

US/Mexico Border HIV/AIDS Qualitative Assessment

(four populations being studied here; gay males, bisexual males, IDU males, and women [IDU & heterosexual])

This study is about the “road traveled” to the HIV clinic.

First, what has been their experience in risk factors that contributed to them being HIV-infected? Moving beyond, however, just CDC defined risk-factors to looking more in depth into lifestyle. (60% of study)

- a. what were the obstacles to getting tested?
- b. what made you think you might be HIV-infected?
- c. how did you react when you first found out that you were HIV-positive?
- d. what were the obstacles to getting into a program? – how did you discover there was a doctor that could help you?
- e. what concerns did you have before you decided you needed to see a doctor?
- f. once you knew you were infected, were there any barriers that prohibited you from getting medical or social services?

probe for barriers and access issues here if not identified earlier: INS-immigration, language, culture, lack of transportation, etc.

Second, after first arriving at the clinic/case management services door, what has been their experience as a client in a social services and/or primary care program? (20% of study) (20% of study)

- a. what is it like to be a client in an HIV/AIDS program?
- b. how does it feel to need to rely on staff to help get medications?
- c. how does it feel to be a client in a program where many of the other clients are different from you (especially for bisexual males and IDU males)? How does it feel to be a woman in a program that this probably oriented to serving men?

Third, “What is your current life like?” examines lifestyle and how they fit into their community/culture. (20% of study)

- a. what is your daily life like?
- b. how does their current life differ from the time before they knew they were HIV-positive? since diagnosis, how has their life changed?
- c. what has been the impact of being HIV-positive?
- d. how has their diagnosis changed their outlook on future life?

Demographic assessment:

- a. basic family composition
- b. age & gender
- c. ethnic heritage (Hispanic background)
- d. risk factor for infection
- e. length of time since diagnosis and length of time in program
- f. intervention: case management, primary care, or both

Notes:

- a. want to be able to compare and contrast bisexual males to homosexual males
- b. sexual orientation of males must be identified (measured) in number of sexual contacts with male and female partners (behavioral)
- c. may not be able to compare women IDU to women heterosexuals
- d. all subjects must be Hispanic/Latino
- e. transgender, IDU/MSM, heterosexual only male subjects are excluded
- f. subjects must have been receiving HIV services for at least three months
- g. emphasis is not on client satisfaction for second part of interview, but rather “what are the experiences of being a client like?”

Products:

- a. descriptive study of individuals affected by HIV/AIDS on the US/Mexico Border
- b. differences between bisexual and homosexual males (who are HIV-positive)
- c. defining treatment issues for the population