

HIV testing in US Emergency Departments, Outpatient Ambulatory Medical Departments and Physician Offices, 1993-2010

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OBJECTIVES

- Estimate the rates of HIV testing among 13-64-year-old patients in emergency departments (EDs), outpatient ambulatory medical care departments (OPDs), and physician offices from 1993 to 2010.
- Determine the responsiveness on a national level of these healthcare settings to CDC recommendations to expand HIV testing.

METHODS

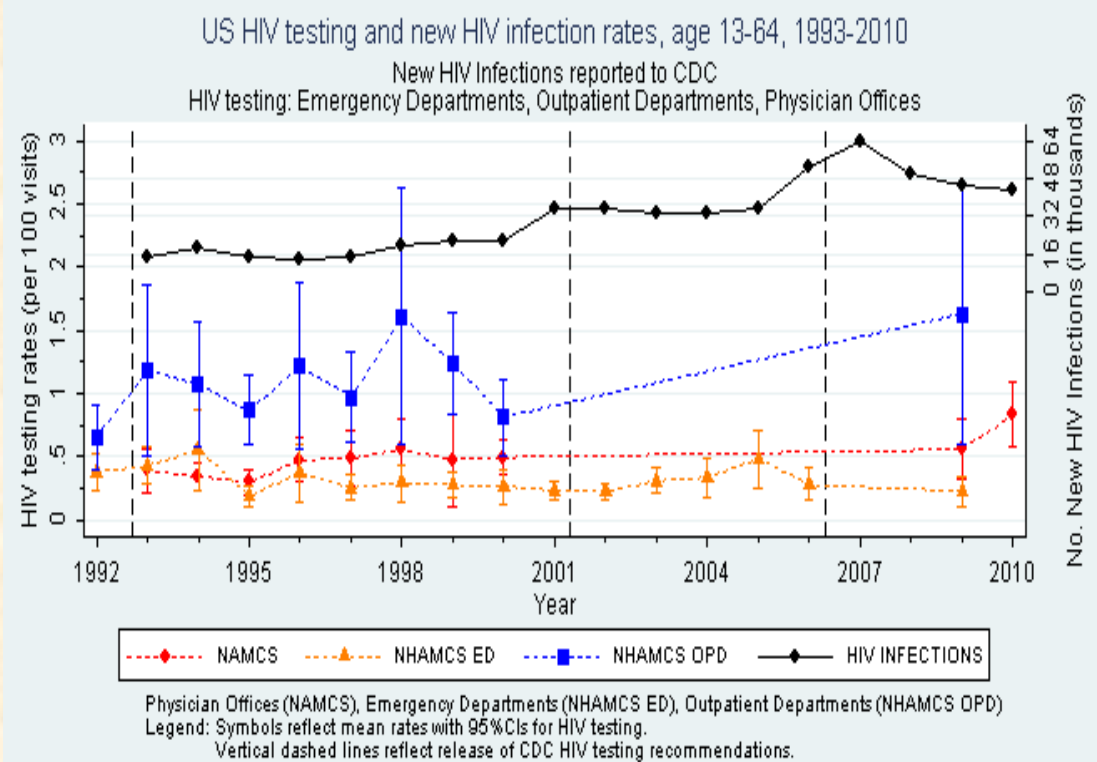
- ED and OPD visits from the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS) and physician offices visits from the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) were analyzed.
- HIV testing rates were estimated for each setting.
- Logistic regression models were constructed to evaluate trends in HIV testing for each healthcare setting over this time period.
- Odds ratios (ORs) with accompanying 95% confidence intervals were estimated.
- Student's t-tests were used to compare testing rates across healthcare settings.

CONCLUSIONS

- HIV testing rates did not change significantly from 1993 to 2010 in EDs, OPDs and physician offices.
- There was no demonstrable increase in testing rates according to these data despite recommended expansion of HIV testing by CDC recommendations.

RESULTS

- From 1992-2010, HIV testing rates in OPDs were significantly greater than rates in EDs ($p < 0.0001$); and were higher than rates in physician offices ($p < 0.0001$).
- Logistic regression tests of trend for the entire study period did not demonstrate significant increases in testing rates at any of these three healthcare settings: EDs (OR 1.02 [0.99-1.05]), OPDs (OR 1.12 [0.33-3.81]), and physician offices (OR 0.94 [0.89-1.00]).



- HIV testing did not increase significantly even with a growing HIV epidemic and improvements in HIV testing technologies, breakthroughs in antiretroviral medications to combat HIV, and recent efforts by CDC to streamline HIV testing methods.