

HIV Information Acquisition and Use Among Young Black Men Who Have Sex With Men Who Use the Internet: Mixed Methods Study

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JUSTICE**
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Background:

HIV disproportionately affects young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in the United States. eHealth holds potential for supporting linkage and engagement in HIV prevention and care and the delivery of HIV information to YBMSM.

Objective:

This study aims to investigate HIV information acquisition and use among YBMSM who use the internet.



Methods:

A web-based self-administered survey and semistructured interviews were conducted. The survey findings informed the development of the interview guide. Descriptive statistics were used to characterize the survey sample, and interview data were analyzed thematically using modified grounded theory methodologies.



Participant Characteristics

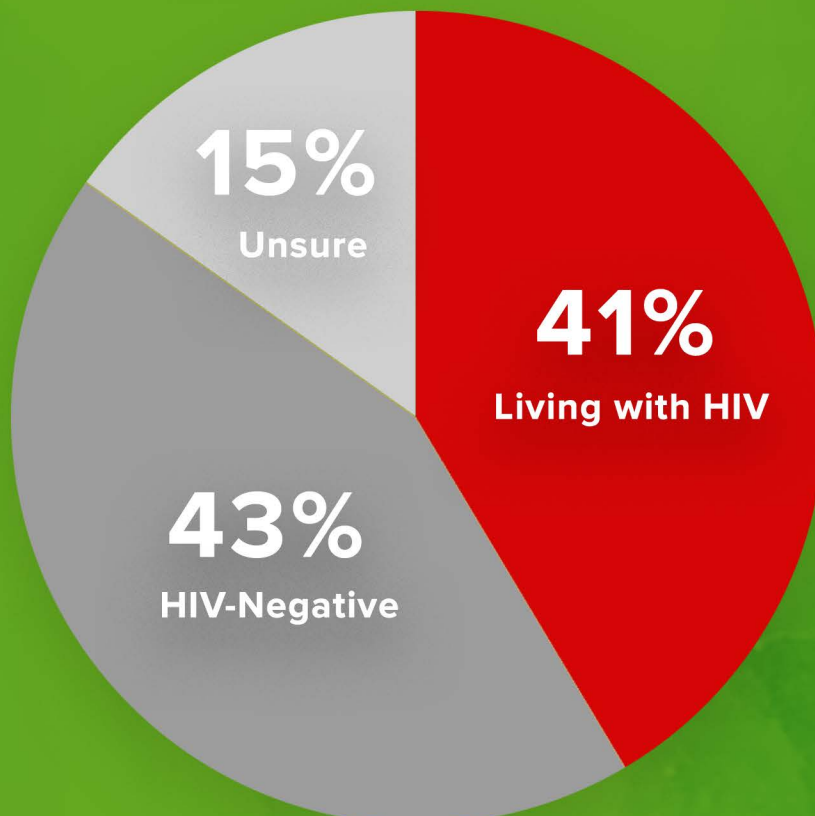


83 Black
Cisgender Male
Participants



Average Age
29.2
Years Old

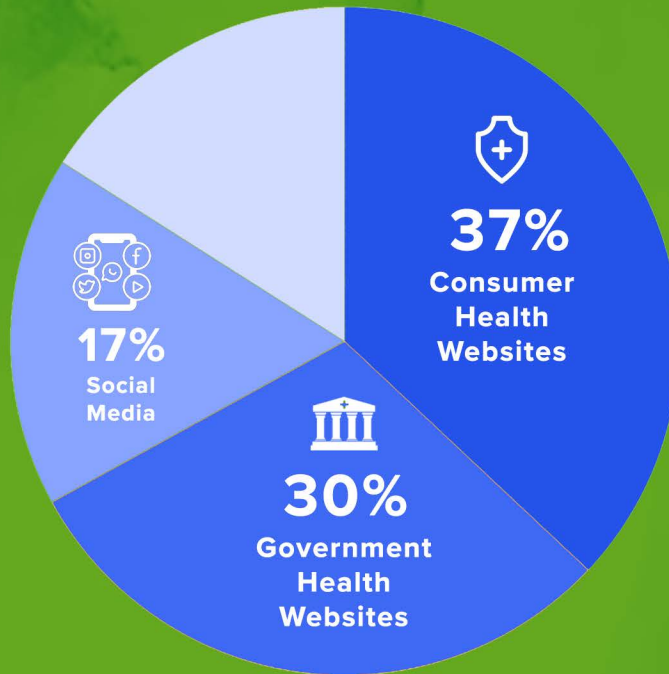
Participant HIV Status



Sources for HIV Information

Most Common Source: Internet via Mobile Phone (95%)

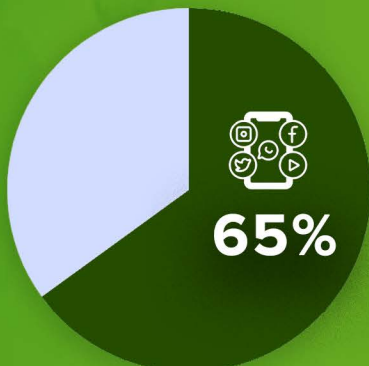
Specific Sources:



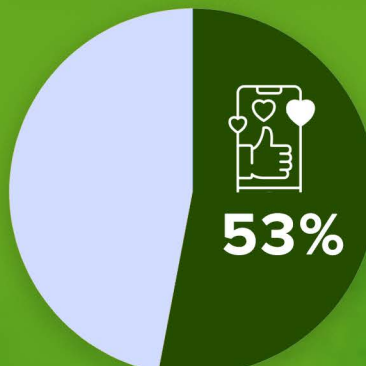
Information Aquisition

How Information is Aquired

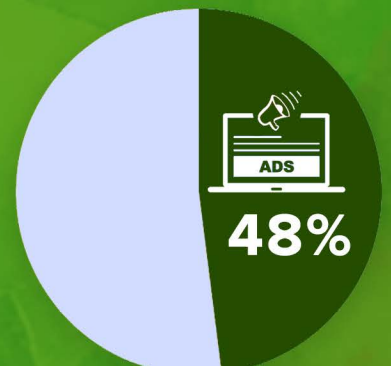
Incidentally via:



Social Media Ads and Dating Apps



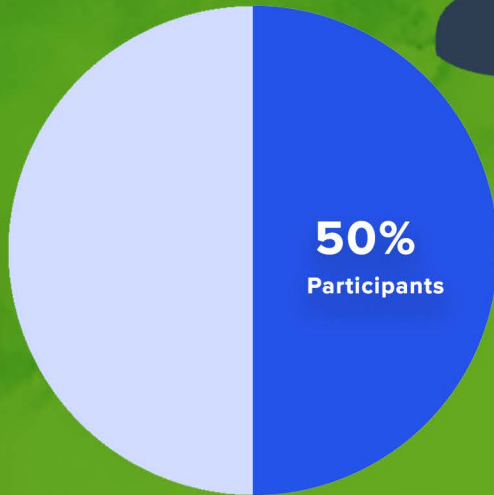
Posts from Social Ties



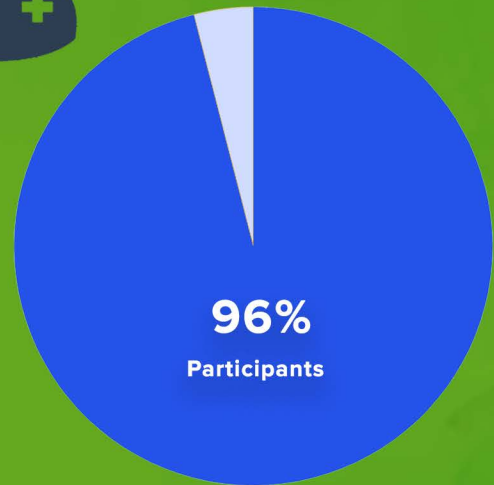
Advertisements while Browsing

Preferences and Trust

Health Care Providers



Most preferred health care providers as the source of HIV information.



Most trusted health care providers as the source of HIV information.

Uses of HIV Information

Purpose:



Assess Risk



Support Prevention



Inform Patients (Doctor Communication)



Learn About HIV Prevention and Treatment

Qualitative Insights

Qualitative Findings

Importance of Internet:



Accessibility



Anonymity



Mitigate Stigmas

Internet Use Concerns:



Censorship on Social Media



Stigmatizing Mass Media Ads

Conclusions:

Summary of Key Findings and Implications



YBMSM in this sample had high utilization of eHealth for HIV information acquisition and use but diminished access to their preferred and most trusted source of HIV information: **health care providers.**

Future eHealth-based HIV interventions culturally tailored for YBMSM should aim to reduce intersectional stigma at the point of care and support patient–provider communication.



The findings demonstrate the need for community-informed, culturally tailored HIV messaging and online spaces for informational support exchange among YBMSM.

