

## Project SNAP (Seroconversion Narratives for AIDS Prevention)

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**Project Description:** The purpose of this pilot study was to elicit seropositive gay/bisexual men's narratives describing their own seroconversion and to determine if the individual, interpersonal and structural attributions in these narratives are related to current risk behavior for HIV transmission. This research question was inspired by the theory and practice of Narrative Therapy in which therapeutic techniques make explicit and "re-author" clients' problem focused narratives to induce positive behavior change. Twenty-eight men participated in 2-hour qualitative interviews. We are currently conducting data analysis to 1) categorize men's seroconversion narratives into types based on their attributions for HIV infection; 2) explore the relationship between different types of seroconversion narratives and current HIV transmission prevention practices, and; 3) use this information to inform recommendations for counseling interventions for HIV-seropositive gay and bisexual men.

**Significance:** As people are living longer and healthier lives with HIV, the risk of HIV transmission through unprotected sexual intercourse and sharing injection equipment continues to grow. HIV-seropositive individuals have an important role in the prevention of new HIV infections. While most people who know they are HIV-seropositive are careful to avoid transmitting the virus, recent studies of gay and bisexual men indicate that risk behavior is increasing. There is now a growing call to better understand risk behavior among HIV-positive persons and to develop targeted interventions that address their specific needs. In addition to contributing to the development of innovative counseling interventions, this study will provide invaluable information about the contexts in which recent HIV infections are occurring in San Francisco.

**Interesting Findings:** The research team is currently conducting data analysis and planning dissemination activities. In addition to reports, journal articles and conference presentations, we will offer feedback directly to the community agencies that assisted in recruitment for this study. Data analysis will also focus on implications of the findings for the development and evaluation of prevention programs for HIV-seropositive men.