies and testing strategies.

Research finding: *Among the African American adolescent males recruited from a high-morbidity neighborhood, the majority of them (86.5%) preferred to seek care at traditional STD testing venues rather than non-traditional venues.*

Current ongoing projects

We Are Family: Testing, Linkage and Engagement in Care among African American Gay, Bisexual, and Trans youth in the House Ball Community

Investigators: Emily Arnold (PI), Parya Saberi, Susan Kegeles, Torsten Neilands, Lance Pollack, Michael Benjamin (CAL-PEP), Felicia Bridges (CAL-PEP), and Gloria Lockett (CAL-PEP)

This is a newly funded 4-year study supported by the [California HIV/AIDS Research Program \(CHRP\)](#) to develop intervention activities that build upon forms of social support already occurring among young people involved in the house ball and gay family communities, specifically related to HIV prevention and care. This is a collaboration between UCSF, CAL-PEP, and members of the house ball and gay family communities.

Replicating STYLE: Strength Through Youth Livin' Empowered (M+)

Investigators: Greg Rebchok (PI), Janet Myers, Susan Kegeles, Emily Arnold (Co-Is), Rob Newells (APEB)

This project is adapting and replicating STYLE/M+ in Oakland, CA with Black and Latino gay, bisexual, and other MSM who

are living with HIV. STYLE is an evidence-based intervention that has been shown to improve engagement in healthcare among of young MSM of color living with HIV.

For more information, visit: <http://caps.ucsf.edu/library/project-style-strength-through-youth-livin-empowered/>

WYZ: A Mobile Health Application for Engagement in Care among Youth Living with HIV

Investigators: Parya Saberi (PI), Theodore Ruel (co-I), Torsten Neilands (co-I), Mallory Johnson (co-I)

In the US, fewer than 6% of all youth living with HIV (YLWH) achieve HIV viral suppression. This health disparity extends to the entire HIV care continuum in that there is a strong association between younger age and later HIV diagnosis, lower engagement in care, lower levels of antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence, and worse HIV clinical outcomes. In response to this critical public health dilemma, our research team proposes to develop a novel mobile health application ("app") to improve engagement in health care and ART adherence and to pilot test this mobile health app in 18-29 year-old YLWH. The aims of our study are to conduct a pilot randomized trial to assess the feasibility, acceptability, and preliminary clinical impact of the use of WYZ (pronounced "wise") among YLWH and their healthcare providers.

Research finding: *After numerous individual qualitative interviews and focus groups with YLWH, we have developed WYZ 1.0 and are currently awaiting funding from the NIH. Further details of our app can be viewed here: <http://preview.isu.ucsf.edu/wyz-youth-living-hiv>*

Y2TEC: Youth to Text or Telehealth for Engagement in HIV Care

Investigators: Parya Saberi (co-PI), Carol Dawson-Rose (co-PI), Valerie Gruber (co-I), Torsten Neilands (co-I)

Youth who are living with HIV (18-29 years old) have poorer health than older adults living with HIV. There are many reasons for this including a lack of youth friendly health care settings. In addition some youth may not be involved in their health care or taking HIV medications regularly because of their substance use. We propose a study to determine if using technology (e.g. videoconferencing, text messaging, or other forms of technology) to provide health care and counseling will result in better and more welcoming health care services for youth living with HIV. We will also examine whether these forms of technology are useful methods to address and decrease substance use for youth living with HIV.

Research finding: *We have conducted 17 qualitative interviews with clinicians/staff from 8 different clinics/organizations serving YLWH in San Francisco and Oakland that show system-level (e.g., availability of technology and clinic capacity), provider/staff-level (e.g., privacy and comfort with use), and youth-level (e.g., changing phone numbers and relationship with provider) as barriers to technology use.*

A Community-Level HIV Prevention Intervention for Young Black MSM

Investigators: Susan Kegeles (PI); John Peterson (Georgia State University, Co-PI); Greg Rebchook (Co-PI); David Huebner (University of Maryland, Co-investigator)

This project involves adapting the Mpowerment Project for young Black MSM in Texas and testing its efficacy in reducing sexual risk behavior and increasing HIV testing. The adapted project is called United Black Ellument. The adapted intervention was first implemented in Dallas, and then it was implemented in Houston. The project also involves a qualitative study of young Black MSM who are being followed over several years to see the issues that they face within HIV prevention efforts.



Photo: United Black Ellument

Community Mobilization to Improve the HIV/AIDS Continuum of Care Among Young Black Gay Men

Investigators: Susan Kegeles (PI), Greg Rebchook (Co-PI), John Peterson (Georgia State University), David Huebner (George Washington University)

This project involves using a community empowerment and mobilization approach to help and motivate young black men who are living with HIV to engage in care and take ART medications regularly. This includes adapting the Mpowerment Project so that it focuses, in addition to risk reduction and HIV testing, on helping men deal with internalized and external HIV stigma, support men living with HIV to get support from friends in their social networks, and increase HIV treatment literacy.

Translational and implementation research

Prevention Research Center (PRC)

Investigators: Marguerita Lightfoot (PI), Greg Rebchook, Janet Myers, Susan Kegeles, Emily Arnold; George Rutherford (GHS); Rob Newells (AIDS Project of the East Bay or APEB)

This project addresses the significant HIV health disparities among African Americans by strengthening community engagement and supporting implementation of evidence-based strategies and approaches. The PRC will also translate and disseminate HIV science, train students, public health professionals and community members as well as continually evaluate its activities. The PRC is collaborating with the AIDS Project of the East Bay to adapt, implement, and evaluate an evidence-based intervention to improve engagement in healthcare among HIV-positive African American gay/bi, and other MSM, with a focus on young men ([STYLE/M+](#)).



Photo: STYLE Project (M+)

Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) Project

Project Staff: Greg Rebchook PhD (PI); Susan Kegeles PhD, James Dilley MD, JoAnne Keatley MSW (Co-PIs)

This project offers capacity building assistance (CBA) to CBOs by providing information dissemination services, training, and technical assistance (TA)—including the facilitation of peer-to-peer learning in order to increase the capacity of the HIV prevention workforce at CBOs to optimize the planning, implementation, and sustainment of interventions and strategies for High Impact HIV Prevention. <http://cba.ucsf.edu>

CAPS/PRC Resources

Research and publications with Youth:

http://caps.ucsf.edu/library/?_sf_s=youth

Fact Sheets: http://caps.ucsf.edu/library/?_sf_s=youth&_sft_resource_type=factsheets

- What are adolescents' HIV prevention needs?
<https://caps.ucsf.edu/library/adolescents/>
- What is the role of the family in HIV prevention?
<https://caps.ucsf.edu/library/family/>
- Parents and children
<https://caps.ucsf.edu/library/parents-and-children/>
- What works best in sex/HIV education?
<https://caps.ucsf.edu/library/sex-education/>

Survey Instruments & Scales: www.caps.ucsf.edu/resources/survey-instruments

- Topics include counseling and testing, healthcare providers, risk behavior, adherence, coping, substance use and knowledge/attitudes.

Evaluation Manuals: http://caps.ucsf.edu/library/?_sft_library_type=resource&_sf_s=manual

- Good Questions Better Answers: A Formative Research Handbook for California HIV Prevention Programs
- Working Together: A Guide to Collaborative Research in HIV Prevention

Intervention Curricula: www.caps.ucsf.edu/resources/intervention-curricula

- Healthy Oakland Teens Curriculum (adolescents)
- Mpowerment Project (young gay/bisexual men)

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<http://prevention.ucsf.edu>



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