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## Increasing Involvement of MSM in the Continuum of Care in Kazakhstan

**Project Number**  
5R01DA040513-04

**Contact PI/Project Leader**  
WU, ELWIN

**Awardee Organization**  
COLUMBIA UNIV NEW YORK  
MORNINGSIDE

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### Description

#### Abstract Text

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): This study will test the efficacy of a social network-based HIV intervention designed to increase the number of men who have sex with men (MSM) who use drugs across Kazakhstan into the continuum of care. From the start of the HIV/AIDS **pandemic**, MSM have been disproportionately affected-both in terms of morbidity and mortality-by HIV/AIDS. Success against HIV in general has progressed to the point where "getting to zero" new HIV infections entered the public discourse. Whereas HIV infection rates have been decreasing over the last decade for key affected populations globally, we have witnessed increasing infection among MSM, a so-called "re-emergent epidemic" for MSM. Kazakhstan is one of the few countries that saw a >25% HIV incidence increase in the 2000s and had the largest increase in rate of new infections among countries in the region. A recent study estimated HIV prevalence among MSM in Almaty to be 20.2%, a rate which exceeds HIV prevalence among adults in Sub-Saharan Africa and the most vulnerable populations in the U.S. HIV transmission in the region is driven largely by illicit drug use, and for MSM, this includes both injecting and non-injecting drug use. Kazakhstan has also been noted as lagging in ART coverage as well as adherence, especially for key populations that are vulnerable and marginalized such as MSM. Building upon the resourcefulness and strengths of MSM community members operating in a sociopolitical repressive environment, combined with the investigative team's success in adapting and pilot testing the evidence-based SHIELD social network intervention for outreach and recruitment with MSM in HIV research in the U.S. and Kazakhstan-a social network-based HIV intervention has promise to increase seek, test, treat, and retain-related behaviors. The proposed study involves a stepped wedge clinical trial across 4 cities in Kazakhstan with 1,000-1,400 drug-involved MSM to test the efficacy of the social network-based intervention for increasing the following outcomes among drug-involved MSM in Kazakhstan: (1) proportion of participants visiting a service provider to get tested for HIV; (2) proportion of HIV-infected participants initiating HIV-related care; (3) proportion of HIV-infected participants receiving ART; and (4) proportion of HIV-infected participants achieving 90% adherence to ART. In addition, the study will examine the intervention's effect on increasing use of services that address issues that co-occur with HIV, including drug abuse, HCV infection, and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The study has a secondary, exploratory aim designed to facilitate insight into social context (e.g., experienced stigma, social network attributes) and structural factors (e.g., number and density of services) that may moderate the impact of the intervention.

#### Public Health Relevance Statement

PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: This study addresses the disproportionate representation of men who have sex with men (MSM) in the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Kazakhstan, a country that has seen some of the largest growth in new HIV infections since the turn of the century. Using a stepped wedge trial across 4 cities in Kazakhstan, the proposed study will test a strategic-given the sociopolitical climate towards MSM in the region-and innovative social network-based intervention for MSM who use drugs in Kazakhstan as a strategy to increase their numbers in the HIV continuum of care as well as services that address issues that co-occur with HIV, including drug abuse, HCV infection, and other sexually transmitted infections.


#### NIH Spending Category

Behavioral and Social Science		Clinical Research		Clinical Trials and Supportive Activities			
Digestive Diseases		Drug Abuse (NIDA only)		Emerging Infectious Diseases		HIV/AIDS	
Health Disparities		Health Services		Hepatitis	Hepatitis - C	Infectious Diseases	Liver Disease
Minority Health		Prevention	Sexual and Gender Minorities (SGM/LGBT*)			Substance Abuse	

#### Project Terms

AIDS prevention		AIDS/HIV problem		Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome			Address	Adherence
Adult	Affect	Africa South of the Sahara		Behavior	Caring	Central Asia	Cities	Climate
Clinical Trials		Communities	Continuity of Patient Care		Country	Data	Diagnosis	Diffusion
Disease	Drug abuse	Drug usage	Effectiveness		Environment	Epidemic		
Evidence based intervention		Expressed Sequence Tags			Goals	Government	Growth	HIV
HIV Infections		HIV Seropositivity		Health	Hepatitis C	Hepatitis C virus		Human Rights
Human immunodeficiency virus test			Incidence	Individual	Infection	Information Dissemination		
Infrastructure		Intervention	Intervention Studies		Intervention Trial		Kazakhstan	Life

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Name  
COLUMBIA UNIV NEW YORK  
MORNINGSIDE  
City  
NEW YORK  
Country  
UNITED STATES (US)

Department Type  
OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
Organization Type  
SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL  
WELFARE/WORK

State Code  
NY  
Congressional District  
13

### Other Information

FOA  
[PA-15-261](#)  
Study Section  
[Behavioral and Social Consequences of HIV/AIDS Study Section\[BSCH\]](#)  
Fiscal Year  
2019  
Award Notice Date  
20-March-2019

Administering Institutes or Centers  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG  
ABUSE  
DUNS Number  
049179401  
CFDA Code  
279

Project Start Date  
03-June-2016  
Project End Date  
31-March-2021  
Budget Start Date  
01-April-2019  
Budget End Date  
31-March-2020

### Project Funding Information for 2019

Total Funding  
\$677,724  
Direct Costs  
\$431,276  
Indirect Costs  
\$246,448

Year	Funding IC	FY Total Cost by IC
2019	NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE	\$677,724

### NIH Categorical Spending

[Click here for more information on NIH Categorical Spending](#)

Funding IC	FY Total Cost by IC	NIH Spending Category
NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE	\$677,724	Behavioral and Social Science; Clinical Research; Clinical Trials and Supportive Activities; Digestive Diseases; Drug Abuse (NIDA only); Emerging Infectious Diseases; HIV/AIDS; Health Disparities; Health Services; Hepatitis; Hepatitis - C; Infectious Diseases; Liver Disease; Minority Health; Prevention; Sexual and Gender Minorities (SGM/LGBT*); Substance Abuse;

### Sub Projects

No Sub Projects information available for 5R01DA040513-04

### Publications

No Publications available for 5R01DA040513-04

### Patents

No Patents information available for 5R01DA040513-04

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No Outcomes available for 5R01DA040513-04

### Clinical Studies

No Clinical Studies information available for 5R01DA040513-04

### News and More

#### Related News Releases

No news release information available for 5R01DA040513-04

### History

No Historical information available for 5R01DA040513-04

### Similar Projects

No Similar Projects information available for 5R01DA040513-04

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