

## The HEYMAN Project

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**Project Description:** The HEYMAN Project: A Survey of HIV Seroprevalence, Markers for Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Assessment of Associated Risk Behaviors in Young Men Residing in Low-Income Neighborhoods in Five Northern California Counties is a sequel to the Young Women's Survey (YWS) which was conducted between the period of 1996-1998. Just like YWS, HEYMAN is a collaboration of the California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS and Center for AIDS Prevention Studies.

HEYMAN is a house to house survey of young men, aged 18 to 35 years, who live in San Francisco Bay Area low-income neighborhoods (where the median household income estimated from the 1990 U.S. Census was below \$15,000). These neighborhoods will be selected from the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Joaquin, and San Mateo. The study has been conducted since 2002 and will go through June, 2006. Approximately 500 participants at each of the five proposed sites (for a total of 2,500 participants) will be recruited.

The purpose of this study is to estimate prevalence and risk factors for HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, herpes, and hepatitis A, B, and C. This survey will also collect a blood sample and information regarding sexual activity, drug-use, needle-sharing behaviors and other factors that may place young men at increased risk for infection with HIV.

**Interesting Findings:** We compared risk behaviors and HIV testing between recent (in the U.S. <5 years) and established (in the U.S. >5 years) Hispanic immigrant men in the HEYMan Study (N = 410). Recent immigrants were less likely to currently have a main sexual partner (45.3% vs. 67.2%, P <0.01) and more likely to have ever used commercial sex workers (40.0% vs. 27.6%, P <0.01). Recent immigrants were less likely to receive medical care in the last 6 months (21.2% vs. 31.3%, P = 0.04) or had ever been HIV tested (26.0% vs. 43.3%, P <0.01). Established immigrants more likely reported unprotected sex, hallucinogen or ecstasy use. (Levy V, Page-Shafer K, Evans J, et al. HIV-related risk behavior among Hispanic immigrant men in a population-based household survey in low-income neighborhoods of northern California. Sex Transm Dis. 2005 Aug;32(8):487-90)

**Project End Date:** June 2006