

1 | What are the cross-sectional assessments, and why are they being done?

The HPTN 096 study intervention is designed to improve two primary outcomes: viral suppression and PrEP uptake in Black MSM. The cross-sectional assessments will be used to measure one of these outcomes, specifically PrEP uptake in Black MSM. There will be two assessments – the first when the intervention is just beginning (baseline) and the second after the 3-year intervention ends. During these assessments, Black MSM will be invited to enroll by providing a blood sample and completing two surveys.

2 | How will the cross-sectional assessments be done?

The cross-sectional assessments are being conducting using a special approach called “starfish sampling.” Starfish sampling combines the recruitment of Black MSM at locations where they gather – like Pride events, bars, bookstores, etc. – together with referral to the study by people who have already participated in the assessment. The combination of these two recruitment methods will help the study team find a random – and thus representative – sample of all Black MSM in each study community.

3 | Where will the cross-sectional assessments be done?

The cross-sectional assessments will be done in every study community (both intervention and standard-of-care communities). For the HPTN 096 pilot phase, four communities are being included (two intervention communities [Dallas, TX and Montgomery, AL] and two standard-of-care communities [Houston, TX and Greenville, SC]). For the study overall, both cross-sectional assessments will be conducted in all 16 study communities.

4 | Who will be included in the cross-sectional assessments?

- 100 Black MSM in each community (a total of 400 Black MSM for the HPTN 096 pilot, a total of 1600 for the overall study) will be included in the baseline assessment.
- 200 Black MSM in each community (a total of 800 Black MSM for the HPTN 096 pilot, a total of 3200 for the overall study) will be included in the assessment after the three-year study intervention ends.

