

RESOURCE SUMMARY

INTEGRATED BIOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL SURVEILLANCE OF KEY POPULATIONS: A TOOLKIT FOR IMPLEMENTATION

PURPOSE

Findings from biological and behavioral surveillance surveys (BBSS) can help improve your understanding of population-specific HIV prevalence and demographics—which will be instrumental in planning and monitoring your HIV prevention, outreach, and treatment and care programs.

Biological and behavioral surveillance surveys are an effective method for capturing epidemiological data among key populations as they link behavioral and biological indicators to provide greater explanatory power than either method alone. This is particularly true when the surveillance activity is repeated to generate trend data. This toolkit provides tools and templates to help plan for and conduct a BBSS.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Ministries of Health (MOH)
- National HIV Programs
- National Surveillance Programs
- Public Health Administrators

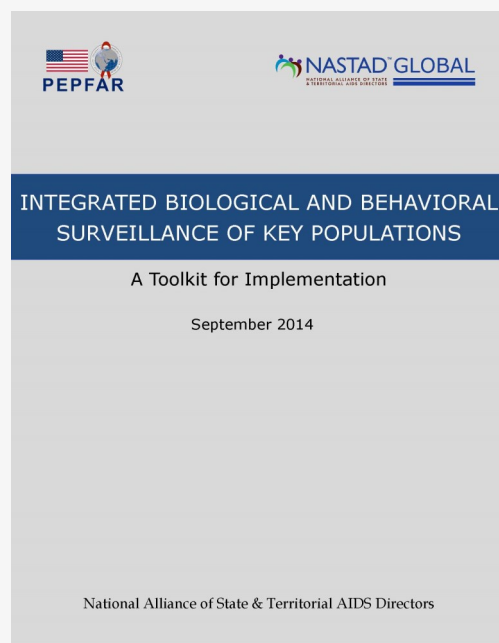
CONTENTS

To support partner countries' interest in BBSS among key populations, NASTAD leveraged resources and knowledge derived from experience with the ongoing U.S. National HIV Behavior Survey (NHBS) to provide design and implementation support to partner MOH. To further enable institutional knowledge transfer, and to aide other interested countries, NASTAD has developed this surveillance toolkit to present theory and usable resources related to BBSS design, implementation and data use.

The toolkit is divided in three parts:

Part 1: Surveillance among Key Populations

Surveillance amongst key populations involves gathering information on populations that are at a higher risk for transmission of HIV. The goal of BBSS studies is to understand what makes them more vulnerable and at-risk for HIV. Second Generation Surveillance is a surveillance approach that gathers information from a range of resources, maximizing available resources. This toolkit focuses on one of the components of Second Generation Surveillance, BBSS.



Part 2: Special Considerations for BBSS among Key Populations

Before diving into the BBSS planning process, several considerations should inform the design of a BBSS:

- Define the **population of interest**
- Decide on a **sampling method** that is suitable for the population, based on secondary data available for this group (we focus on respondent-driven sampling and time-location sampling)
- Establish a **data collection process**
- Decide what **biological testing** will be used. HIV testing should always be opt-in, we recommend rapid testing for BBSS as they are easily portable.
- Ensure **participant engagement** to guarantee that the survey administration process is a comfortable one for the participants (location, incentives, promotion etc.).
- Conduct a **size estimation** of the target population to understand the relative impact of HIV in the country.

Part 3: Planning and Implementing a Biological and Behavioral Survey

NASTAD has identified eight steps that may be helpful to follow when planning a BBSS:

1. Identify a Coordinating Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A coordinating body provides guidance and advises the surveillance process
2. Agree on Purpose and Scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage in formative research and regular communication with stakeholders• Discuss and agree on potential methodologies
3. Design and Implement Formative Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select a tentative sampling design• Conduct a formative assessment to inform successful implementation
4. Prepare the BBSS Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan for and document all aspects of the survey
5. Establish Survey Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nominate and/or hire and train the survey staff
6. Conduct the BBSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct ongoing M&E and quality control checks• Ensure compliance with the protocol
7. Analyze and Use Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze and summarize findings• Disseminate findings to stakeholders• Plan for program changes and updates
8. Plan for the Next Round of BBSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Track trends and changes over time while building on the lessons learned from previous surveillance activities

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Methods and tools presented in this toolkit have been used with and by ministries of health in the Caribbean Region. If you are interested in obtaining this toolkit, and learning more about NASTAD Global Program's work, please contact Luisa Pessoa-Brandão at lpessoa-brandao@NASTAD.org. We will work with you to design a biological and behavioral surveillance survey protocol that will best meet your needs: simple or complex, low or high resource, and for a quick project or a long-term investment.

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