

NHBS HET 2019 Fact Sheet - Memphis, TN

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What is NHBS?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) started the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) project in 2003 to understand health behaviors and access to prevention services among groups at risk for HIV. Over 20 US cities participate in NHBS, including Memphis. Information learned from NHBS is used to guide and strengthen local HIV prevention and care services. Each year NHBS focuses on one of three populations: men who have sex with men (“MSM”), heterosexually active adults (“HET”), and people who inject drugs (“PWID”). The first MSM cycle in Memphis was completed in 2017.

HIV in Memphis

The estimated rate of new HIV diagnoses in Memphis ranked 3rd of all major US metropolitan areas in 2018. Shelby County accounted for 14% of the TN population and 41% of new HIV diagnoses in TN in 2018.

How were data collected for HET 2019?

Between August and December 2019, NHBS staff opened two field sites in the Memphis MSA in low-income areas. Fifteen initial “seeds” were encouraged to complete the NHBS survey and, if eligible, were asked to recruit 2–5 others in the community. A previous HET cycle was completed in 2016.

Who could take the HET 2019 survey?

- Adults (18 years or older)
- Have had vaginal or anal sex with the “opposite sex” in the last 12 mo.
- Low annual household income (<150% of the Federal Poverty Level)
- Resident of Memphis area

Participant demographics and socioeconomic characteristics, total=525	
Characteristic	n (%)
Gender	
Cisgender male	236 (45.0)
Cisgender female	289 (55.0)
Age (years)	
18–34	260 (49.5)
35–44	114 (21.7)
45–54	84 (16.0)
55+	67 (12.8)
Race/ethnicity	
Non-Hispanic black	510 (97.1)
Non-Hispanic white	10 (1.9)
Hispanic	3 (0.6)
Non-Hispanic other	2 (0.4)
Sexual identity	
Heterosexual	493 (93.9)
Bisexual	24 (4.6)
Homosexual	8 (1.5)
Level of Education	
Less than high school	169 (32.2)
High school grad or GED	273 (52.0)
Some college or higher	83 (15.8)
Household federal poverty level (FPL)	
<100% FPL	441 (84.0)
100–199% FPL	63 (12.0)
Unknown	21 (4.0)
Homeless in past 12 months	
Yes	81 (15.4)
No	444 (84.6)
Currently unemployed or unable to work	
Yes	256 (48.8)
No	269 (51.2)

Sexual and other health behaviors the past 12 months in HET2016 (total=543) and HET2019 (total=525) cycles

Characteristic	HET2016 n (%)	HET2019 n (%)
Had condomless vaginal or anal sex	466 (85.8)	369 (70.3)
Had >3 sex partners	120 (22.1)	116 (22.1)
Exchanged sex for money or drugs	97 (18.2)	56 (10.7)
Used non-injection drugs	280 (51.6)	234 (44.6)
Diagnosed with a bacterial sexually transmitted infection (STI)	45 (8.4)	69 (13.1)

Health care access, HIV testing, and disclosure in HET2016 (total=543) and HET2019 (total=525) cycles

Characteristic	HET2016 n (%)	HET 2019 n (%)
Had health insurance	349 (64.3)	244 (46.5)
Saw a health care provider*	435 (80.1)	366 (69.7)
Had regular source of primary care	502 (92.4)	442 (84.2)
Lacked health care due to cost*	135 (24.9)	120 (22.9)
Tested for HIV*†	223 (41.1)	218 (41.5)
Tested for STD*	209 (38.5)	115 (21.9)

Questions?

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Additional resources:

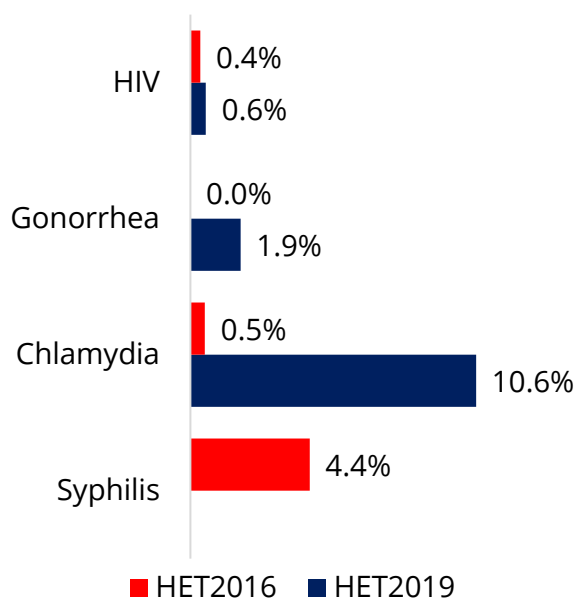
[CDC.gov/HIV/statistics/systems/NHBS](https://www.cdc.gov/HIV/statistics/systems/NHBS)

tinyurl.com/TDHHIVSurveillance

*In the last 12 months

†Among those who did not report living with HIV

NHBS HIV and STI test percent positivity



11% of HET 2019 participants exchanged sex in the past year including 14 men and 42 women

