

# Missed opportunities in HIV testing in New York City



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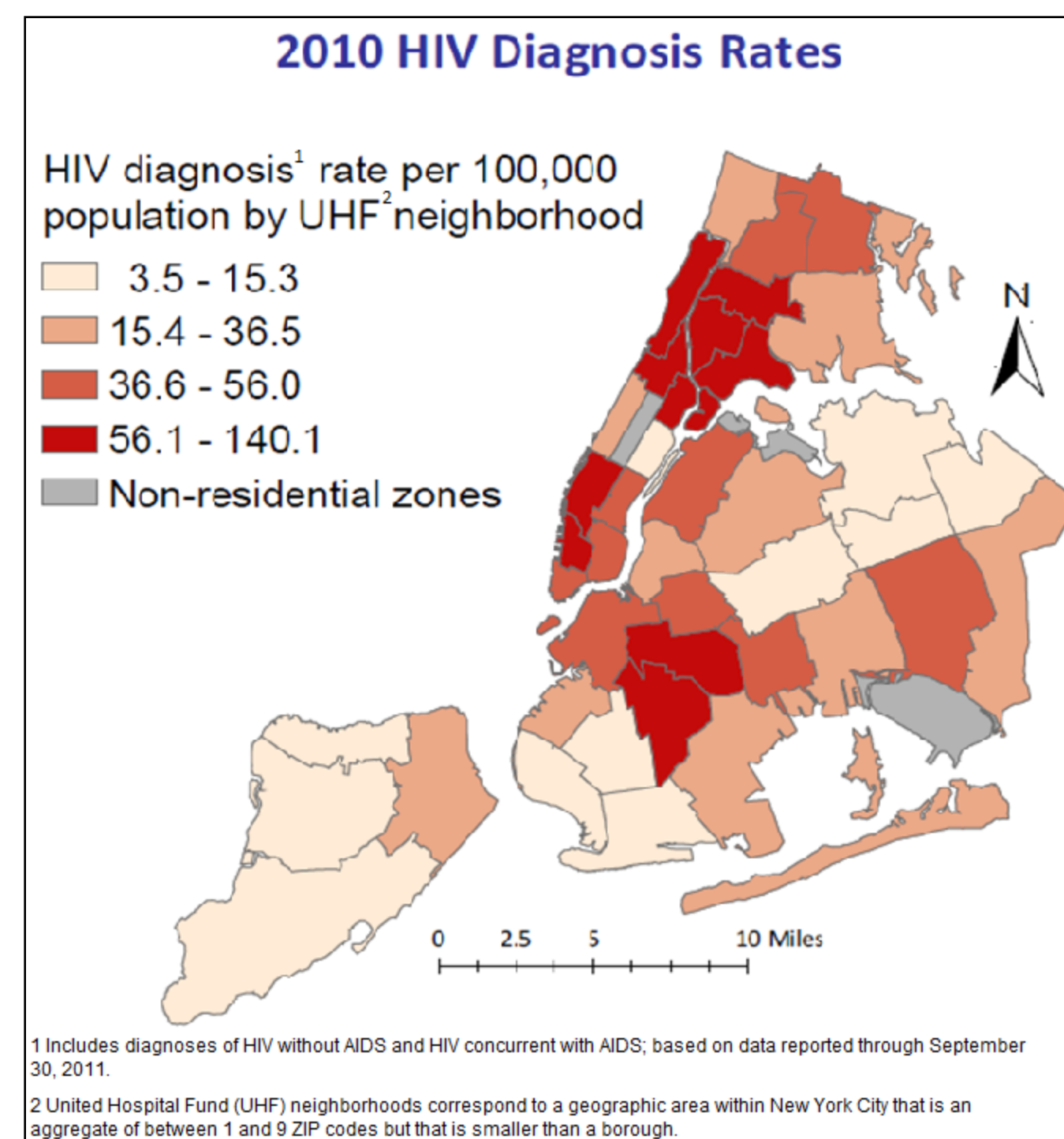


## Introduction: National and local recommendations promote HIV testing in New York City

- 2004** New York City (NYC) introduces *Take Care New York*, a policy to improve the health of New Yorkers in ten steps—one of which is “**Know your HIV status.**”
- 2006** The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) **funds expanded HIV testing activities.**  
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) **recommends routine HIV screening** in healthcare settings for all patients aged 13-64 years.
- 2010** New York State (NYS) law **mandates the offer of an HIV test** to all patients aged 13-64 receiving hospital and primary care services, with limited exceptions (Chapter 308 of the Laws of 2010).

## Study aim

To evaluate how well healthcare providers are implementing CDC HIV testing recommendations and NYS law in New York City.



## Methods

- We conducted the first round of a multi-year telephone survey from June-August 2011.
- A total of 2,473 non-institutionalized, adult (≥18) NYC residents were interviewed using a random-digit dial (RDD) sample for landlines and a separate random wireless sample for cellphones (78% v. 22%).
- Computer assisted telephone interviews were conducted in English or Spanish to collect data on healthcare use, HIV testing practices, sexual risk behavior, and demographics.
- Data were weighted against the 2009 American Community Survey and analysis was done using SPSS.

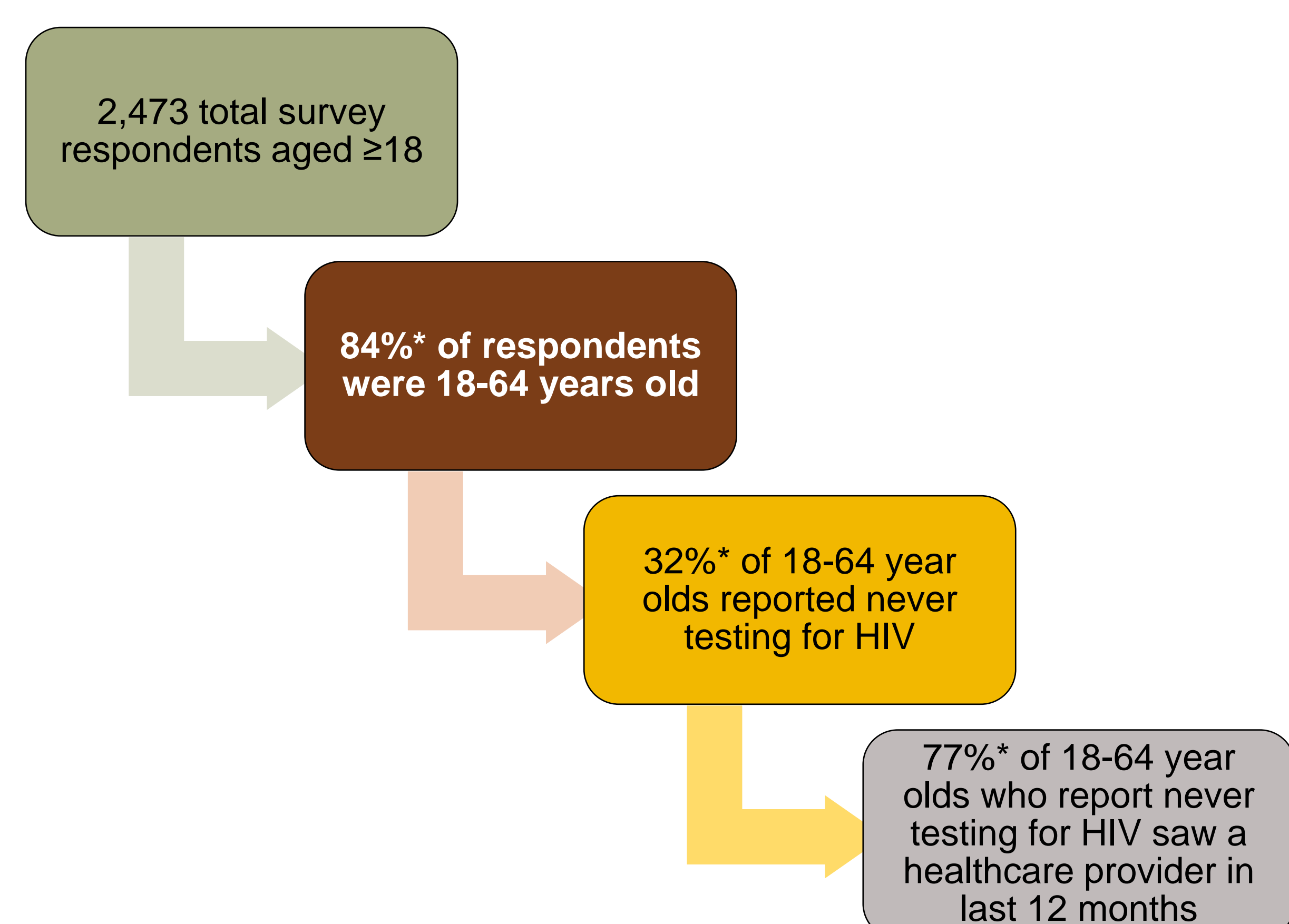
## Results

**Table 1. Overall demographic characteristics (n=2,473)**

		Weighted Percentages*
<b>Gender</b>	Male	47%
	Female	53%
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	Hispanic	27%
	Non-Hispanic	72%
	Black	30%
	White	53%
	Asian	7%
Other	10%	
<b>Age</b>	18 to 24 years	12%
	25 to 44 years	41%
	45 to 64 years	31%
	≥65 years	16%

\*Because of rounding, percentages do not always add up to 100.

### A majority of 18-64 year olds who have never tested for HIV saw a healthcare provider in the last 12 months

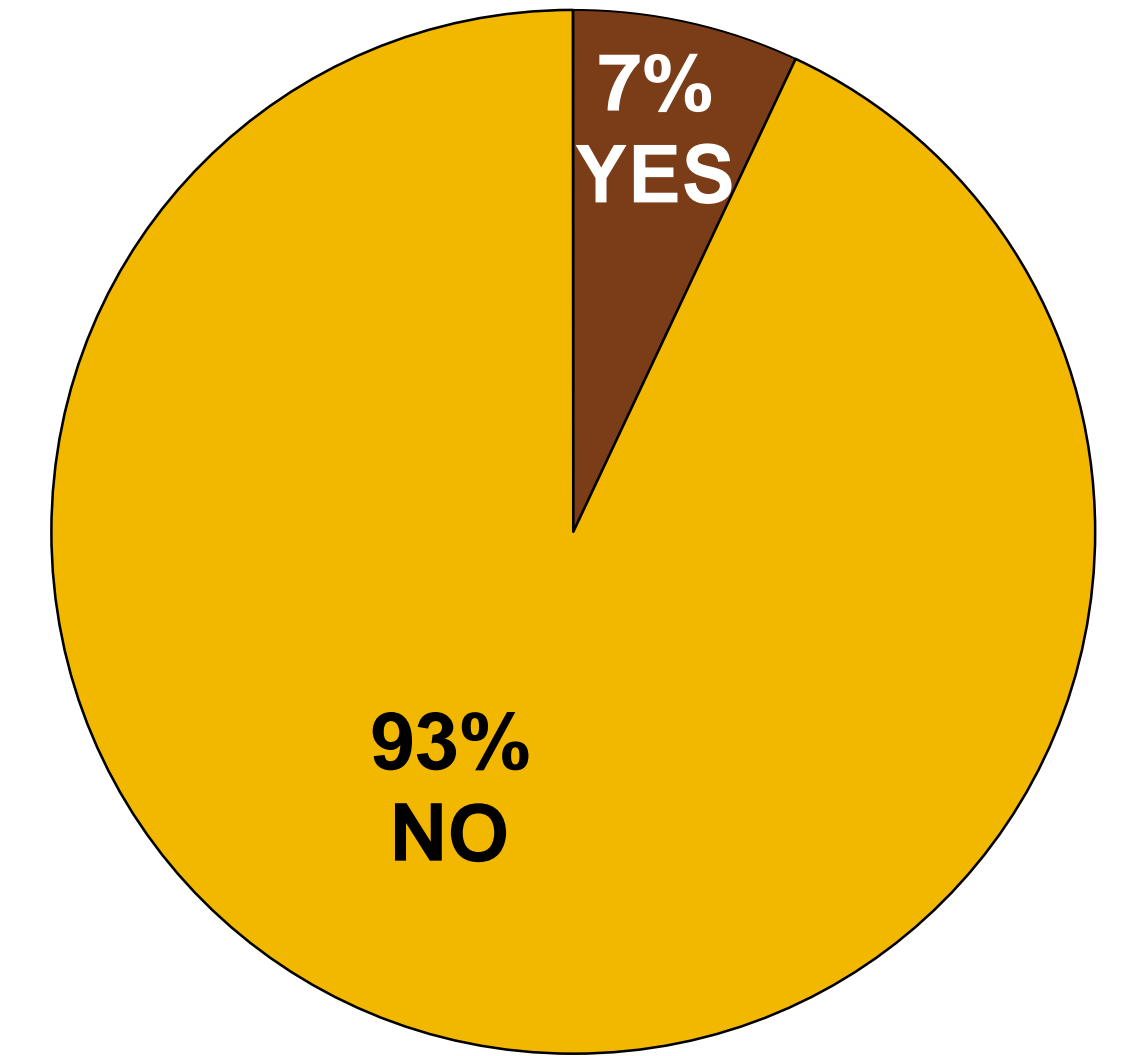


## Results: Are NYC healthcare providers offering all patients aged 18-64 an HIV test?

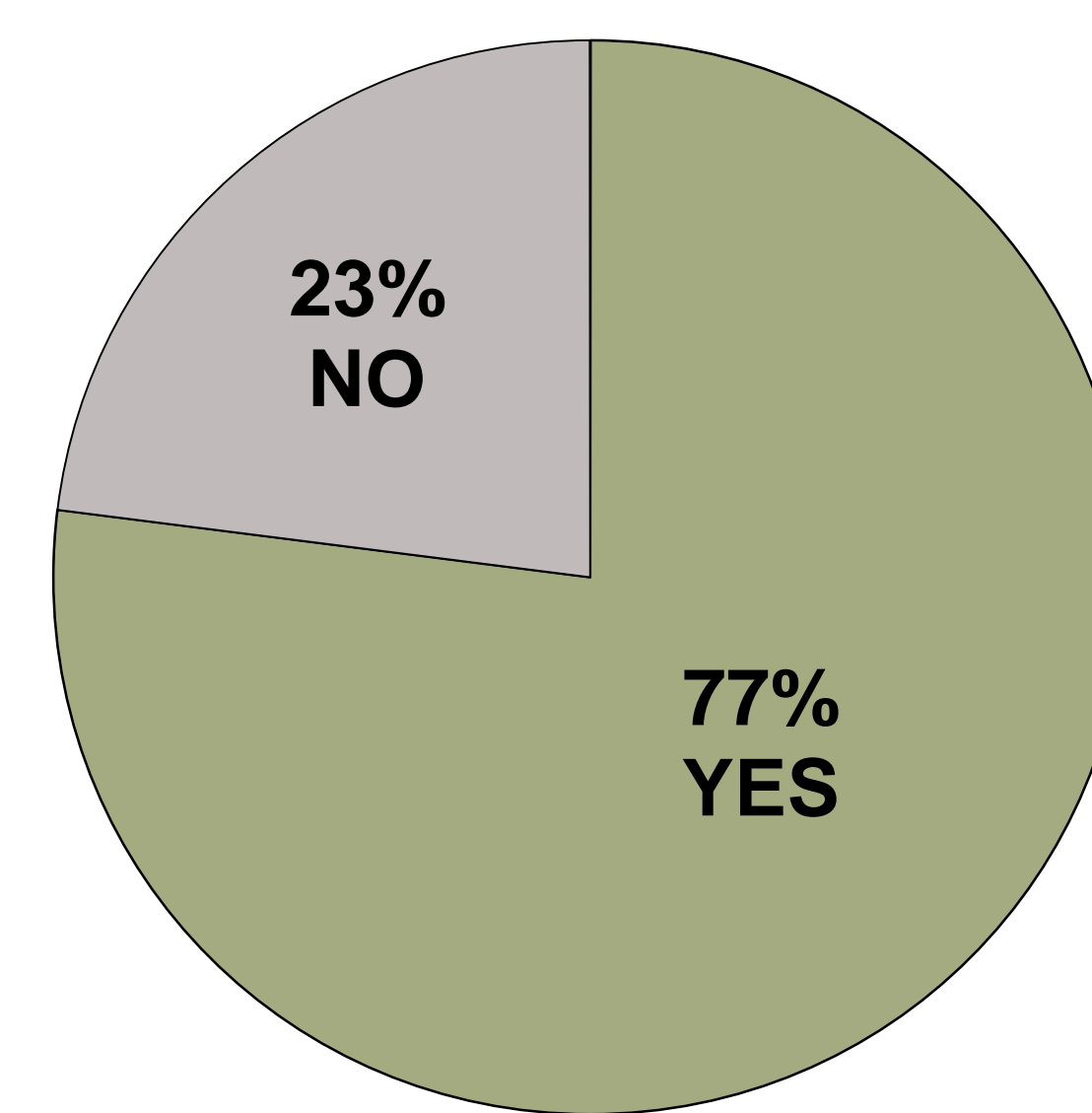
**18-64 year olds who have never been tested for HIV and saw a provider in the last 12 months were asked:**

“The last time you saw a doctor, nurse or other health professional, were you offered an HIV test?”

- ❖ **Few respondents were offered HIV testing by their healthcare provider.**



**Those who were not offered an HIV test at their last healthcare visit were asked:**



“If your doctor recommended that everyone get tested for HIV, would you get an HIV test?”

- ❖ **Of those who were not offered an HIV test, more than three-quarters would accept an HIV test if their provider recommended it.**

- Respondents who were older (aged 45-64), non-Hispanic white, heterosexual, married, and reported a higher income or level of education were **least likely to be offered an HIV test.**
- Most (64%) 18-64 year olds who have never been tested report that **they believe they are at no or low risk.**

## Limitations

- Sample sizes for some demographic groups, such as men who have sex with men, were small.
- The survey was conducted in English and Spanish only.
- Respondents may not have been able to accurately remember events that occurred months prior to the survey date.
- Data collection was less than one year from the change in NYS law. This survey iteration is likely too soon from the law passage to determine impact.
  - There are no data about the provider offer prior to the enactment of the testing law to allow for comparison.
  - Recall period for healthcare visits included a time period that preceded the implementation date of the NYS HIV testing law on September 1, 2010.

## Conclusions

Incomplete implementation of CDC recommendations and NYS law by NYC healthcare providers represents **missed opportunities** for NYC residents to learn their HIV status.



Full provider implementation of an HIV test offer to all patients aged 18-64 in healthcare settings could lead to an estimated:

- 1) 955,000** 18-64 year old NYC residents **testing for HIV for the first time**, and
- 2) 6,500 persons\*** with **previously undiagnosed HIV infection learning their HIV status** and promptly linking to care.

\* Estimate assumes a testing seropositivity of 0.6%, equivalent to the 2011 NYC DOHMH funded HIV testing contract seropositivity.

## Acknowledgements

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