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HIV SEROINCIDENCE ESTIMATES AMONG VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN BUENOS AIRES USING A SEROLOGIC TESTING ALGORITHM FOR RECENT HIV SEROCONVERSION

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INTRODUCTION: The aim of this study was to estimate the incidence of HIV-1 infection in populations with different routes of transmission where few or no incidence studies have been carried out, using the STARHS.

METHODS: Serum samples from 6 HIV seroprevalence surveys, conducted in Buenos Aires in different populations were used. These were: men who have sex with men (MSM), injecting drug users (IDU), asymptomatic women consulting for an HIV infection (AW), heterosexual individuals consulting about new sexually transmitted infections (STI), individuals with tuberculosis (TB), and non-injecting cocaine users (NICU). HIV-1 seropositive were tested with the modified Vironostika HIV-1 Microelisa System. Using a window period of 170 days and cut-off: 1.0 annual incidence estimates were calculated with STARHS.

RESULTS:

Population	MSM	IDU	STI	NICU	TB
Year	2000-2001	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2001-2002
Sample #	694	174	801	504	211

HIV-positive	96	77	58	32	35
Adjusted annual HIV seroincidence (per 100 person-years) (95% CI)	6.7 (3.7-9.7)	0.0 (--)	2.0 (0.5-3.5)	3.1 (0.8-5.5)	2.4 (0.0-5.8)
HIV seroprevalence (%) (95% CI)	13.8 (11.4-16.7)	44.3 (36.8-52.0)	7.2 (5.6-9.3)	6.3 (4.4-8.9)	16.6 (12.0-22.4)

Population	AW	AW	AW
Year	1998	1999	2000
Sample #	716	660	566
HIV-positive	71	80	93
Adjusted annual HIV seroincidence (per 100 person-years) (95% CI)	0.4 (0.0-1.1)	4.6 (2.1-7.1)	10.2 (6.0-14.3)
HIV seroprevalence (%) (95% CI)	9.9 (7.9-12.4)	12.1 (9.8-14.9)	16.4 (13.5-19.8)

Conclusions: The high HIV incidence found in some vulnerable populations from Buenos Aires indicate the urgent need for planning specific prevention strategies for them, mainly for MSM, NICUs and AW. STARHS-estimated incidence among MSM was confirmed with a longitudinal cohort study during the same period of time [Incidence: 6.0% person/year (3.1-11.0)]. Some of the groups with high HIV incidence may be considered suitable for volunteer participation in HIV vaccine clinical trials.

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