

Risk Behaviors of Youth Living With HIV: Pre- and Post-HAART

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Objective: To examine the transmission behavior among youth living with HIV (YLH), pre- and post-HAART. **Methods:** Two cohorts were recruited: (1) 349 YLH during 1994 to 1996 and (2) 175 YLH during 1999 to 2000, after the wide availability of HAART. Differences in sexual and substance-use risk acts and quality of life were examined. **Results:** Post-HAART YLH were more likely to engage in unpro-

tected sex and substance use, to be more emotionally distressed, and to have lower quality of life than were pre-HAART YLH. **Conclusions:** Targeted interventions for YLH that address reductions in transmission acts and aim to improve quality of life are still needed.

Key words: HAART, HIV/AIDS, youth with HIV, substance use, sexual risk behaviors

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