Black MSM, HIV, and the Social Determinants of Health Imperative

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June 5, 2013
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Overview

- HIV infection disparities among MSM
- Social determinants of health
  - Homophobia
  - Racism
  - Socioeconomic status
- Recent meta-analysis of 194 published studies (Millet et al., 2012)
- Intervention strategies
Racial Disparities in HIV Infection

- **Odds of HIV infection greater in black (vs. white) MSM**
  - Overall – 3.0 times greater
  - Young MSM – 5.0 times greater

- **Odds of undiagnosed HIV greater in black (vs. white) MSM**
  - Overall – 6.4 times greater
  - Young MSM – 7.1 times greater

Reference: Millett et al., 2012
Increasing HIV Infections Among Young MSM

Age-Specific HIV Prevalence

Source: Ron Stall, University of Pittsburgh
Why?
Racial Disparities Not Due to Risk Behaviors

- Black MSM had greater likelihood of:
  - Condom use
  - Few sex partners
  - Avoidance of substance use
  - Repeat HIV testing

Reference: Millett et al., 2012
Social Determinants of Health
Social Determinants of Health

Adapted from Jones, 2000
Social Determinants of Health

- Factors external to individuals shape health
  - Fundamental causes are social
  - Oppressed groups (e.g., MSM, black Americans) suffer ill health due to unjust treatment
- Homophobia, racism, low socioeconomic status relevant among black MSM

Reference: Marmot, 2005
Homophobia

- 55% of Americans believe that homosexuality is “always wrong”
- Promotion of sexual risk behavior
- Inadequate public health response to HIV

References: Glick & Golden, 2010; Jeffries et al., 2013
Racism

- Race-based mistreatment prevalent in the United States (e.g., mass incarceration of black men)
- Promotion of adverse HIV-related outcomes
  - Sexual risk behavior
  - Access to high-risk partner pools
  - Non-adherence to ART

References: Alexander, 2010; Ayala et al., 2012; Bogart et al., 2010; Raymond 2009
Low Socioeconomic Status

- Blacks nearly 3 times as likely to live in poverty as whites (35% vs. 13%)
- Black MSM had higher odds of:
  - < HS education (3.5 times greater)
  - Low income (2.3 times greater)
  - Incarcerated (2.2 times greater)
  - Unemployed (1.5 times greater)

References: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010; Millett et al., 2012
Low Income and the HIV Treatment Cascade (Black vs. White MSM)

HIV+ dx
3x greater odds

Health insurance
~ ½ odds

ART use
~ ½ odds

ART adherence
~ ½ odds

Viral suppression
~ ½ odds

Low income
~ 2x greater odds

Reference: Millett et al., 2012
Intervention Strategies
National Efforts

- Shepard-Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act
- ACA and hospital visitation for same-sex partners
- Repeal of DOMA
- Repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”
- Anti-bullying efforts
Local Anti-Homophobia Efforts

Acceptance Journeys

Who my son loves doesn’t change my love for him.

We’re about trust, respect and commitment.

We're PROUD of who we are and how we LOVE.

Check us out on Facebook.com: I Love My Boo
DHHS’s Care and Prevention in the United States (CAPUS) Demonstration Project

- Project period: September 2012 – September 2015
- Approximate total project period funding: $44.2 million
- 8 state health departments must intervene on SDH
  - Example: Illinois developing an initiative to promote access to care and provide vocational training
Ways to Move Forward

Reference: Maulsby et al., 2013

Homophobia
Racism
Poverty

Linkage to care
Retention in care
Adherence

Health of black MSM
References

- Ayala et al. 2012. Modeling the impact of social discrimination... Latino and black MSM. *AJPH*.
- Glick & Golden. 2010. Persistence of racial differences in attitudes toward homosexuality in the US. *JAIDS*.
- Jeffries et al. 2013. Homophobia is associated with sexual behavior that increases risk of acquiring and transmitting... *AIDS Behav*.
- Maulsby et al. 2013. HIV among black MSM in the US. *AIDS & Behav*.