



NC-TOPPS SNAPSHOT

Risky HIV/AIDS Behavior Among Consumers



December 1, 2008 marked the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day; a day when individuals and organizations around the world come together to bring attention to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. HIV/AIDS is a condition that affects all people regardless of gender, race/ethnicity, or age. According to estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS, 33.2 million people were living with HIV at the end of 2007. An estimated 1,106,400 persons in the United States are living with HIV/AIDS. Locally, approximately 32,583 North Carolinians are living with the HIV disease (NC HIV/STD surveillance report, 2007). This snapshot explores how NC-TOPPS data can

be used to determine which substance abusing consumers are more likely to engage in activities known to transmit HIV/AIDS, activities such as unprotected sex and injection drug use.

Although the NC-TOPPS questionnaire is designed to gather outcome and performance data for substance abuse and mental health treatment programs in North Carolina, it also provides useful information in determining consumers likely to engage in known modes of HIV/AIDS transmission.

There are currently two questions in the NC-TOPPS questionnaire that address risky HIV/AIDS transmission behavior:

1. If ever, when have you ever participated in any of the following activities without a condom being used (had sex with someone who was not your spouse or primary partner, knowingly had sex with someone who injected drugs, or traded, gave, or received sex for drugs, money or gifts)?
2. If ever, when is the last time you used a needle to get any drug injected under your skin, into a muscle, or into a vein for non-medical reasons?

Analysis of data collected from adult substance abusing consumers during the 07/08 year shows that:

- ⇒ Injecting drugs users are 5.8 times more likely to engage in risky transmission behaviors
- ⇒ 18 to 20 year olds are 2.0 times more likely
- ⇒ African Americans are 1.3 times more likely

These data reflect HIV incidence trends observed in other in-state and national reporting.

The table to the right provides statewide and national percentages for individuals newly infected with HIV in 2006 (NC Epidemiologic Profile for HIV/STD Prevention & Planning, October 2008).

Of the 2,356 North Carolinians newly infected with HIV, individuals who injected drugs accounted for 8% of new cases. African Americans accounted for 67% of all new cases and within the age demographic persons aged 13-29 had the highest percentage of new cases.

Compared to national HIV incidence estimates, North Carolinians had much higher percentages of African Americans and those 50 and over becoming newly infected with HIV. Further inquiry is needed to determine which factors contribute to these differences and which treatments and services are appropriate in addressing conditions unique to North Carolina.

HIV Incidence Estimates, 2006

	NC (N = 2356)	US (N = 56,300)
Mode of Transmission	Pct.	Pct.
MSM*	57%	53%
Hetero	35%	31%
IDU	8%	12%
Race/Ethnicity		
African American	67%	45%
Caucasian	25%	35%
Other**	9%	20%
Age		
13-29	28%	34%
30-39	26%	31%
40-49	26%	25%
50+ Years	20%	10%

*MSM = men who have sex with men and includes MSM who inject drugs

IDU = injection drug use

** Other includes: Hispanics, Asian/Pacific Islanders, American Indian/Alaskan Natives

TIME PERIOD: INITIAL ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED JULY 1, 2007– APRIL 30, 2008

SOURCES: (1) ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE CONSUMERS: STATEWIDE (2) North Carolina 2007 HIV/STD Surveillance Report
 (3) North Carolina Epidemiologic Profile for HIV/STD Prevention & Care Planning October 2008