



Memorandum

Date August 18, 1981

From Research Sociologist and Clinical Research Investigator

Subject Interviews with 55 VD Clinic Patients in San Francisco: August 10-14, 1981

To Chairperson, KSOI Task Force

During the first week of interviews with VD Clinic patients in San Francisco, 55 men who were infected with syphilis or gonorrhea offered information about themselves and their sexual practices.

Forty-five (45) of these men (81.8%) said that they had had sexual exposures with other men during the last year before clinic visit. Forty (40) of these 45 men who reported homosexual contacts were white (88.9%); three were black and two were hispanic. These men reported an average (\bar{X}) of 72.8 different male sexual partners during the year preceding clinic visit (range = 3 - 700; Md. = 30). Forty-one (91.1%) said that they had used inhalant sexual stimulants during the last 5 years, and inhalant use was strongly correlated with the number of different sexual partners ($C = .462; df=3, p<.01$). Six of the 28 (21.4%) homosexual men with more than 20 different partners in the past year used inhalants more than 10 times a month, and 15 (53.6%) used inhalants from 1 to 10 times a month. In contrast, only 4 (23.5%) of the 17 men with 20 or fewer different male sexual partners in the past year reported use of inhalants greater than once a month over the past 5 years.

The 10 male clinic patients who claimed sexual exposures exclusively with women during the year preceding clinic visit were considerably different than the 45 male clinic patients with homosexual exposures. None of the 10 heterosexual men were white: 7 were black and 3 were hispanic. The heterosexual men tended to be younger (\bar{X} = 27.0 years old) than the homosexual men (\bar{X} = 31.1 years old), and averaged far fewer different partners in the year preceding clinic visit (\bar{X} = 9.7; range = 3-40; Md. = 6.0). Only one of the 10 heterosexual patients reported use of inhalant sexual stimulants, and he used them very infrequently (1-10 times per month) during the past 5 years.

Efforts are being made to interview another 45 patients in San Francisco this week, and to interview another 100 patients at the DeKalb County VD Clinic during the next few weeks. No decision has been made by the Department of Health in New York City regarding participation in this survey of sexual behaviors and inhalant use by VD Clinic patients in selected cities of the United States.

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