



# National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day February 7, 2017

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Research and Resources for  
African American HIV/AIDS Prevention

**UCSF** Center for AIDS Prevention Studies  
Prevention Research Center  
Division of Prevention Sciences



# Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) UCSF Prevention Research Center (PRC)

## Research & Resources

This brochure lists research projects with African Americans and 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 at 415-514-4590 or [Daryl.Mangosing@ucsf.edu](mailto: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)

## 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.

## HIV Care, Testing, and PrEP

### Locating and Reaching HIV-Positive Black Men Who Have Sex with Men Who Have Fallen Out of HIV Care

**Investigators:** Wilson Vincent (PI)

HIV-positive Black men who have sex with men (BMSM+) comprise 1/4 of new HIV infections in the US, and HIV prevalence is 30% among BMSM+ in some cities. Identifying where to locate Black men living with HIV who have sex with men (BMSM+) who have fallen out of care is essential in order to help them re-engage in care. Moreover, it is unclear where such an intervention should be conducted so that men are likely to attend it.

This project will involve identifying ways of locating and recruiting BMSM+ who have fallen out of care back into HIV care and determining the best community or clinical settings in which to conduct an intervention for BMSM+ who have fallen out of HIV care in order to re-engage them in care.

Semi-structured interviews are being conducted with a variety of key informants, including BMSM+ themselves.

### Culturally relevant PrEP demonstration for trans communities - TRIUMPH

**Investigators:** Jae Sevelius (PI)

The overall goal of the “Trans Research-Informed communities United in Mobilization for the Prevention of HIV” (TRIUMPH) Project is to develop and evaluate a culturally-relevant, community-led PrEP demonstration project, driven by the needs and experiences of transgender women of color. The TRIUMPH Project will identify the best methods to deliver PrEP safely and effectively to trans communities while achieving the highest levels of adherence possible.

While we will not exclude transgender men or other members of various trans communities, our project will be designed with the needs of those communities most impacted by HIV in mind, namely trans women, and in particular trans women of color. Members of the target population will be involved in all stages of planning, implementation, and evaluation.

### 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.

### The N’Gage Project: Creating a mHealth Tool for Enhancing HIV Care Engagement in the Dyadic Context

**Investigators:** Judy Tan (PI)

African American men who have sex with men (MSM) have the poorest HIV care and treatment outcomes relative to any racial/ethnic group of MSM. The primary romantic relationship provides an important context for understanding HIV care engagement among MSM in a primary romantic

relationship with another man. Relationship factors such as communication, relationship satisfaction, and social support have been shown to predict health outcomes, including those in the HIV Care Continuum. Given the ubiquity of mobile technology use among African Americans and its success in optimizing healthcare engagement, mobile health (mHealth) holds tremendous potential for facilitating relationship factors conducive to HIV care engagement among African American men who are in a primary romantic relationship with another man.

The goal of this project is to develop a couples-focused mHealth tool that enhances relationship factors important to HIV care engagement among HIV-positive African American men who are in a primary romantic relationship with another man.

## The CRUSH: Connecting Resources for Urban Sexual Health

**Investigator:** Janet Myers

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. Website: [www.CRUSH510.org](http://www.CRUSH510.org)



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

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

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.*

## MSM Self-Testing Project

**Investigators:** Marguerita Lightfoot (PI), Sheri Lippman (Co-I), 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 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.

## 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.

## Men who have sex with men & Women

### Adapting and Evaluating SISTA for Transgender Women of Color

**Investigators:** Jae Sevelius (PI)

In CA, transgender female clients of publicly-funded counseling and testing sites have higher rates of HIV diagnosis (6%) than all other risk categories, including MSM (4%) and partners of people living with HIV (5%); African American transgender women have a substantially higher rate of HIV diagnosis (29%) than all other racial or ethnic groups in CA.

This project uses a systematic adaptation process to produce a culturally relevant HIV prevention intervention curriculum for transgender women of color adapted from the evidence-based intervention SISTA or “Sisters Informing Sisters on Topics about AIDS.” We assess the feasibility and acceptability of the adapted intervention and conduct an evaluation to gather preliminary evidence for the effectiveness of the intervention with transgender women of color.

### 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 over several years to see the issues that they face within HIV prevention efforts.



### The Bruthas Project: Sexual Health Promotion Counseling Sessions

**Investigators:** Emily Arnold (Academic PI), Gloria Lockett (Community PI)

African American men who have sex with men and women (AAMSMW) are at high risk for acquiring and transmitting HIV, but few interventions exist to address their prevention needs. To address this, we developed the Bruthas Project, a series of four individualized sexual health promotion counseling sessions designed to build upon standardized HIV counseling and testing (HIV-CT) with the following goals: 1) increase comfort with one’s personal identity, 2) build safer sex and sexual communication skills, and 3) increase regular HIV testing for men who are negative.

With data analysis and manuscripts in progress, the intervention will reach a vulnerable population to encourage uptake of regular HIV testing and reduced sexual risk taking if Bruthas is found to be effective.

## Youth

### Replicating STYLE: Strength Through Youth Livin’ Empowered

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

This project is adapting and replicating STYLE 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/>





## CAPS/PRC Resources

Research and publications with African Americans:

[http://caps.ucsf.edu/library/?\\_sf\\_s=black](http://caps.ucsf.edu/library/?_sf_s=black)

Fact Sheets: [http://caps.ucsf.edu/library/?\\_sf\\_s=black&\\_sft\\_resource\\_type=factsheets](http://caps.ucsf.edu/library/?_sf_s=black&_sft_resource_type=factsheets)

- Black Gay Men and the Church  
<http://caps.ucsf.edu/library/black-gay-men-and-the-church/>
- What are the HIV prevention needs of African Americans?  
<http://caps.ucsf.edu/library/what-are-african-americans-hiv-prevention-needs/>
- What are Black men's HIV prevention needs?  
<http://caps.ucsf.edu/archives/factsheets/black-men>
- What are Black women's HIV prevention needs?  
<http://caps.ucsf.edu/library/black-women/>

Survey Instruments & Scales: [www.caps.ucsf.edu/resources/survey-instruments](http://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](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](http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/resources/intervention-curricula)

- African American Men's Health Study Training Manual
- Healthy Oakland Teens Curriculum

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