

RELATION BETWEEN PARTNER HIV-1 SEROSTATUS, CONDOM USE, AND HIV-1 SEROINCIDENCE AMONG YOUNG MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN (MSM) IN VANCOUVER, 2001-2002

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**Background:** Few studies thus far have assessed the extent to which insertive and receptive unprotected anal intercourse (UAI) among MSM occurs with partners sero-concordant versus sero-discordant for HIV-1 infection. Multiple indicators suggest UAI and HIV-1 incidence are increasing among Vancouver MSM and data are urgently needed.

**Objective:** Measure the proportion of young HIV-negative MSM whose recent UAI occurs with any potentially sero-discordant versus only sero-concordant partners.

**Method:** Self-administered, cross-sectional survey in 2001-2002 within the Vanguard Project, a prospective study of HIV-1 seroincidence and behavioral risk factors among MSM < 35 years old. Male sex trade workers and prevalent HIV+ MSM were excluded.

**Results:** Among 327 HIV-1 participants having mean age  $29 \pm 5$  years, 73% were white, 8% Aboriginal; 79% were employed full-time; and 90% completed high school. Thirteen men (4%) reported no sex during the previous year and 32 (10%) reported sexual activity without anal intercourse. The other 282 men (86%) distributed with respect to type of anal intercourse during the previous year and partner sero-discordance as follows; numbers of seroconverters are shown in parentheses:

(The fifth seroconverter, a former injecting drug user, reported no sexual activity during the previous year.)

**Conclusions:** Most of these HIV-negative MSM who engage in UAI reportedly do so with sero-concordant partners. Receptive UAI with partners whose HIV status is positive or unknown was reported by only 12% of HIV-negative MSM, in whom seroconversion were heavily concentrated. Targeted interventions appear warranted.