

Qualitative Research in HIV

Qualitative Inquiry Methods to Understand Issues in HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment in the U.S.



Abt Associates and Atlas Research have partnered to conduct **rigorous and innovative qualitative data collection, analyses and dissemination** in HIV prevention, care and treatment. This research provides a deeper understanding of the context in which risk behaviors unfold, and the barriers and facilitators experienced by those at risk for HIV, people living with HIV (PLWH) and the healthcare providers who provide HIV prevention and treatment services. .



Research Experts

Through a five-year contract with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP) (*CDC Contract # 200-2013-57339*), our team offers subject matter and research expertise in:

- Development of protocols and data collection instruments.
- Recruitment of key informants, such as HIV care providers, policymakers, and PLWH.
- Recruitment and enrollment of hard-to-reach populations.
- In-depth interviews and focus groups.
- Structured observations of HIV prevention events, clinic physical environment, and dating websites.
- Geo-mapping of local events against HIV testing services and local HIV epidemiological data.
- Codebook development and analysis of qualitative data. Triangulation of qualitative and quantitative data.

Our Team

Our team includes experts in research and program evaluation methodology, behavioral sciences, HIV prevention and care, violence prevention, and underserved and hard-to-reach populations. We build on years of experience and strong qualitative research skills to infuse our client's vision and perspective into our study design and implementation processes, from the generation of the research questions through the analysis of the data and presentation of findings..

Conducting Qualitative Research

Understanding Barriers and Facilitators Experienced by HIV Care Providers

This study sought to understand the issues experienced by healthcare providers during HIV screening, care and treatment. Primary research activities included in-depth interviews with HIV care providers in Atlanta, Baltimore and Washington, D.C., and observations of their clinic environment. The findings highlighted the importance of understanding and treating patients holistically. Improving support systems and patients' abilities to navigate these systems may enhance patient engagement in care. The results also illustrate the importance of the role of providers in effectively reducing the gap in continuous and consistent HIV care and treatment.

Barriers and Facilitators to HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment among Transgender Women

This qualitative study aims to 1) increase comprehension of barriers and facilitators experienced by transgender women at an individual, interpersonal and structural level; and 2) increase comprehension of the role that healthcare providers can play in engaging transgender women in protective behaviors and HIV care. Our team will conduct in-depth interviews with 20 HIV positive transgender women, 20 HIV negative transgender women and 10 health care providers in Atlanta, Baltimore and Washington, D.C. to better understand the HIV risk and protective factors of this population.

LEAP: A Case Study of Local Jurisdiction Providing HIV Services for MSM

The purpose of the Local Effectiveness Assessment Project (LEAP) is to increase understanding of local jurisdictional trends and needs for HIV prevention among men who have sex with men (MSM). Our team is conducting a pilot case study to better comprehend successes, challenges, and possible solutions that would improve the HIV epidemic among MSM in Philadelphia, PA. For this case study we are conducting key-informant interviews at the public policy level (e.g., HIV control program staff), community level (e.g., staff working in CBOs that serve MSM), and individual/social network levels (e.g., HIV positive MSM). Along with this, our team is conducting structured observations of local dating websites and HIV prevention events to geo-map these data to the provision of HIV testing services and local HIV epidemiological data.

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CDC Contract # 200-2013-57339

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Contract Period

August 23, 2013 thru August 30, 2018

Purpose

To provide CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP) with an 'as needed' mechanism to obtain required services to understanding issues impacting HIV prevention. Services available under this contract include:

- In-depth interviews, semi-structured interviews, and focus groups
- Observations of physical environments and document review
- Recruitment of study participants
- Qualitative and quantitative data analysis



Contact

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Abt Associates is a mission-driven, global leader in research and program implementation in the fields of health, social and environmental policy, and international development. Known for its rigorous approach to solving complex challenges, Abt Associates is regularly ranked as one of the top 20 global research firms and one of the top 40 international development innovators. The company has multiple offices in the U.S. and program offices in more than 40 countries.

