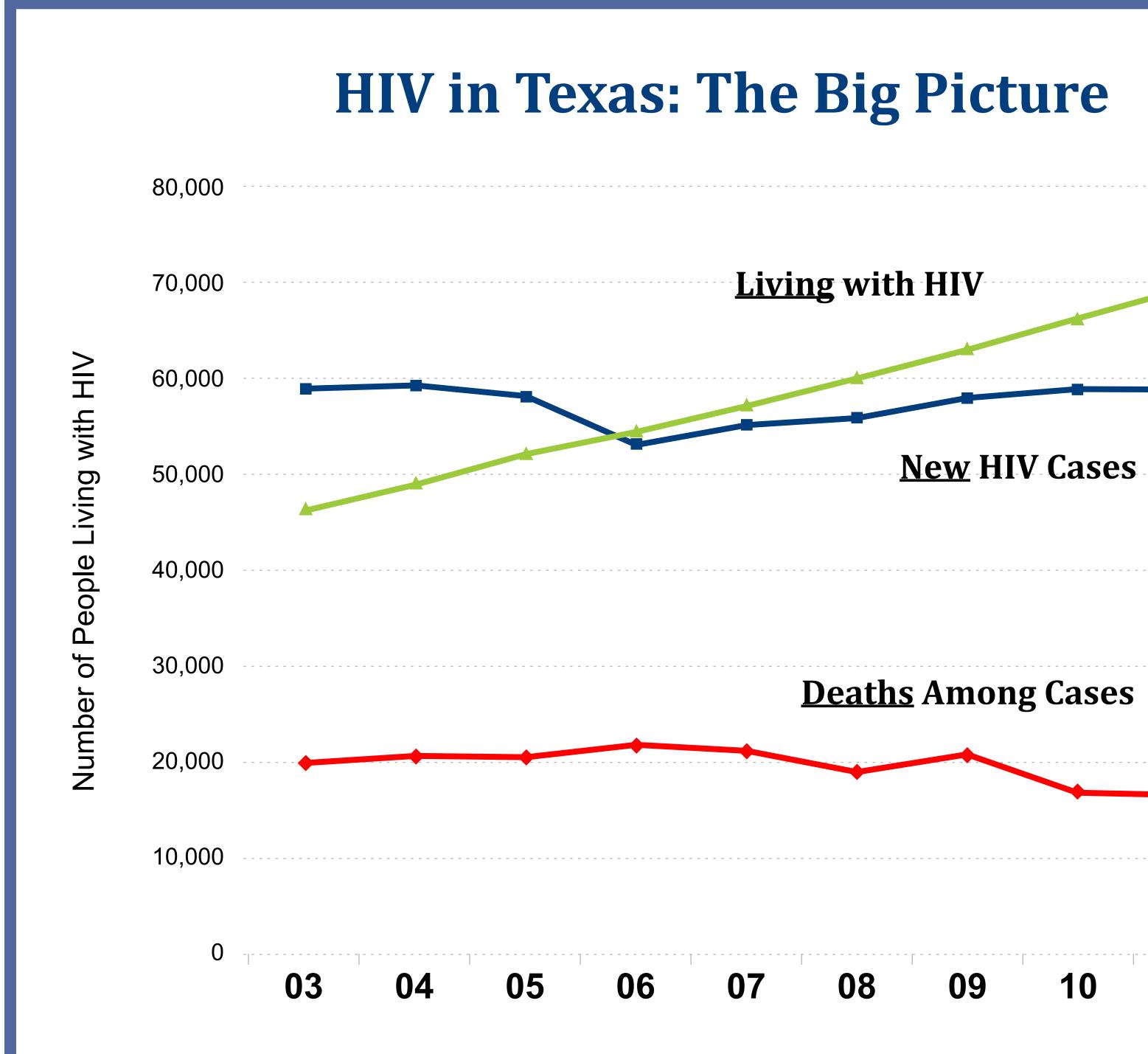
In 2008, Texas implemented routine HIV testing in healthcare settings according to the 2006 CDC recommendations. The program assists sites in implementing sustainable and integrated routine HIV testing to increase the proportion of Texans diagnosed early in their HIV disease and successfully link them to medical care.

The project has focused on counties with the highest HIV prevalence counts and rates. Sites in these counties were chosen by volume of indigent patient population, leadership interest and support, and capacity to implement testing, and include: emergency departments (ED), urgent care centers (UCC), STD clinics, corrections, community health and teen clinics. Basic demographics, limited behavioral risk information, test results and linkage to care information are submitted monthly for program evaluation.



An estimated 15,000 Texans have HIV and do not know it.

1 in 3 Texans with HIV are diagnosed late.

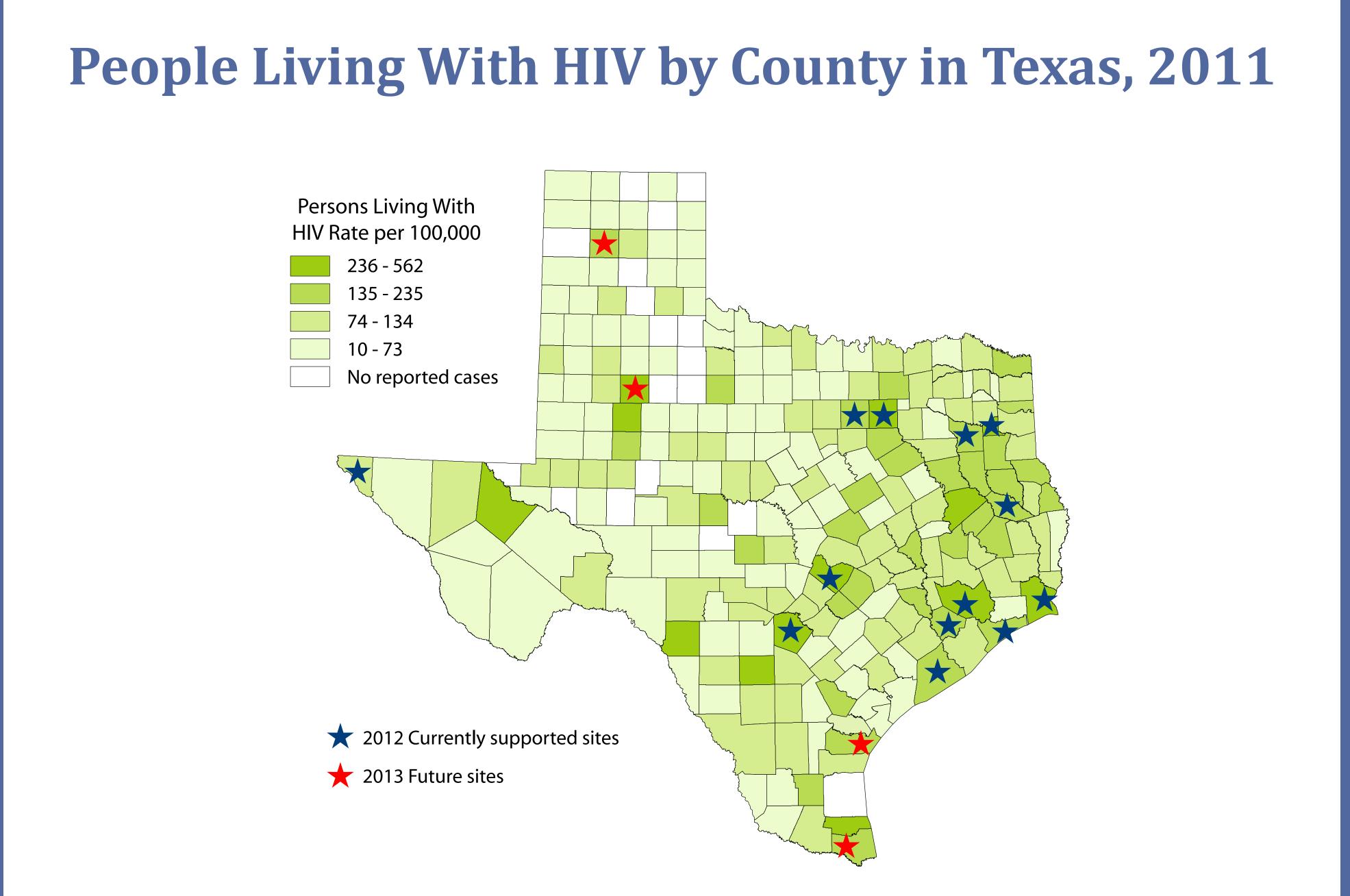




Texas' Experience with Routine HIV Testing in Health Care Settings Jenny McFarlane; Karalee Poschman, M.P.H.; Isabel Clark, M.A., R.D.; Jeff Hitt, M.Ed.; Ann Robbins, Ph.D. - Texas Department of State Health Services

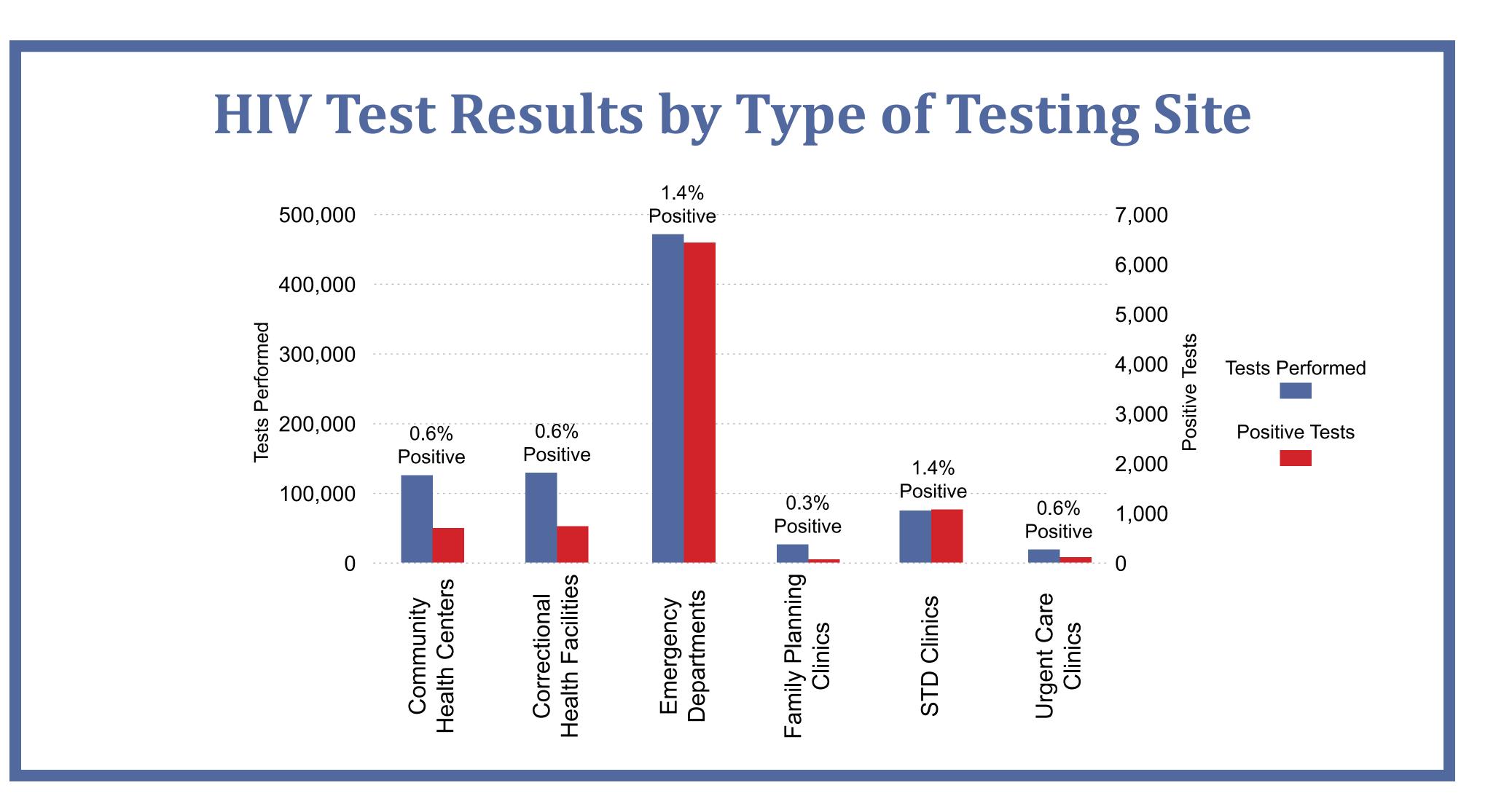
	6,000	
	5,000	eaths
	4,000	Q
	3,000	ew Diagnoses,
	2,000	Number of New
	1,000	N
11	0	



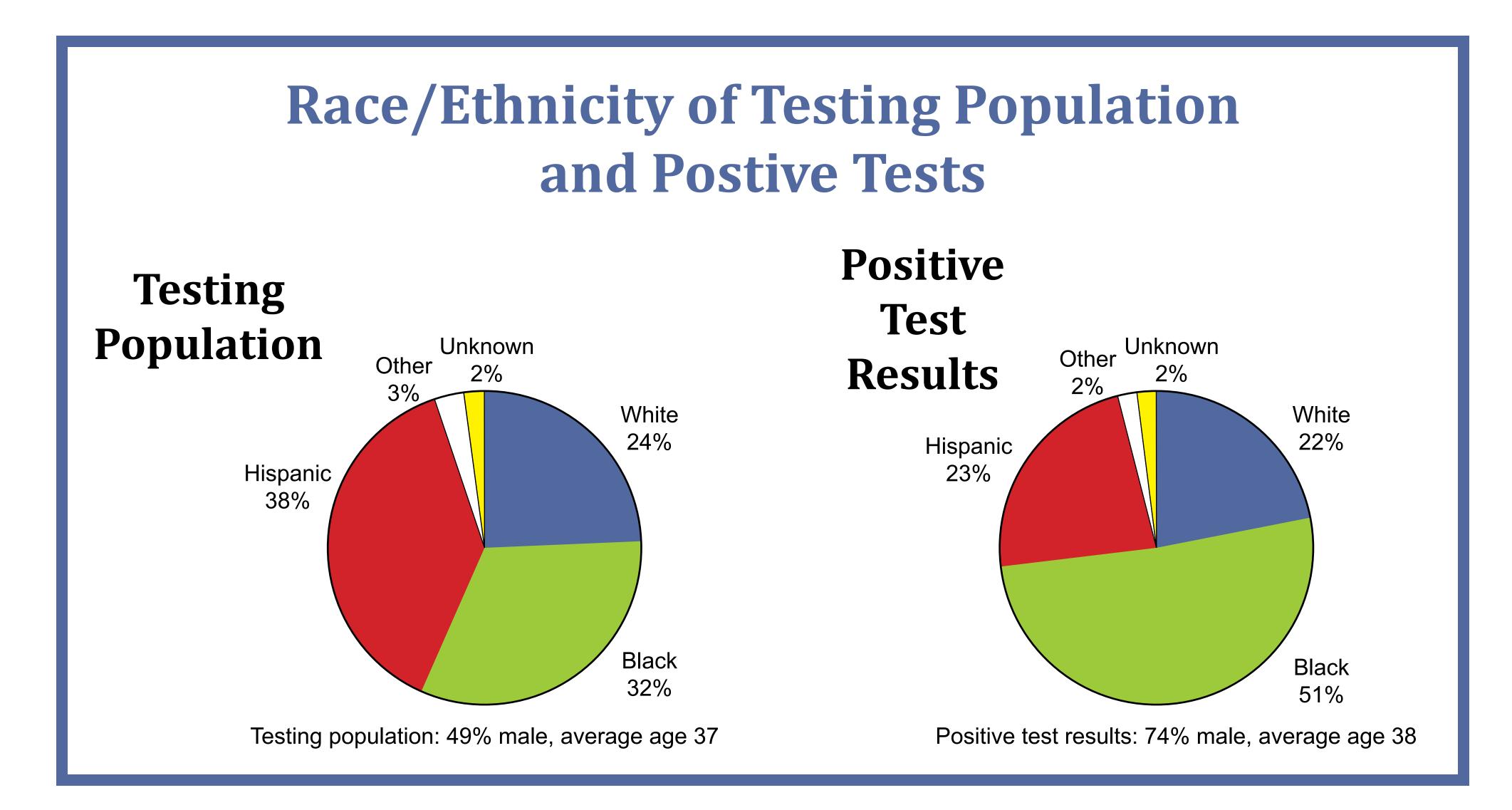


The sites are located within nine of the top ten counties with the highest number of infected persons and fourteen of the top twenty highest rate counties. These sites serve the populations disproportionately impacted by HIV. Currently, 15 EDs, six UCCs, five STD clinics, two local primary care health departments, 102 community health center clinics, eight corrections sites, and seven teen clinics have implemented routine HIV testing.

- Almost 850,000 HIV tests have been performed with over 9,200 HIV positive tests including almost 4,500 newly identified positives.
- Of those tested, 38% are Hispanic, 32% Black, and 24% White.
- Men comprise 49% of those tested; the opportunity to test men over 77% of the living HIV cases in Texas.
- Of the HIV positives, over 65% have been linked to HIV care services.



during a health care encounter is essential, as they comprise of



Supported sites continue to adjust their protocols, standing delegation orders, and processes for HIV testing. Sites have experienced challenges such as; leadership and staff turnover, transition to electronic medical health records, and corporate administrative changes. It is important that sites identify internal champions, create cross-disciplinary teams to plan and monitor implementation, choose the appropriate test technology to build a sustainable testing model, create protocols that are specific to their system, incorporate the testing into their quality improvement processes, and have access to peer technical assistance and guidance.

Through the support of the these projects, populations with the greatest HIV prevalence have learned their HIV status and received the opportunity to be linked to medical care and prevention services. This demonstrates the value of routine HIV testing as a standard of care in healthcare settings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our colleagues at testing sites throughout Texas for the considerable time and effort spent in implementing and maintaining routine testing programs.

Key Elements for Successful Implementation:

- Internal Champions and Leadership
- Standing Delegation Orders
- Integration into Electronic Health Records
- Automated Laboratory Systems
- Incorporation into Quality Improvement Processes

• Established Protocols