

The BROTHERS Project

Broadening the Reach Of Testing, Health Education, Resources and Services

for Black Men who have Sex with Men



There is an HIV epidemic in this country among Black men who have sex with men (MSM).

Black MSM in the United States are disproportionately vulnerable to HIV infection, accounting for approximately a quarter of the 56,000 new HIV infections in the US each year.

The BROTHERS Project wants to change that.

The BROTHERS Project is a research study targeting HIV risk in Black MSM through a four-pronged approach:

- ◆ Providing Black MSM with a peer- someone who they can relate to- who is specially trained to help Black MSM get the health care services and treatment they need in their community, whether they are at risk for HIV infection, or are already infected
- ◆ Providing testing and counseling for HIV
- ◆ Providing testing, counseling and treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections
- ◆ Encouraging Black MSM to refer their sexual partners to participate in the study

The first goal of the project is to know whether these strategies “work” for Black MSM...will Black MSM accept these strategies? Will these strategies help Black MSM?

Other goals of the research are to better understand Black MSM- their lives and experiences, their risks, their attitudes, the prejudice they face, and the strengths they have and how these factors relate to HIV risk.

The BROTHERS Project is a first step...if it looks like these HIV prevention strategies are working for Black MSM, a larger study in more US cities is planned.

The BROTHERS Project is a study of the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The BROTHERS Project will be carried out over two years in six US cities: Boston, New York, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

