

Individual trainings versus group trainings: Preliminary evaluation of peer recruitment through Respondent Driven Sampling of hidden populations of drug users in New York City

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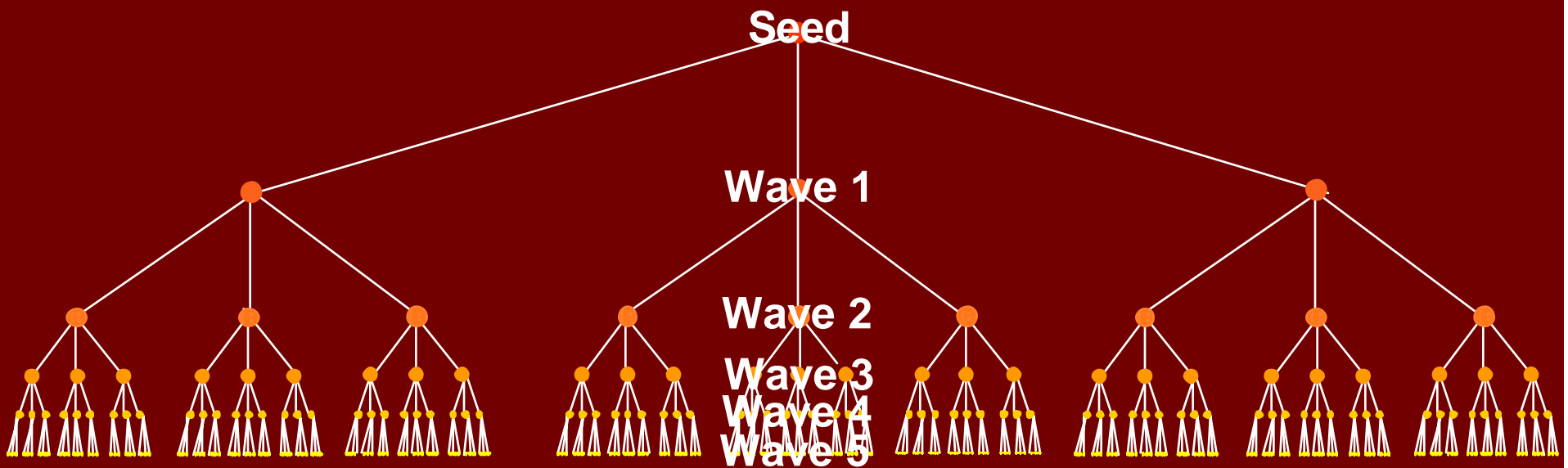
Overview

- Sampling strategies used to recruit illicit drug users
- Description of Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS)
- Description of study
- Conclusions and public health impact

Background: Sampling strategies used to recruit illicit drug users

- Convenience Sampling
- Target Sampling
- Snowball Sampling
- Time-Space Sampling
- Respondent Driven Sampling

Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS)



Advantages of RDS

- Eliminates masking bias and volunteerism
- Prevents participants with large social networks from being overrepresented
- Weakens homophily
- Sample composition is independent of the characteristics of the “seeds”
- Generates a representative sample of hidden populations

RDS: Recruitment Enhancement

- Select seeds from syringe exchange programs
- Steering incentives
- Brief individual recruitment trainings
- **Group-facilitated RDS training (RDST) sessions**

Study Objective

- The purpose of this study was to determine if individuals who attended RDST differ significantly from those who do not with respect to recruiting eligible peers and follow-up rates.

Methods: Study Design

- Social Ties Associated with Risk of Transition (START) – an ongoing longitudinal study
- Active drug users recruited using a combination of sampling strategies: targeted sampling, convenience-based street outreach, and RDS
 - Prospective study
 - Non-IDUs followed for 18 months
 - Cross-sectional study
 - Recent IDUs

Methods: Study Design (2)

- Data collected from July 2006 - September 2007
- Eligibility:
 - 18-40 years of age
 - Agree to recruit 3 friends/associates to also participate in the study (only for seeds)
 - Injectors:
 - Inject heroin, crack or cocaine \leq 3 years
 - Injected once in the past 6 months
 - Non-injectors
 - Use non-injection heroin, crack or cocaine \geq 1 year
 - Use 2-3 times/week
- Network Recruitment:
 - Seeds: given unlimited attempts to recruit 3 eligible peers
 - Networks: given 5 attempts to bring in at least 1 eligible peers

Methods: Example of RDS Coupons

PROJECT START

Must actively use heroin, crack, or cocaine
and

Be between 18 and 40 years of age

Must show proof of age

Coupon

- _____



PROJECT START

Take part in a community study about drug use in
your community

Call us Today to schedule an appointment

1-888-248-1055

Harlem Office:

154 W 127th St.

NY, NY 10027

Other Locations in the Bronx, Queens,
Brooklyn, and Lower Eastside



Methods: Study Design (3)

Prospective Study (nIDUs) - Followed for 18 months

RDS

“Seed” participants enrolled through targeted sampling

“Seed Networks” recruited by seeds

“Network” participants recruited by seed networks

Non-RDS

Participants enrolled through convenience-based street outreach

Cross-sectional Study (IDUs)

RDS

“Seed” participants enrolled through targeted sampling

“Seed Networks” recruited by seeds

“Network” participants recruited by seed networks

Non-RDS

Participants enrolled through convenience-based street outreach

Purpose of RDST in the context of this study

- Emphasize importance of RDS
- Forum for discussing successful recruitment strategies and difficulties
- Ensure that participants are comfortable and able to recruit eligible network members
- Create enthusiasm for the study
- Build rapport between participants and research staff

Key Variables

- **Exposure:**
 - Attend at least one RDST

- **Covariates:**
 - Age
 - Race/ethnicity
 - Gender
 - Homeless in the past 6 months
 - Education
 - Injector status
 - Income
 - Interview site
 - Recruitment site

- **Outcome:**
 - Study retention
 - Recruit at least one eligible network

Data Analysis

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics associated with RDST attendance among New York City illicit drug users, 2007-2008

	Did NOT Attend RDST		Attended RDST		p-value
	N	%	N	%	
All					
Age in years (median, range)					
Racial/ethnic background					
Black					
Hispanic					
White/Other					
Sex					
male					
female					
transgender-transsexual					
Homeless in past 6 months					
yes					
no					
Education					
≥ High School or the equivalent					
< High School					

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics associated with RDST attendance among New York City illicit drug users, 2006-2007 (continued)

	Did NOT Attend RDST		Attended RDST		p-value
	N	%	N	%	
All					
Income					
Interview Site					
Storefront					
Van					
Recruitment Site					
Harlem					
Bronx					
Brooklyn					
Queens					
LES					
Injector status					
IDU					
NIDU					

Table 2. Recruitment success and follow-up rate by attendance at RDST among illicit drug users in New York City, 2006-2007

	Attended at least one RDST		Have not attended RDST		p-value
	n	%	n	%	
Recruited at least one network					
Yes					
No					
Completed 3-month Follow-up Visit					
Yes					
No					
Completed 6-month Follow-up Visit					
Yes					
No					

Table 3. Factors associated with RDST attendance using multivariate regression among illicit drug users in New York City, 2006-2007 (N=??)

	Crude OR	95% CI	p-value	Adjusted OR	95% CI	p-value	95% CI
Recruited at least one network							
Yes							
No							
Completed 3-month Follow-up Visit							
Yes							
No							
Completed 6-month Follow-up Visit							
Yes							
No							

Discussion

Conclusion & Public Health Impact

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