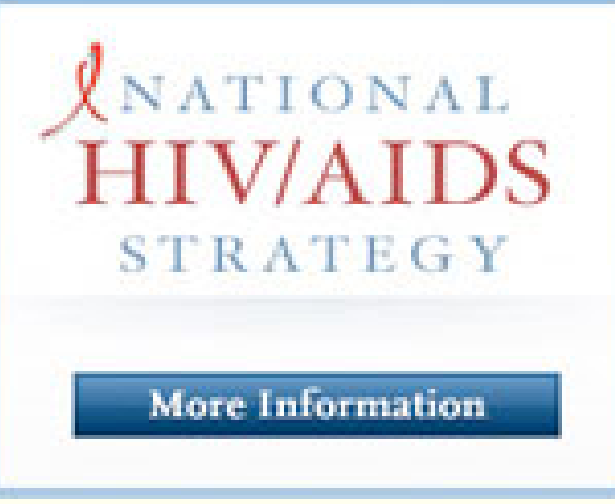


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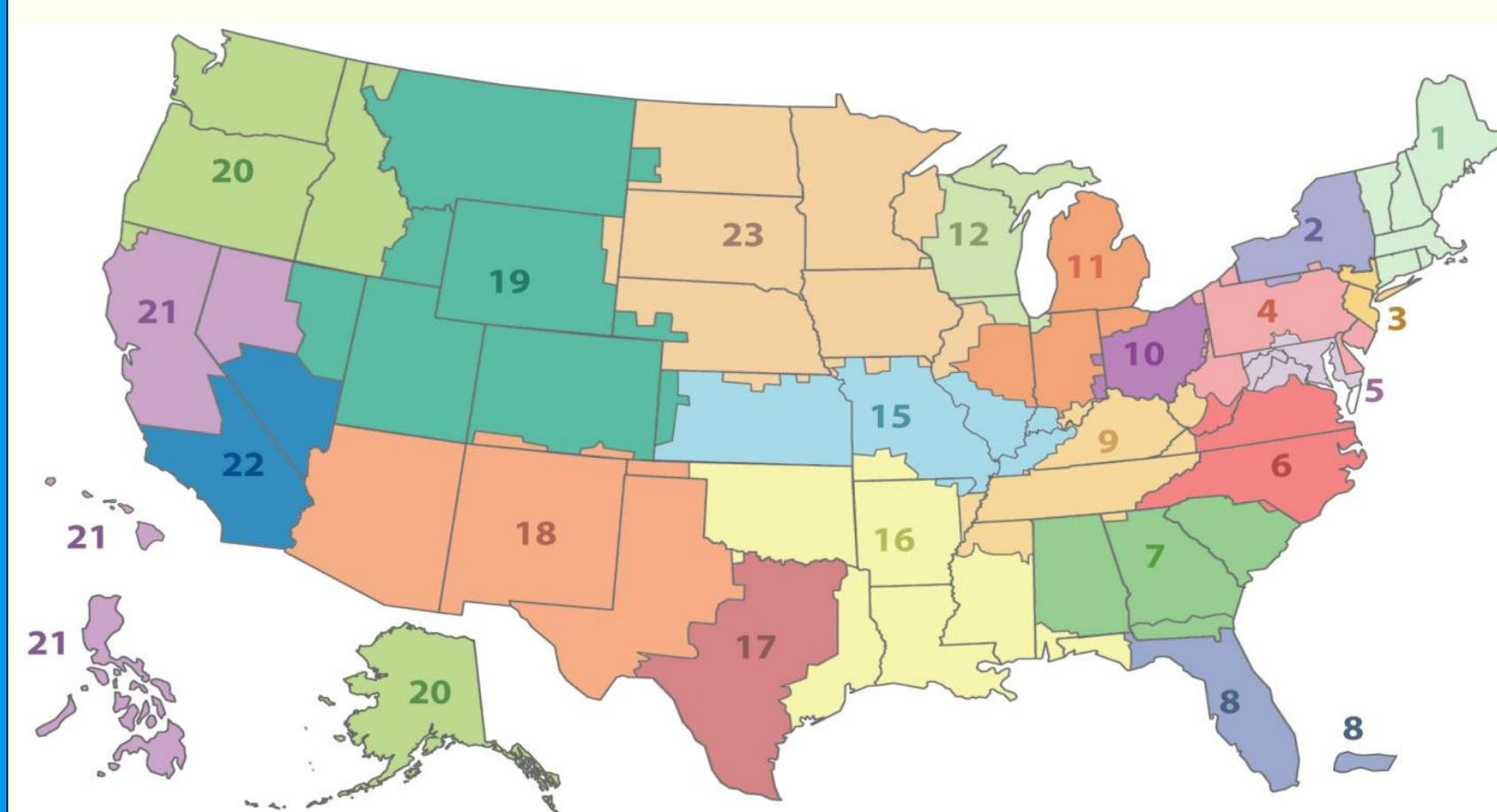


## OBJECTIVE

In 2009, VA aligned its HIV testing policies with the 2006 CDC recommendations to offer voluntary HIV testing as part of routine medical care. HIV testing rates and seropositivity in VA during 2009, 2010, and 2011 are presented.

## BACKGROUND

Federal law requiring written informed consent and prescribed pre/post HIV test counseling in VA facilities was repealed in 2009. Subsequently, VA policy was modified to promote routine HIV testing for all Veterans. In addition to publicizing the policy change, VA promoted increased HIV testing through multiple programmatic interventions. VA's Office of Public Health has been monitoring HIV testing rates annually since the policy change. VA's system of care is organized into 21 Veteran Integrated Service Networks (VISNs)



## METHODS

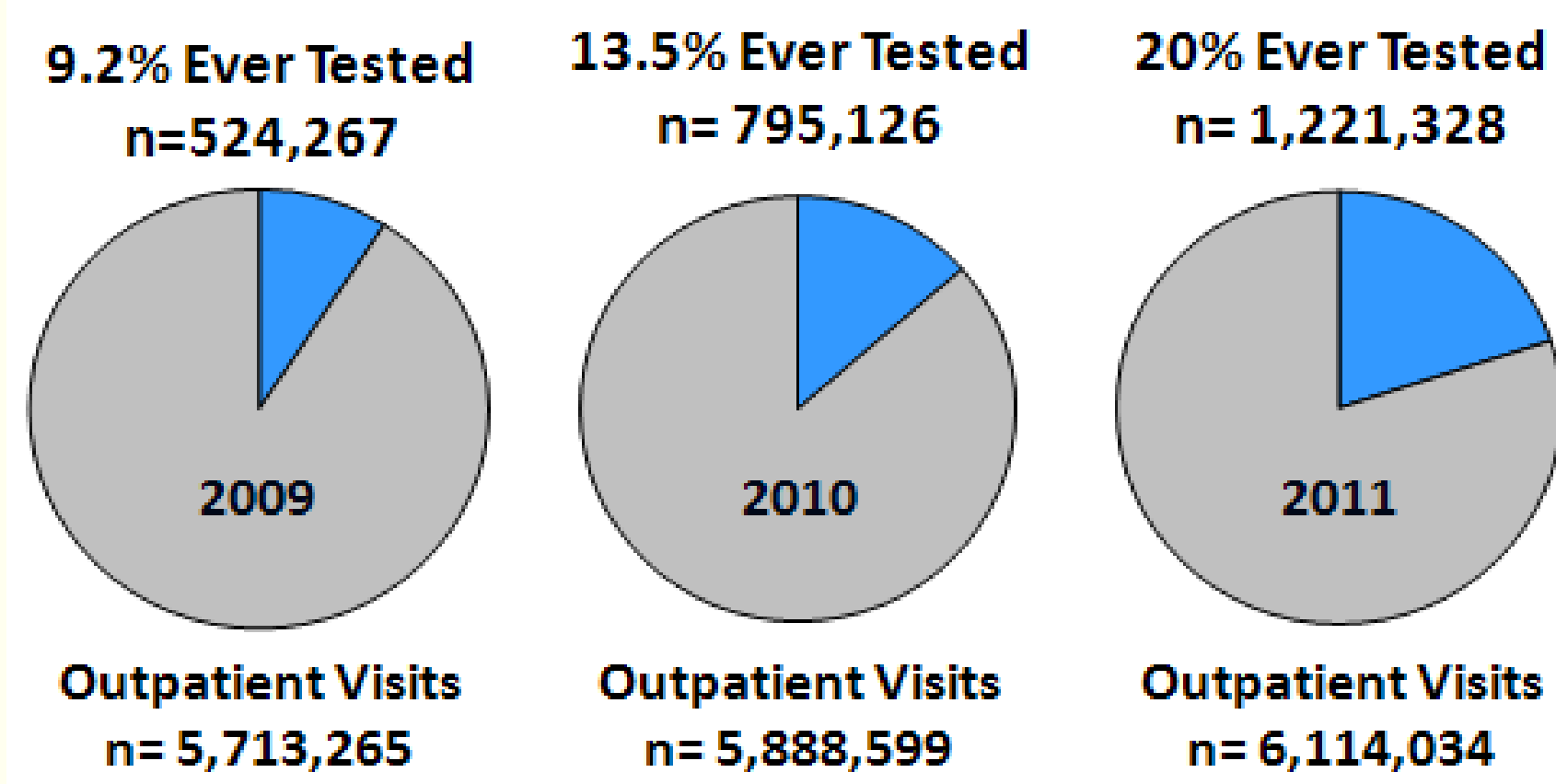
Using a standardized extract data were collected from the electronic health record at 130 reporting stations on the number of Veterans in the calendar year with:

- ✓ Outpatient visit to the VA facility in the year
- ✓ Documentation of HIV test ever done
- ✓ HIV test done at the facility during the year
- ✓ Positive result on test done during the year
- ✓ Age, Gender, Race, Ethnicity data collected in 2011.

Data were reviewed by facility medical and laboratory staff prior to submission. The Office of Public Health aggregated and analyzed the data at regional and national levels.

## NATIONAL TESTING, 2009-2011

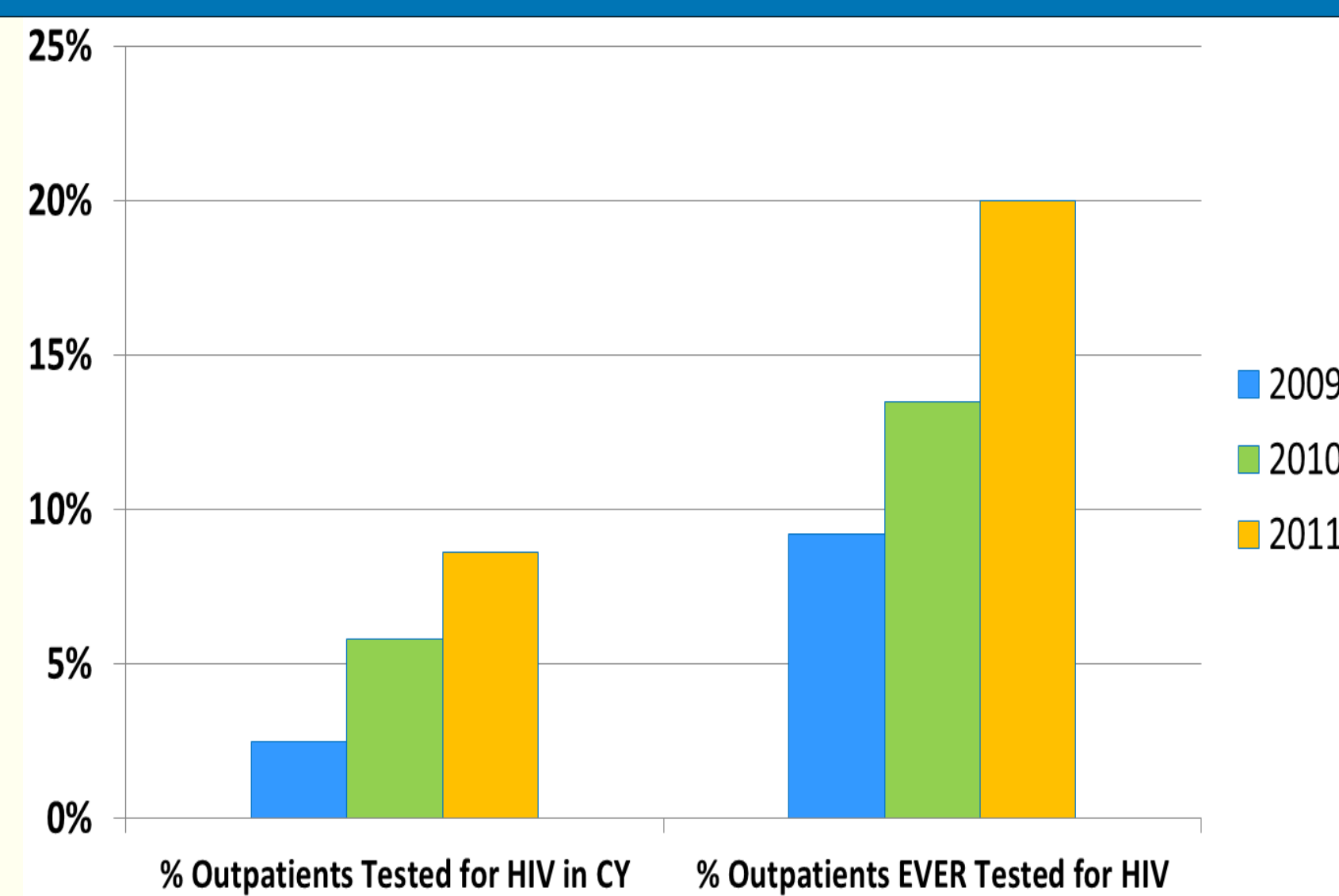
### % OP EVER TESTED FOR HIV BY YEAR



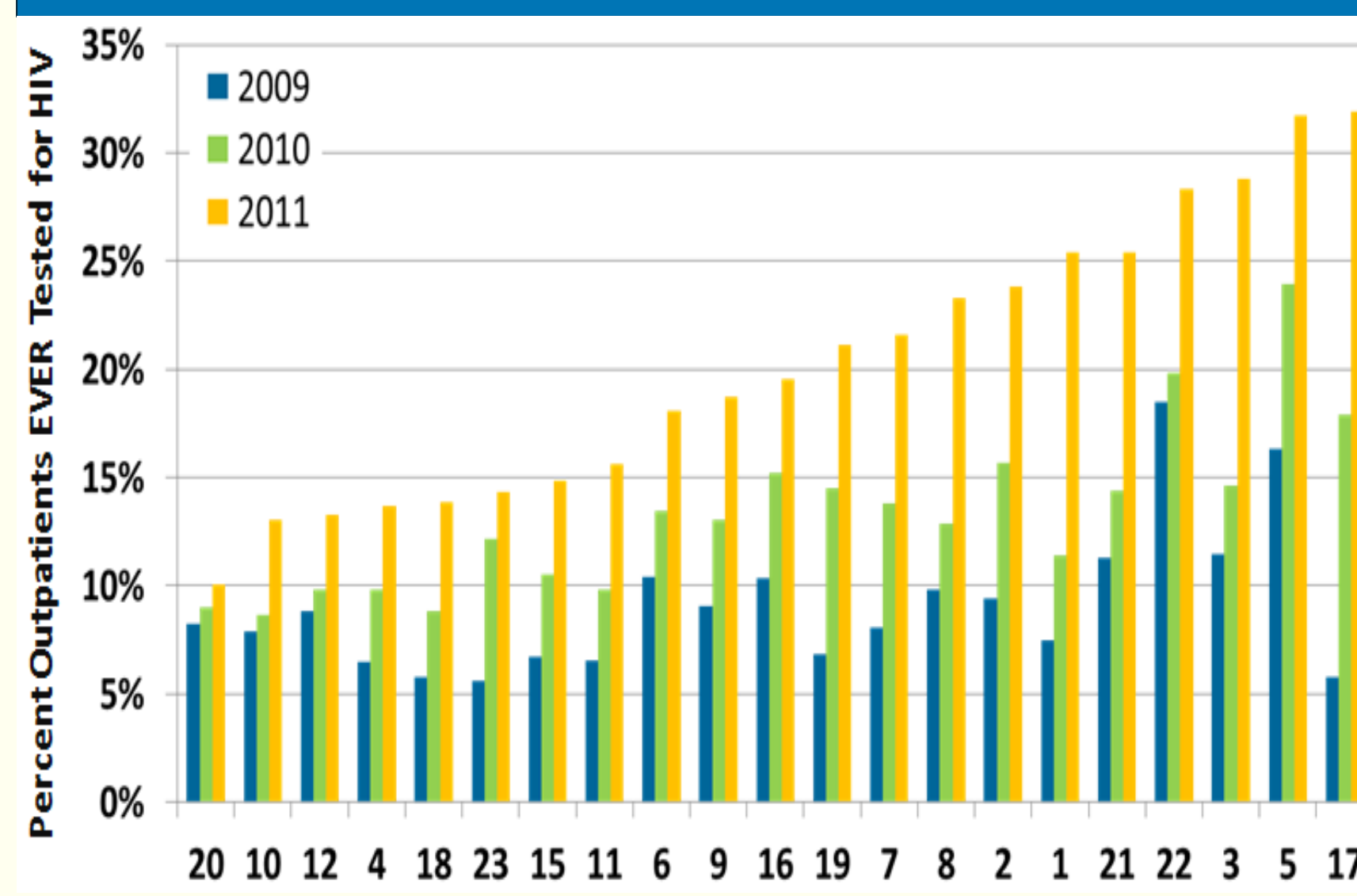
### HIV TESTING BY YEAR 2009-2011

Variable	2009	2010	2011
Veterans with an OP visit in CY	5,713,265	5,888,599	6,114,034
# / % ever tested for HIV	524,267 (9.2%)	795,126 (13.5%)	1,221,328 (20.0%)
# with HIV test in CY	142,345	341,414	523,361
# with positive test in CY	1,739	2,233	2,149
Observed seropositivity rate in CY	1.2%	0.7%	0.41%

### NATIONAL YEAR -TO-YEAR INCREASE

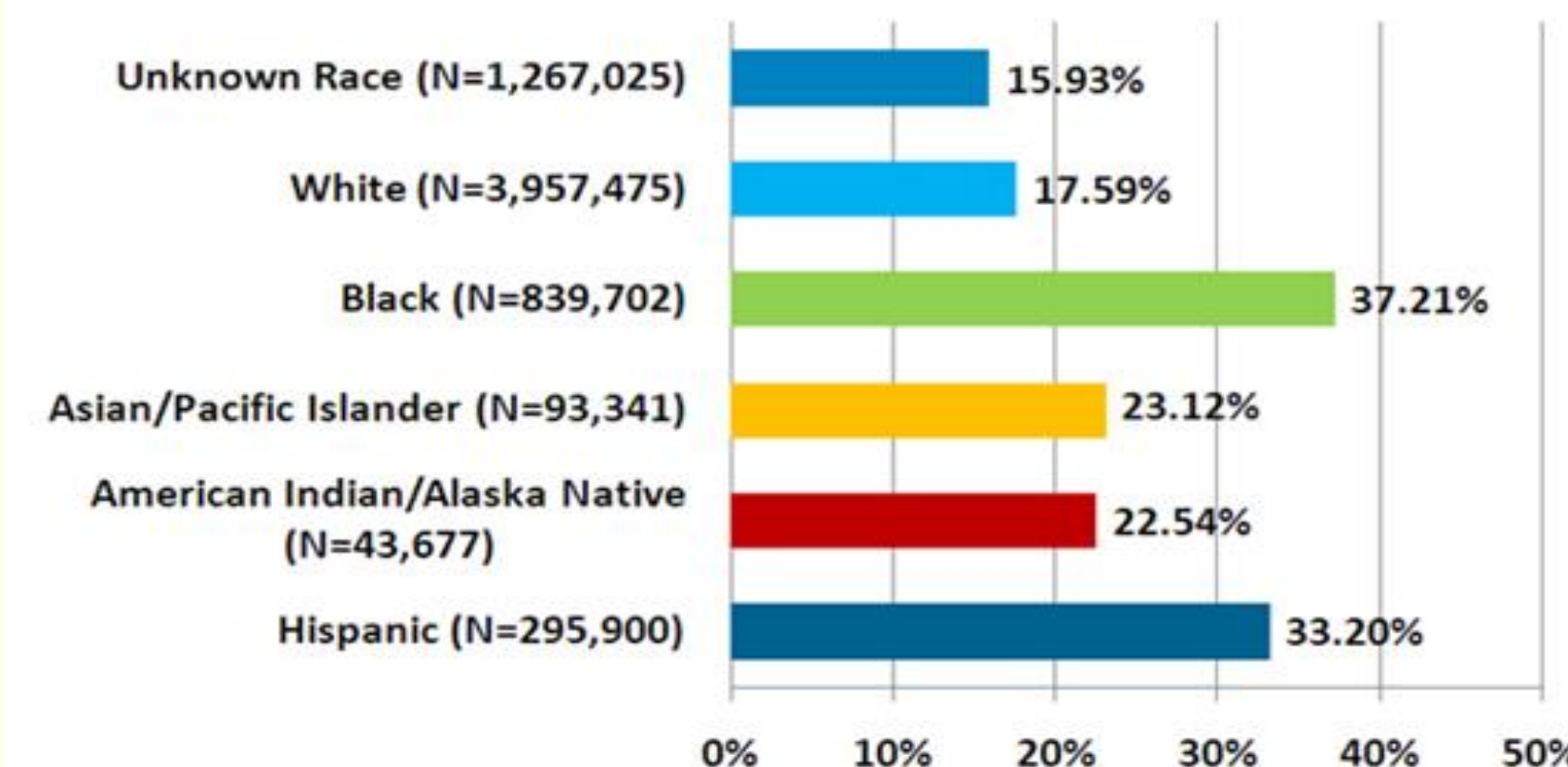


### YEAR-TO-YEAR INCREASE BY VISN

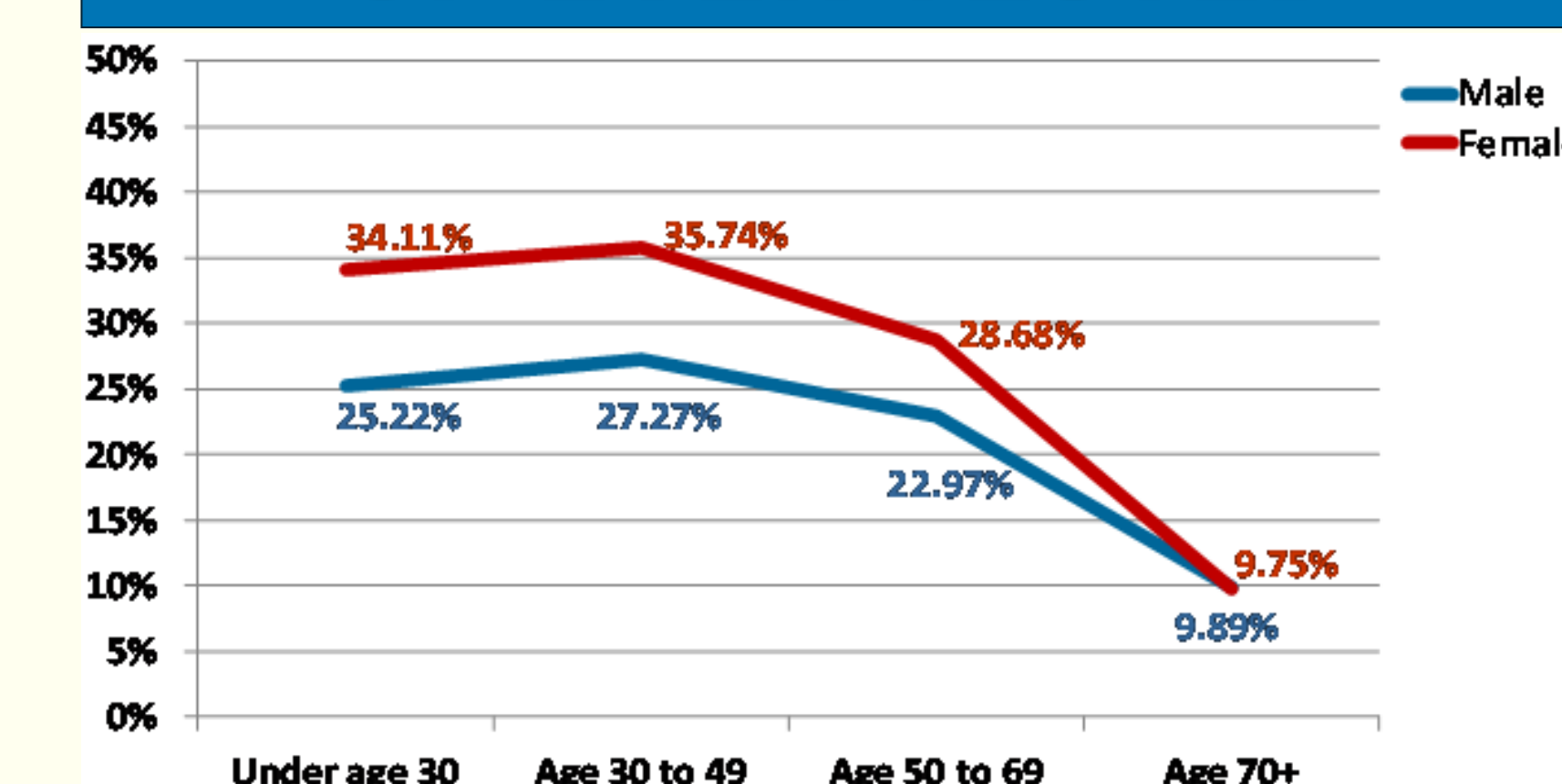


## CY 2011 DATA

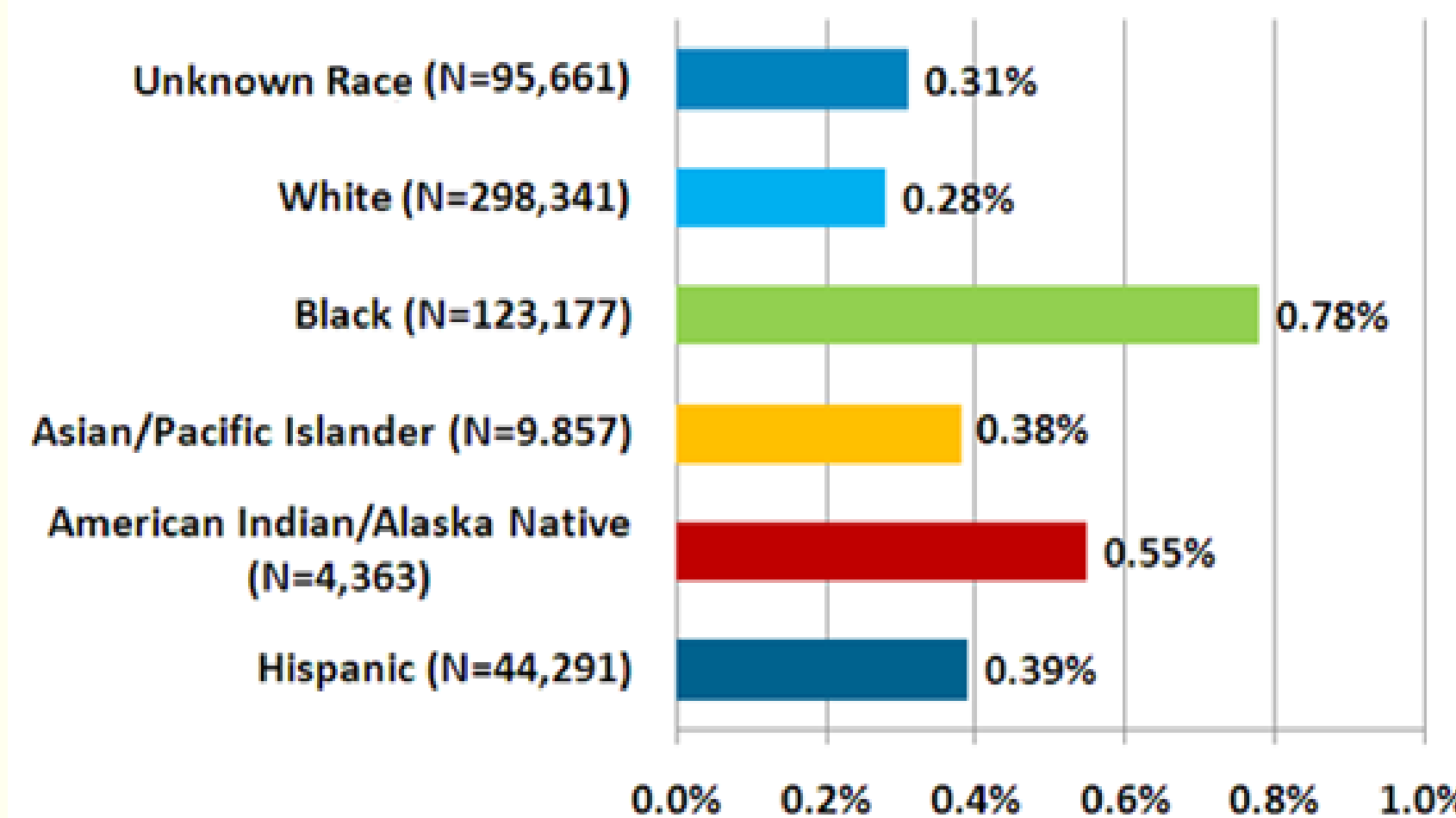
### RACE/ETHNICITY OF 2011 OP EVER TESTED



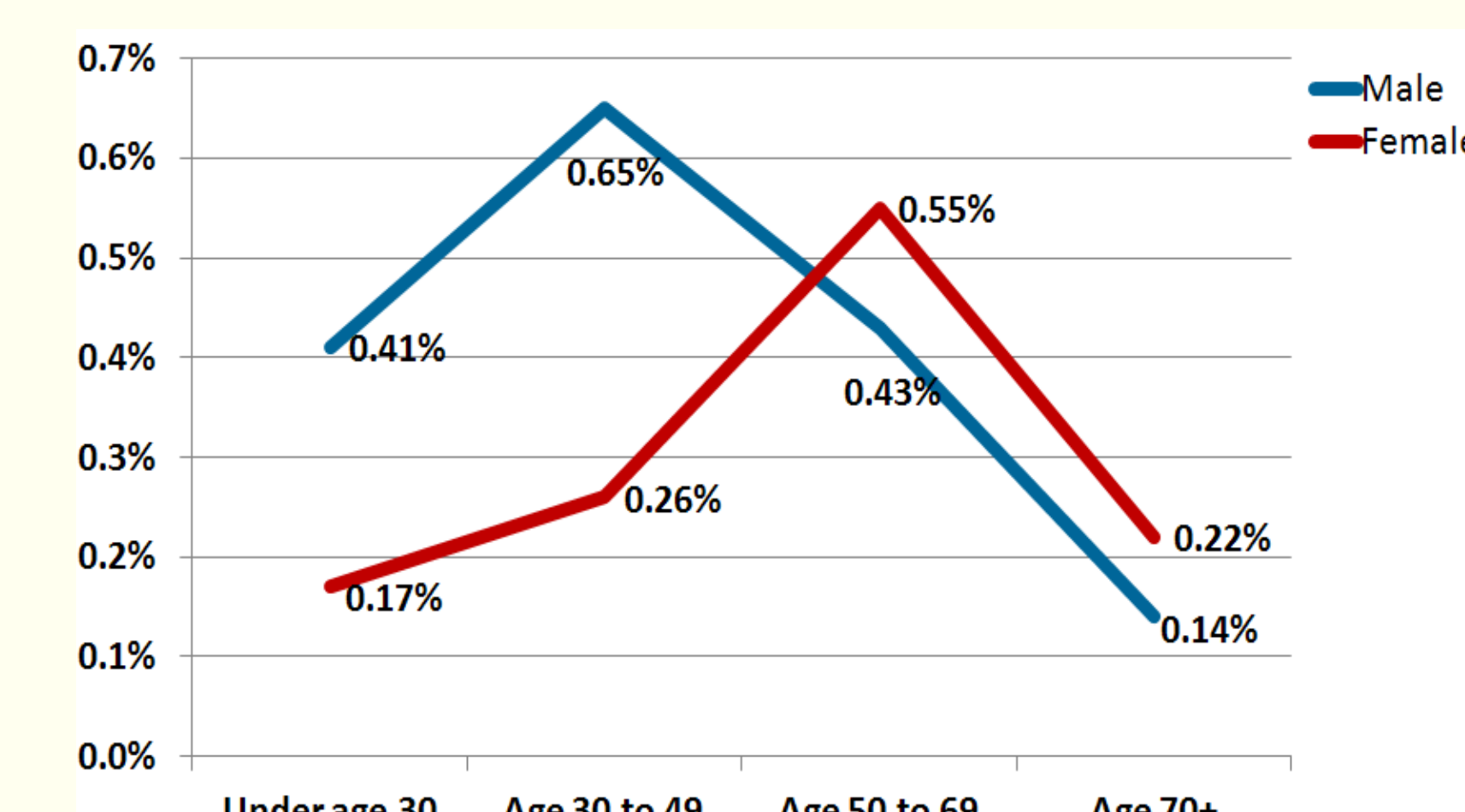
### AGE & GENDER OF 2011 OP EVER TESTED



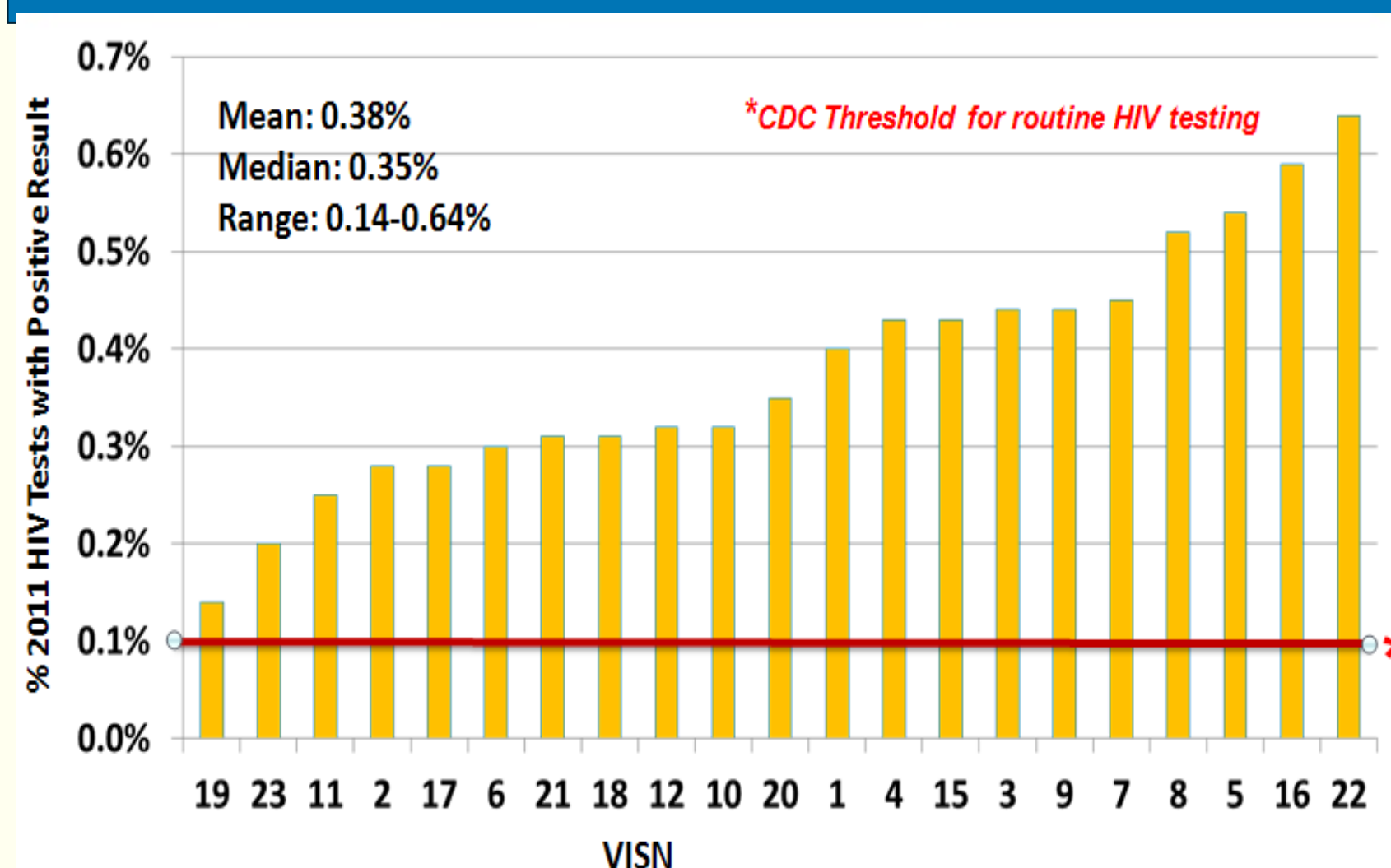
### 2011 HIV POSITIVITY BY RACE/ETHNICITY



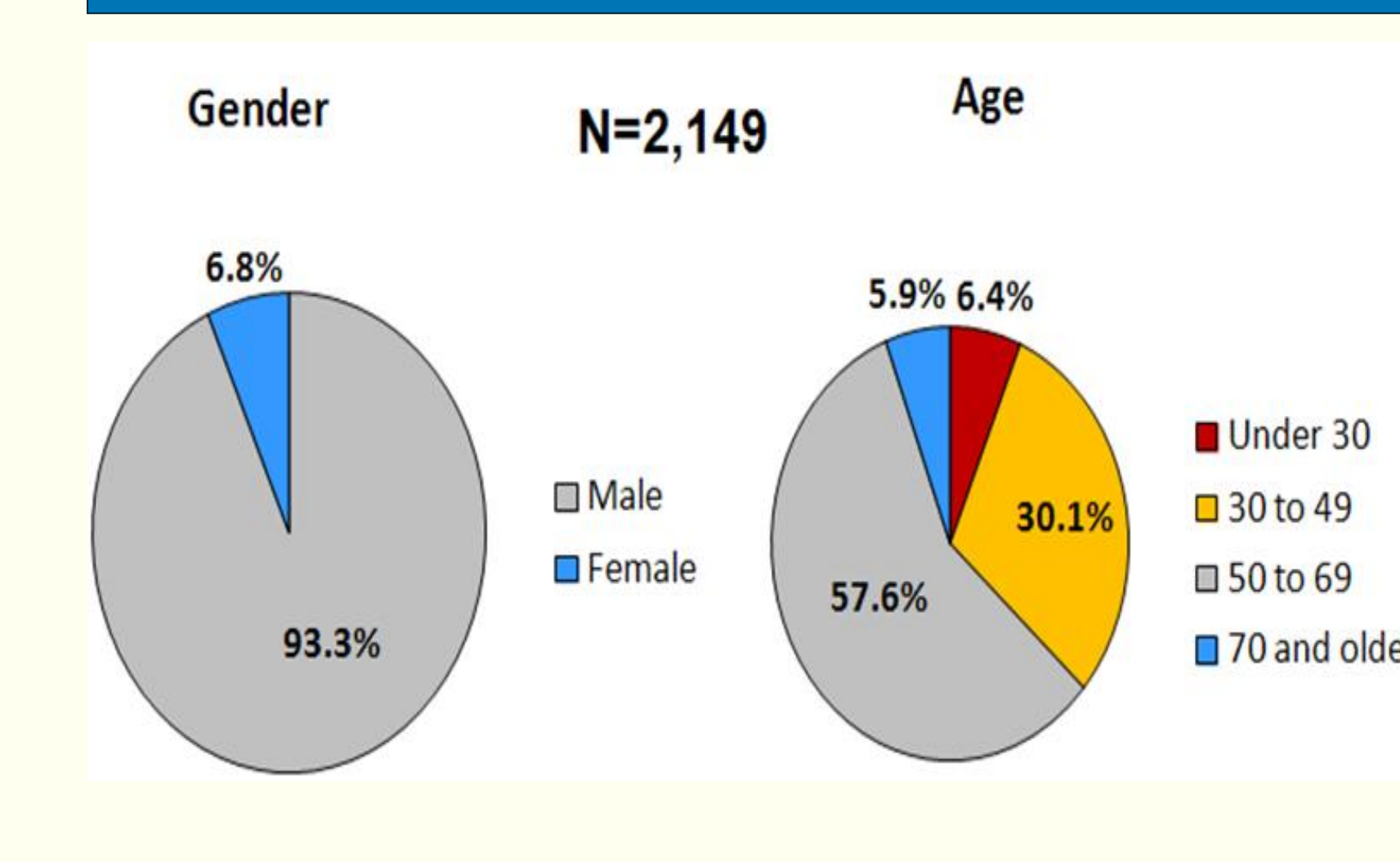
### 2011 HIV POSITIVITY BY AGE & GENDER



### 2011 OBSERVED HIV SEROPOSITIVITY BY VISN



### AGE & GENDER AMONG 2011 HIV POSITIVE



The Office of Public Health acknowledges the support of Clinical Applications Coordinators and IT staff whose work makes the data collection possible. Additionally, VA is appreciative of all the VA providers who are dedicated to providing the best care anywhere to our country's Veterans.

## RESULTS

- ✓ In 2011, 1,221,328 (20%) of outpatients had documentation of an HIV test, an increase of >200% from the rate of 9.2% seen in 2009.
- ✓ Documentation of HIV testing was highest in women and blacks (30.5% and 37.2%, respectively).
- ✓ Patients over the age of 70 were less likely to have a documented HIV test.
- ✓ Of 523,261 HIV tests done in 2011, a positive result was reported in 2,149 (0.41%).
- ✓ Two-thirds (67%, n= 1,363) of positive test results were in patients over the age of 50.
- ✓ Highest seropositivity rates in 2011 were observed among Males aged 30-49 (0.65%), Females aged 50-69 (0.55%), and Black Males (0.81%) and Black Females (0.60%)

## DISCUSSION

The number and proportion of Veterans in VA care with documentation of at least one HIV test more than doubled between 2009 and 2011. As of 2011, more than 1.2 million Veterans had documentation of an HIV test in their VA medical record.

In 2011, HIV seropositivity exceeded the CDC threshold for continued routine testing in all regions, genders, age and race/ethnicity subgroups.

The majority (63.5%) of HIV positive results in 2011 were in patients age > 50. VA policy exceeds CDC guidelines, targeting all Veterans for HIV testing regardless of age.

As a lead federal agency for implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, VA prioritizes routine HIV testing as an essential component of high quality care to all Veterans.

In addition to policy change, VA's Office of Public Health developed and implemented operational strategies to increase HIV testing, including an electronic clinical reminder for routine testing, funding for facility-level quality improvement projects, and a national social marketing campaign to promote routine HIV testing.