

Introduction

- Hispanics represent only 16% of the U.S. population, yet 20% of new HIV infections in the U.S.
- Despite the high prevalence of HIV in the Hispanic community, many persons go untested or are tested late.
- In a 2011 national survey, 44% of Hispanic respondents reported never being tested for HIV.
- *Nearly 22% of Hispanics living with HIV remain undiagnosed because they have not been tested.*
- One reason for this undertesting may be that Hispanics are unaware of the latest CDC recommendations for routine HIV testing of all persons ages 13-64 in high HIV prevalence areas.

Objective

- To determine if patients in a community health center in a high HIV prevalence area were aware of the 2006 CDC HIV testing recommendations

Methods

- **Study Site:** Community health center in Harris County, TX. Over 90% of the HIV cases in the Houston area are in Harris County.
- **Dates of recruitment:** October 2010 - March 2011
- **Study Design:** Cross-sectional survey of patients ages 18-64
 - The survey presented 9 populations of people that should be tested for HIV based on CDC recommendations
 - Participants were asked to respond to, "I think the following people should be tested for HIV."
 - Answer options: "yes," "no," or "I'm not sure."

Results

Table 1: Demographics (N = 90)

Age, mean (sd) (n = 73)	44.4 (12.3)
Gender, n (%) (n = 82)	
Female	59 (72.0%)
Language Version Completed, n (%) (n = 90)	
English	61 (67.8%)
Spanish	29 (32.2%)
Spoken English Language Ability, n (%) (n = 83)	
Very well	49 (59.0%)
Well	11 (13.3%)
Not well	15 (18.1%)
Not well at all	8 (9.6%)
Ethnicity, n (%) (n = 82)	
Hispanic/Latino	55 (67.1%)
Not Hispanic/Latino	27 (32.9%)
Highest Level of Education, n (%) (n = 75)	
Some high school	24 (32.0%)
High school diploma/GED	28 (37.3%)
At least some college	23 (30.7%)

Table 2: Responses to survey question: "I think the following people should be tested for HIV." Sorted in descending order of frequency. (N = 90)

	Yes	No	I'm not sure
People who have sex for money or drugs	76 (84.4%)	9 (10.0%)	5 (5.6%)
People who have more than 1 sex partner at a time	70 (77.8%)	13 (14.4%)	7 (7.8%)
People who have unprotected sex (sex without condoms)	70 (77.8%)	14 (15.5%)	6 (6.7%)
Men who have sex with men	69 (76.7%)	13 (14.4%)	8 (8.9%)
People who use intravenous (IV) drugs	66 (73.3%)	14 (15.6%)	10 (11.1%)
Women who are pregnant	64 (71.1%)	18 (20.0%)	8 (8.9%)
People who have more than 1 sex partner in their lifetime	53 (58.9%)	23 (25.6%)	14 (15.5%)
All adults	42 (46.7%)	35 (38.9%)	13 (14.4%)
All teenagers	38 (42.2%)	36 (40.0%)	16 (17.8%)

- Over 70% knew or agreed that traditional high-risk populations should be tested for HIV.
- Only approximately 45% of participants knew or agreed all adults and all teenagers should be tested for HIV.
- Those with better English language ability were more likely to be aware of the populations that should be HIV tested.

Discussion

- Over 50% of Hispanics in our study were not aware of or disagreed with the 2006 CDC recommendations for routine HIV testing.
- English language ability may be associated with awareness of HIV testing recommendations.
- Our results may help explain the low testing rates among Hispanics.
- A recent national survey found that Hispanics want more information about who should get tested for HIV, and that a majority of Hispanics use the media as their main source of HIV information.
- Our study found a knowledge gap that may be addressed by media campaigns.
- Developing media campaigns in the English and Spanish language may improve HIV testing knowledge and attitudes and HIV testing rates among Hispanics.

Funding statement:

This research was supported by the Baylor-UT Houston Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), an NIH-funded program (AI036211).