

Project STYLE:  
Outreach, Testing, and Linkage to Care for  
Young HIV+ Men of Color in North Carolina



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## Roadmap

- Origins of STYLE: The College Outbreak
- About STYLE: services and research
- Lessons learned and preliminary findings
- Questions/Dialogue



## Origins of STYLE: Detection of the College Outbreak

- **November 2002: NC's Screening & Tracing Active Transmission (STAT) Program:**
  - HIV RNA screening to all public VCT for detection of Ab-negative, acute HIV Infections
  - Robotic Pooling
  - Rapid notification/confirmatory testing
  - Rapid tracing/prospective screening of partners
- **Of 5 acute infections detected in <3 months, 2 were male students attending college in the same city.**

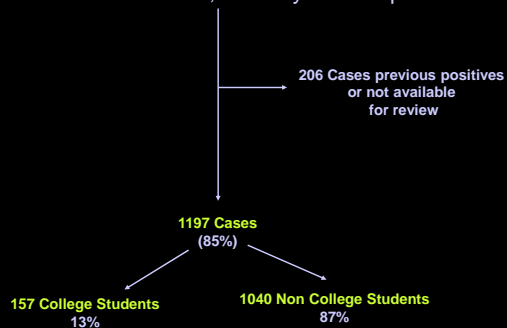
Hightow et al, JAIDS, 2005

## Study Design

- **Retrospective review of state HIV surveillance records**
  - Men age 18-30
  - January 1, 2000-April 30, 2005
  - All 100 NC counties
- **Includes**
  - Counseling and testing site data
  - DIS interview records

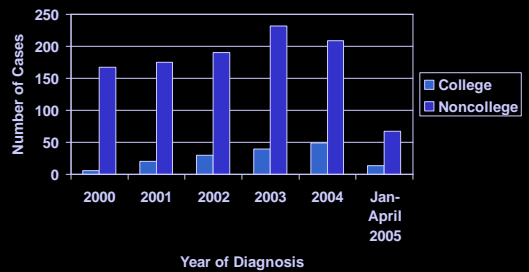
Hightow et al, JAIDS, 2005

## 1403 Men Aged 18-30 Newly Diagnosed with HIV in North Carolina, January 2000- April 2005

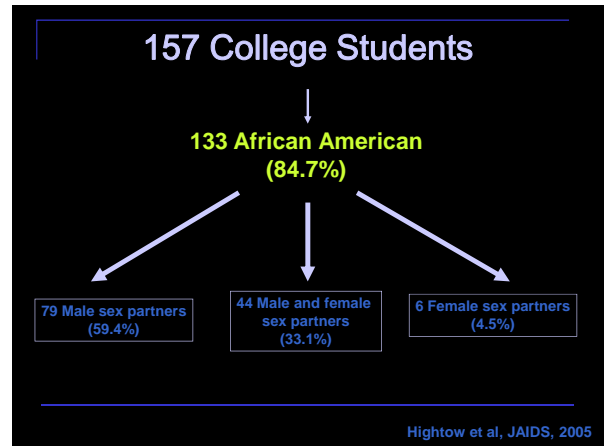
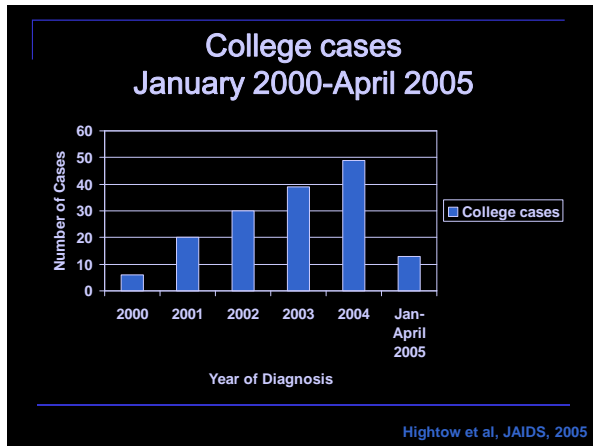


Hightow et al, JAIDS, 2005

## College vs Non-College January 2000-April 2005



Hightow et al, JAIDS, 2005

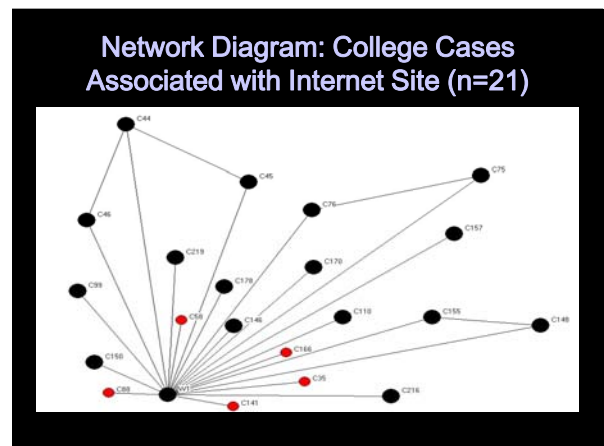
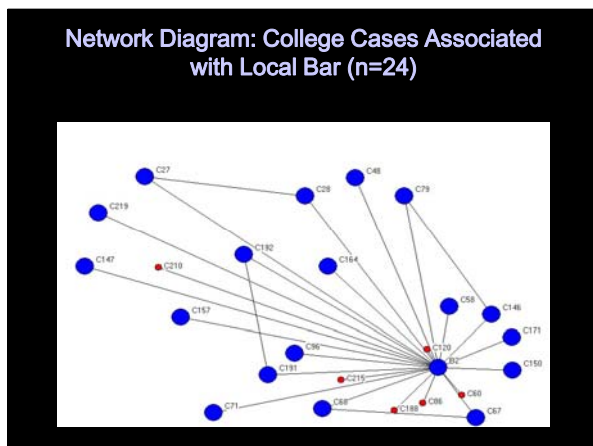
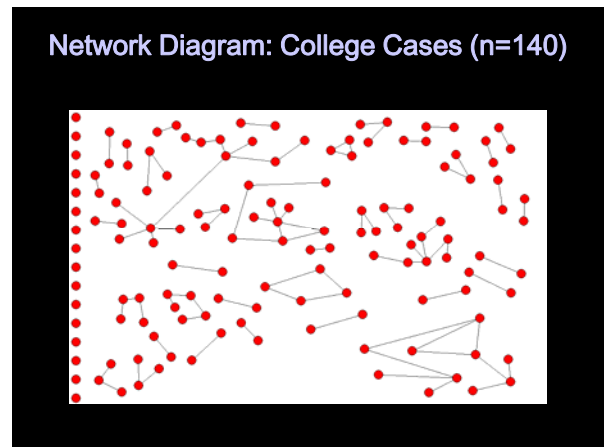


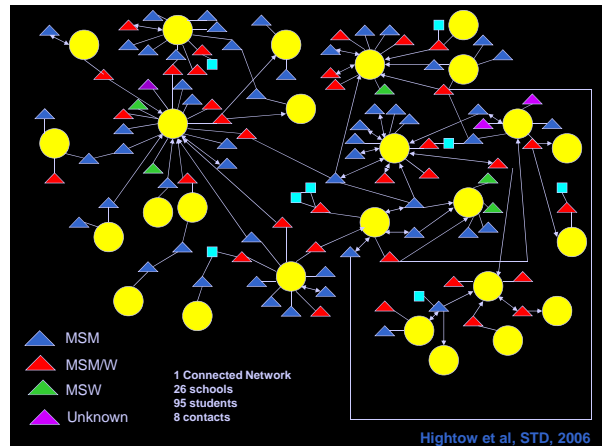
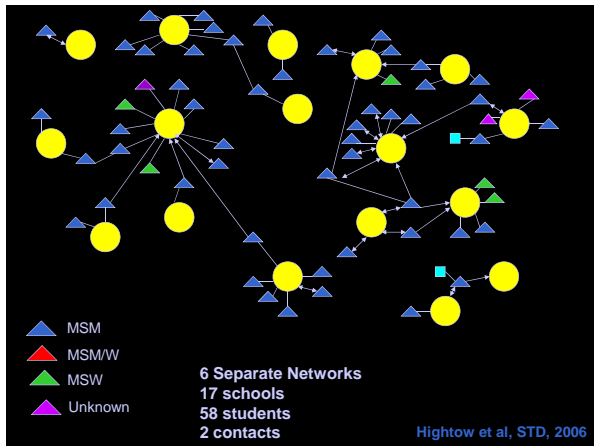
### Factors Associated with College

■ College students more likely.....

	OR	95%CI
African American	3.19	1.99-5.15
Diagnosed with recent infection	3.17	1.84-5.44
Both male and female sex partners	3.03	2.01-4.57
Report anonymous sex	1.52	1.06-2.19
Meet sex partners in:		
Gay bars/clubs	2.01	1.37-2.96
Internet	5.76	3.81-8.70
College campus	16.79	7.39-38.90

Hightow et al, JAIDS, 2005





### Lessons Learned

- Outbreak recognized because real-time surveillance method linked with PCR and traditional outbreak investigation
- Network approach allowed linkage of geographically scattered cases through a group of young African American MSM and MSM/W attending college

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### STYLE Overview

- Research and Care Project designed in response to outbreak of HIV on college campuses throughout North Carolina
- Part of multi-site HRSA SPNS funded initiative to improve outreach, testing and linkage to HIV services for YMSM of color
- Project integrates research and service provision models

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### Multisite SPNS evaluation sites

- UNC Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, NC)
- Bronx AIDS Services, (New York, NY)
- MOCHA, (Rochester, NY)
- LA County Dept of Health Services (Los Angeles, CA)
- Harris County Dept of Public Health, (Houston, TX)
- AIDS Project East Bay, (Oakland, CA)
- Working for Togetherness, (Chicago, IL)
- Wayne State University, (Detroit, MI)

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**HIV+**  
 Intervention  
 Care  
 Support  
 Advice  
 Treatment

## STYLE Overview

- Collaborative initiative between the UNC School of Medicine, NC Central University (NCCU), and the Alliance of AIDS Services-Carolina (AAS-C)
- NCCU is largest HBCU in the Triangle region of NC
- AAS-C is the largest ASO in the Triangle
  - Project Staff housed at all three institutions



## Initial Project Goals

- **Goal 1:** Increase identification, testing and enrollment in enhanced HIV services for young MSM of color at risk for or infected with HIV in North Carolina
- **Goal 2:** Improve linkage to and retention in care for HIV+ clients
- **Goal 3:** Provide quality care and prevention messages for young HIV+ MSM of color



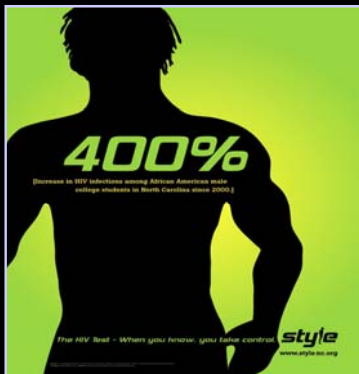
## STYLE Services Overview

- Clinical care for Young HIV+ MSM
  - Focus on linking to care and retention in care
  - HIV care provided at 2 local clinics by staff physician
- Support and Client Services
  - Case management (AAS-C)
  - 2 weekly support groups for HIV+ Black Men
  - One-on-one support by outreach staff
- Rapid HIV Counseling and Testing (Venue based/College Tour)
- Outreach and education in the community
  - HIVSTD 101/HIV in the Black Community
  - Social Marketing
  - Health Fairs/Community Events/Pride
  - Healthcare provider training on LGBTQ issues
  - LGBTQ Resource Guide



## STYLE Core Component: Outreach

- 2 Outreach workers
  - College outreach worker housed at NCCU
    - Has primary responsibility for conducting programming on college campuses and community settings
    - Conducts venue-based outreach (nightclub, churches, etc)
  - Case Manager/Outreach worker housed at AAS-C
    - Has primary responsibility for coordinating services for clients
    - Co-facilitates support group
- Currently developing web-based outreach tools to address lack of brick and mortar "community" for BMSM in NC (HealthMPowerment)



## STYLE Core Component: Testing

- College/Venue based Rapid HIV testing tour
  - Ongoing since December 2005
  - Over 3000 NC college students tested
    - 10 new positives identified and linked to care with Dr. Hightow
  - Mix of schools (Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, NC State, NC Central, Shaw, St. Augustine's, Livingstone) also includes testing events at churches
  - Youthful testing staff, buy-in from campus groups drives high turnout (as many as 250 students at an event)
- Core component is confidentiality for positive clients (space/logistics)
  - MD on site/on call of immediate linkage to confirmatory testing and care



## Testing Tour Art Installation



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## STYLE Core Component: Linkage to Care

- MD as PI facilitates seamless entry into care
- Strong integration with other community testing sites (SHAC/AAS-C)
- Strong linkage with Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) and health department testing sites (UNC MDs staff all health departments in Triangle region)
- Additional clinical and social research opportunities at UNC also serve as points of entry and or/incentives for STYLE enrollment

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## STYLE Cohort Study Overview

- Multi-site Cohort study of Young newly diagnosed or previously lost to care HIV+ MSM of color
- Face-to-face interview at baseline with quarterly follow-up (face to face or telephone)
- Instrument collects demographic, behavioral and clinical information
  - Topics include sexual behavior, substance use, depression, disclosure of HIV status
- UNC- specific survey includes qualitative tool at baseline (Malebranche)

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