



County B R F S S

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

HIV/AIDS Prevention Among Non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics, 18- To 64-Years-Old, in Florida: 2002 Florida County BRFSS Findings

Introduction

This report is one of a series of 2002 County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) reports planned by the Florida Department of Health's Bureau of Epidemiology to provide prevalence of health conditions and health risk behaviors among non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics in Florida. The Bureau of Epidemiology has previously published summary County BRFSS data reports for each of Florida's 67 counties. The reports can be found on the Bureau of Epidemiology's web site at: http://www9.myflorida.com/disease_ctrl/epi/brfss/reports.htm. However, estimates for non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics are missing from these reports for many counties, because the group sample sizes were too small to generate stable estimates.

Sample size was of particular concern for this report about Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) prevention, because the BRFSS collects this information only from adults between 18- and 64-years-old. Thus, the sample sizes for non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics per county are further reduced. In order to provide in-depth analyses for non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic groups on HIV/AIDS prevention, the sample size was increased for each group by combining the data from all counties.

This report focuses on responses from non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics to the five HIV/AIDS-related questions included in the 2002 County BRFSS. Data on non-Hispanic Whites are presented in this report for comparison purposes. This report makes available data that can be used to evaluate Florida's progress toward meeting the Healthy People 2010 goal of eliminating health disparities.

Background

The BRFSS is an annual population-based, telephone survey established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1984. The BRFSS surveys a sample of adults (age 18 and older) in households with telephones. Respondents are randomly selected to ensure that the survey data will be representative of all adults in their particular state. Through the BRFSS, states can collect information regarding health-risk behaviors, clinical preventive health practices, and healthcare access primarily related to chronic disease and injuries. BRFSS survey data have been widely used to monitor health behavior and health status at the state and national levels. Currently, all states, the District of Columbia, and three territories participate in the BRFSS.

Because only state-level data are collected, the BRFSS cannot provide accurate and reliable

data at the county level for public health program planning and evaluation. Therefore, with support from county health departments and others, the Bureau of Epidemiology designed and implemented a county-level BRFSS in 2002, primarily to provide data about behavioral risk factors and chronic disease conditions for each of Florida's 67 counties.

Sample and Methodology

The 2002 County BRFSS survey was conducted among adults in Florida from September 2002 through January 2003. The county survey used the same methodology as used for the state BRFSS protocol, and questions from the state BRFSS were adapted for the county-level survey. The BRFSS protocol and questions were both developed by the CDC.

Overall, 34,551 adults were randomly selected and interviewed for the survey; at least 500 adults were surveyed in each county. Among those respondents, 3,017 were non-Hispanic Blacks who represent approximately 1.4 million non-Hispanic Blacks in the state, and 2,164 were respondents who self-reported as Hispan-

ics and who represent approximately 2 million Hispanics in the state. The 2002 County BRFSS included 76 questions, and the telephone interviews took 13 minutes on average.

BRFSS survey data are adjusted, or "weighted", so that the resulting estimates can be generalized to a county's entire population, not just to those who responded to the survey. Data-weighting is a statistical process that includes the consideration of factors such as: (1) number of residential telephones in the household; (2) number of adults in household; (3) geographic or density stratification; and, (4) age, race, and sex distribution of the population.

Survey data were analyzed and point estimates were calculated using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS). Because sampling errors are inherent in the survey, we provide 95 percent confidence intervals (CIs) for each point estimate to determine the accuracy of that estimate. A 95 percent confidence interval is the range in which the real population prevalence is likely to be found 95 percent of the time. In addition to estimating the accuracy of the prevalence, the CIs are used to compare prevalence between populations.

Results

1. Ever been tested for HIV

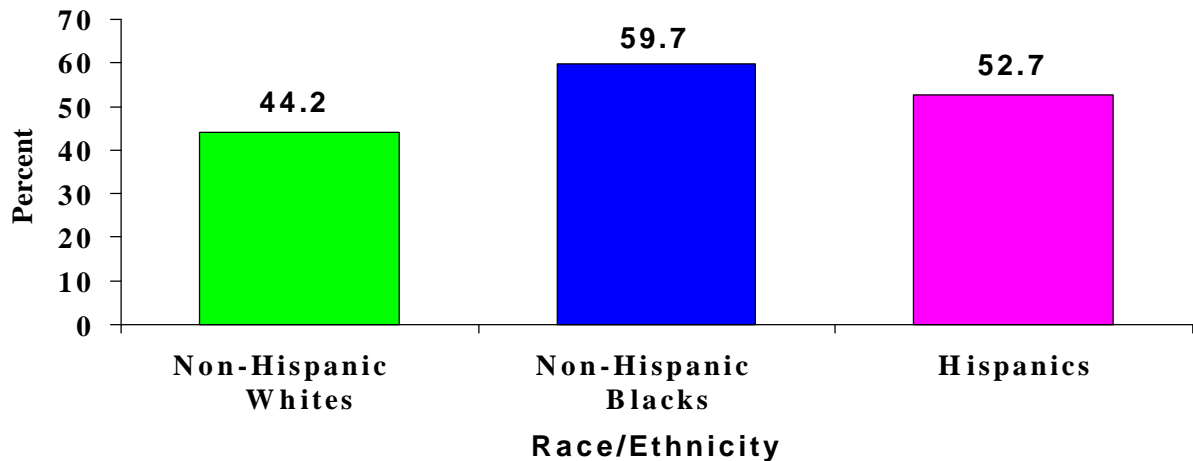
BRFSS Question:

Have you ever been tested for HIV?
Do not count tests you may have had as a part of a blood donation.

- 1) Yes
- 2) No

Three out of five (59.7 percent) non-Hispanic Blacks and more than half (52.7 percent) of Hispanics had ever been tested for HIV, while less than half (44.2 percent) of non-Hispanic Whites had ever been tested for HIV. The prevalence of having ever been tested for HIV was significantly higher among non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics than among non-Hispanic Whites, but there was no significant difference between non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Percentage of Adults Ever Tested for HIV among Those Aged 18 to 64 by Race/Ethnicity, Florida, 2002



No differences by gender were found within each of the three racial/ethnic groups; however, non-Hispanic Black men had a higher prevalence of having ever been tested for HIV than did non-Hispanic White men. Among women, both non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics had a higher prevalence of having ever been tested for HIV than did non-Hispanic White women (see Figure 2).

Adults age 30 to 39 years had the highest prevalence of having ever been tested for HIV among all age groups. Prevalence of having been tested for HIV increased with age up to 30-years-old and decreased with age after 39-years-old (see Figure 3).

For more detailed information, please see Table 1 at the end of this report.

Figure 2. Percentage of Adults Ever Tested for HIV among Those Aged 18 to 64 by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, Florida, 2002

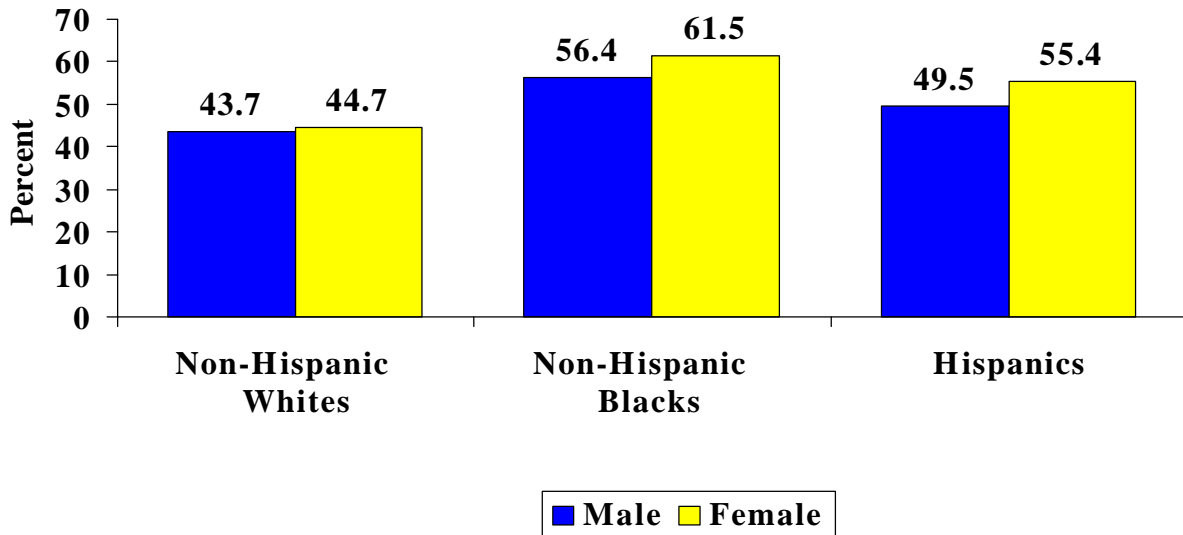
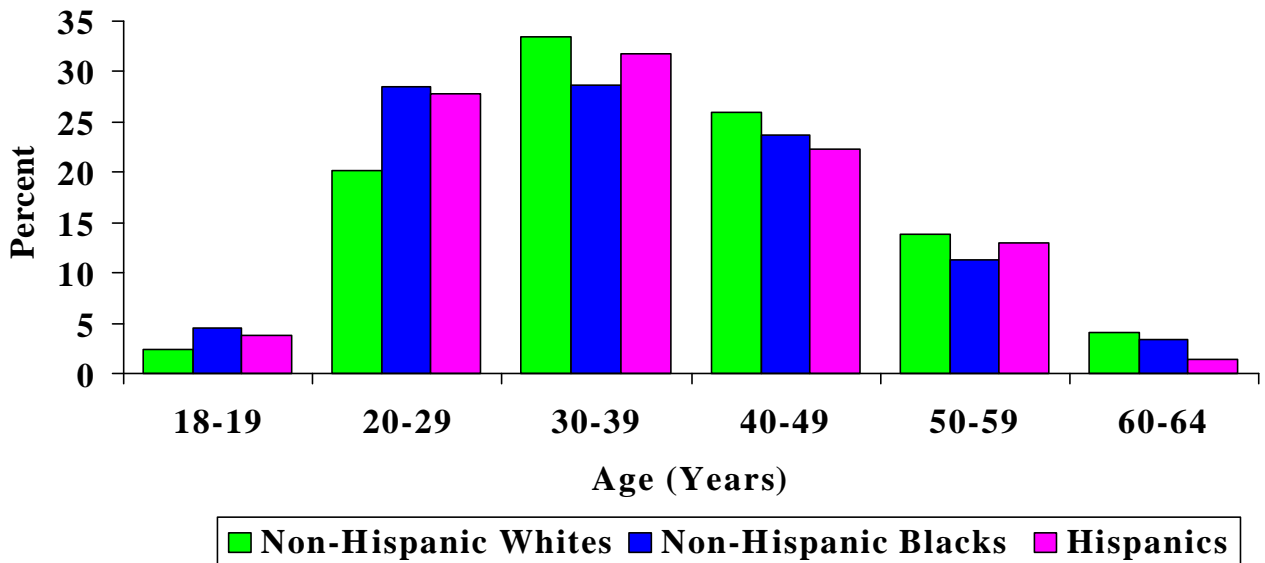


Figure 3. Percentage of Adults Ever Tested for HIV by Age Group, Florida, 2002



2. HIV tested in the past two years

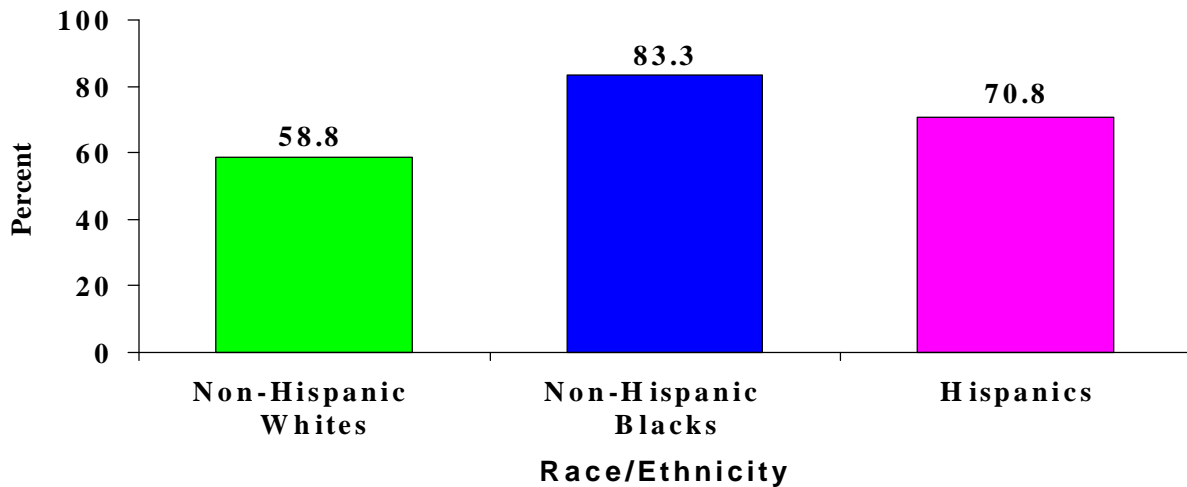
BRFSS Question:

Not including blood donation, in what month and year was your last HIV test?

 -- --/-- -- -- -- Code month and year

Among people who had ever had HIV tests, 83.3 percent of non-Hispanic Blacks and 70.8 percent of Hispanics were tested for HIV within the past two years, compared to only 58.8 percent non-Hispanic Whites. Non-Hispanic Blacks had higher prevalence than Hispanics for this behavior (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. Percentage of Adults Tested for HIV within the Past Two Years among Those Aged 18 to 64 Who Ever Tested for HIV by Race/Ethnicity, Florida, 2002



Non-Hispanic White men (62.7 percent) had higher prevalence than non-Hispanic White women (55.2 percent) for HIV testing within the past two years, but no gender difference was found among non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic people on this behavior. Non-Hispanic Black men had a higher prevalence for HIV testing within the past two years than non-Hispanic White men. Both non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic women had a higher prevalence of HIV testing within the past two years than did non-Hispanic White women (see Figure 5).

est prevalence of HIV testing within the past two years. Among their non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic counterparts, adults age 20-29 had the highest prevalence of HIV testing within the past two years. The prevalence of HIV testing within the past two years decreased with age after 39-years-old for non-Hispanic Whites and after 29-years-old for non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics (see Figure 6).

For more detailed information, see Table 2 at the end of this report.

Among non-Hispanic Whites ever tested for HIV, adults in the 30-39 age group had the high-

Figure 5. Percentage of Adults Tested for HIV within the Past Two Years among Those Aged 18 to 64 Who Ever Tested for HIV by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, Florida, 2002

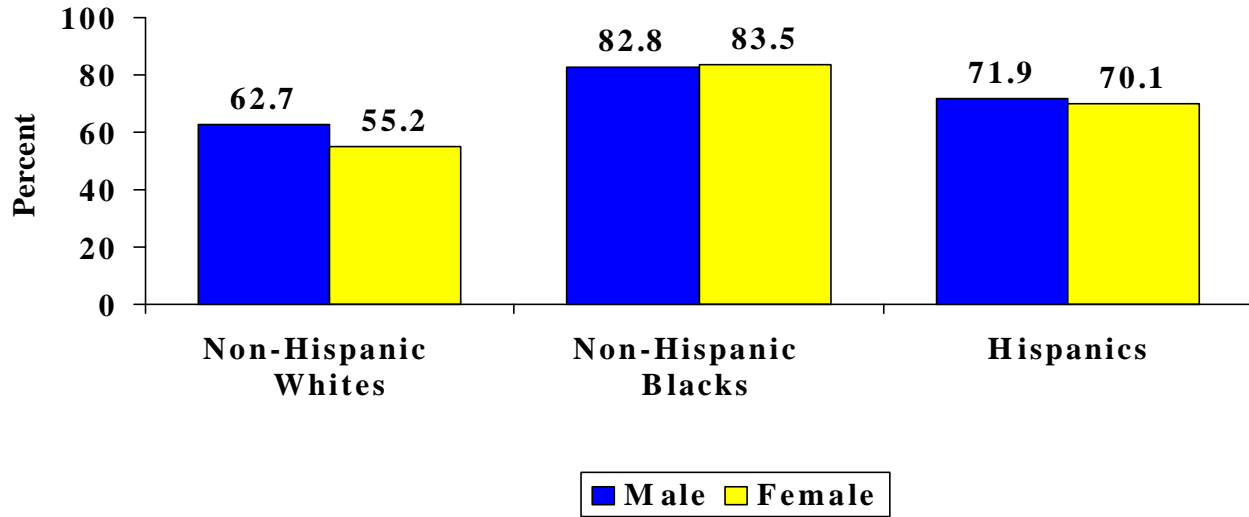
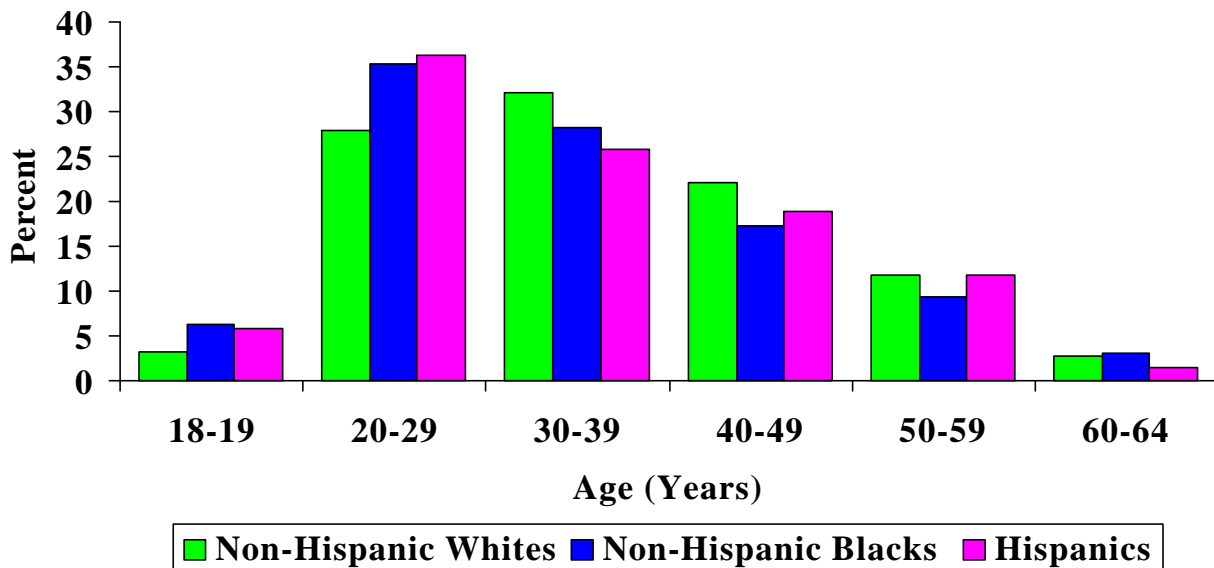


Figure 6. Percentage of Adults Tested for HIV within the Past Two Years among Those Ever Tested for HIV by Age Group, Florida, 2002

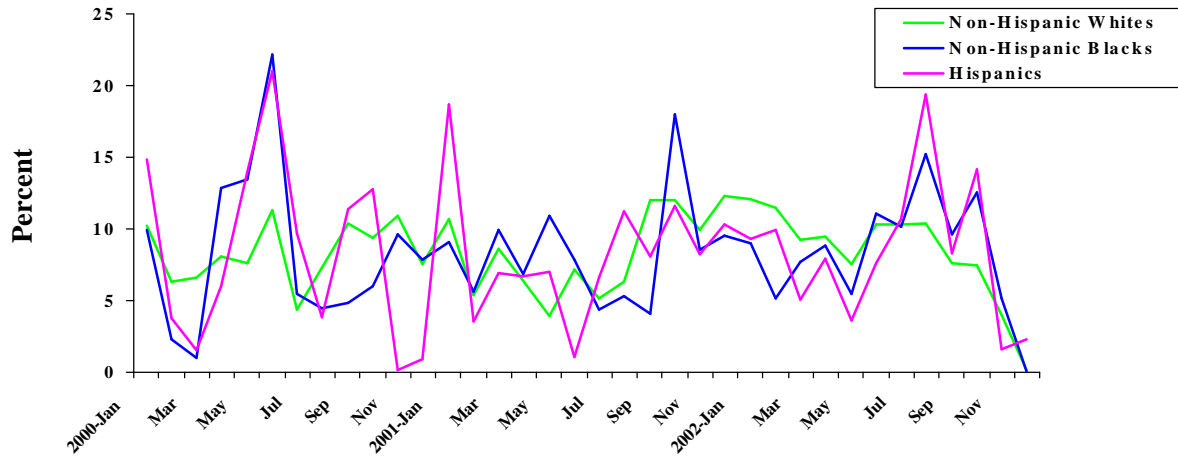


3. 2000-2002 HIV test trends

To see whether there were any trends of seasonality for when HIV tests occurred during the past three years, we analyzed data by test year

for a sub-sample of adults who were tested between 2000 and 2002. Wide variability is evident for all three racial/ethnic groups. No seasonal pattern for testing emerges across the three years. (See Figure 7)

Figure 7. Percentage of HIV Tests Received by Month and Race/Ethnicity, Florida, 2000-2002



4. Reasons for HIV testing

BRFSS Question:

Which of these would you say was the main reason for your last HIV test?

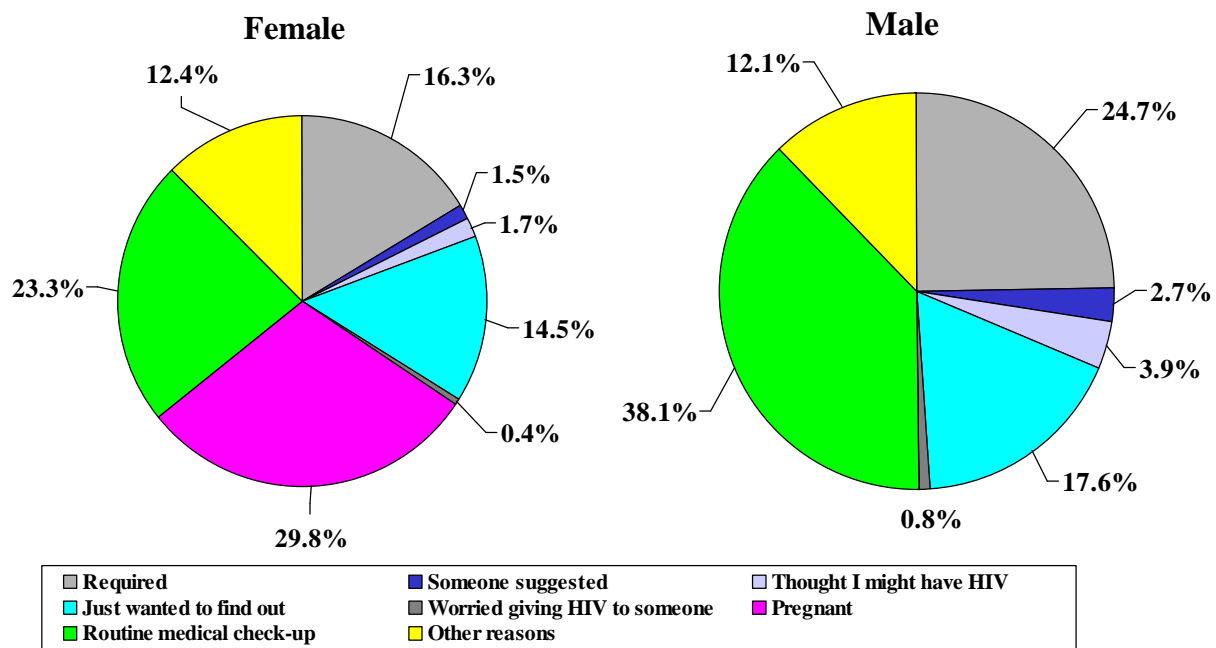
- 1) *It was required*
- 2) *Someone suggested you should be tested*
- 3) *You thought you may have gotten HIV through sex or drug use*
- 4) *You just wanted to find out whether you had HIV*
- 5) *You were worried that you could give HIV to someone*
- 6) *IF FEMALE: You were pregnant*
- 7) *It was done as part of a routine medical check-up*
- 8) *Or you were tested for some other reason*

All three racial/ethnic groups reported similar reasons for the HIV test. Among both women and men, the three major reasons to be tested for HIV:

- It was part of a routine medical check-up.
- It was required.
- They just wanted to find out whether they had HIV or not.

For women, pregnancy was another reason to be tested. Almost one-third (29.8 percent) of women age 18 to 64 had an HIV test because they were pregnant (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Reasons Given for HIV Testing by Gender, Florida, 2002



5. Where to have HIV test

BRFSS Question:

Where did you have your last HIV test?

- 1) Private doctor or HMO
- 2) Counseling and testing site
- 3) Hospital
- 4) Clinic
- 5) In a jail or prison (or other correctional facility)
- 6) Home
- 7) Somewhere else

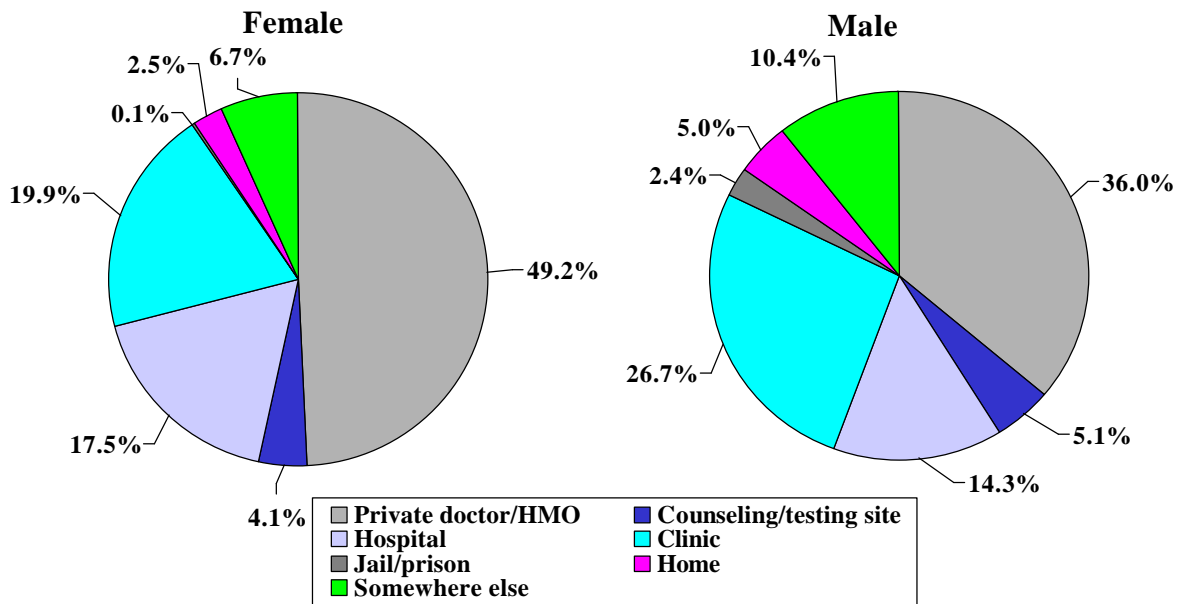
No differences were found among the three racial/ethnic groups regarding where they had their HIV test. The combined data for the three race/ethnicity groups shows that, for both

women and men, the three most frequently reported places for HIV testing were:

- Private doctor or Health Maintenance Organization (HMO).
- Hospital.
- Clinic.

Compared to women, a larger proportion of men (26.7 percent versus 19.9 percent) had their tests at clinics, and a smaller proportion of men relative to women (36.0 percent versus 49.2 percent) had an HIV test through a private doctor or HMO. Men were also more likely than women to have had an HIV test while in jail (2.4 percent versus 0.1 percent) or at home (5.0 percent versus 2.5 percent). (See Figure 9)

Figure 9. Location of HIV Test by Gender, Florida, 2002



6. Condom use discussion

BRFSS Question:

In the past 12 months, has a doctor or other health professional talked to you about preventing sexually-transmitted disease through condom use?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No

Within the previous 12 months, a health professional discussed preventing sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) through condom use with nearly one-third of non-Hispanic Blacks (29.9 percent) and Hispanics (29.0 percent). Non-Hispanic Whites (10.0 percent) were less likely to report having discussion of condom use with a health professional than non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics (see Figure 10).

Non-Hispanic White female (11.2 percent) were more likely than non-Hispanic White men (8.6 percent) to be advised of condom use by a health professional, but no significant gender differences were found among non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics. Both non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic men were more likely than non-Hispanic White men to be advised about the use of condoms to prevent STDs. Similarly, both non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic women were more likely than their non-Hispanic White counterparts to be advised about the use of condoms to prevent STDs (see Figure 11).

Adults in the 20-29 age group were the most likely to be advised by a health professional to use condoms to prevent STDs. Among adults 30-years-old and older, the chances of being advised by a health professional to use condoms decreased with age (see Figure 12).

Figure 10. Percentage of Adults Advised by a Health Professional about Preventing STDs through Condom Use among Those Aged 18 to 64 in the Previous 12 Months, by Race/Ethnicity, Florida, 2002

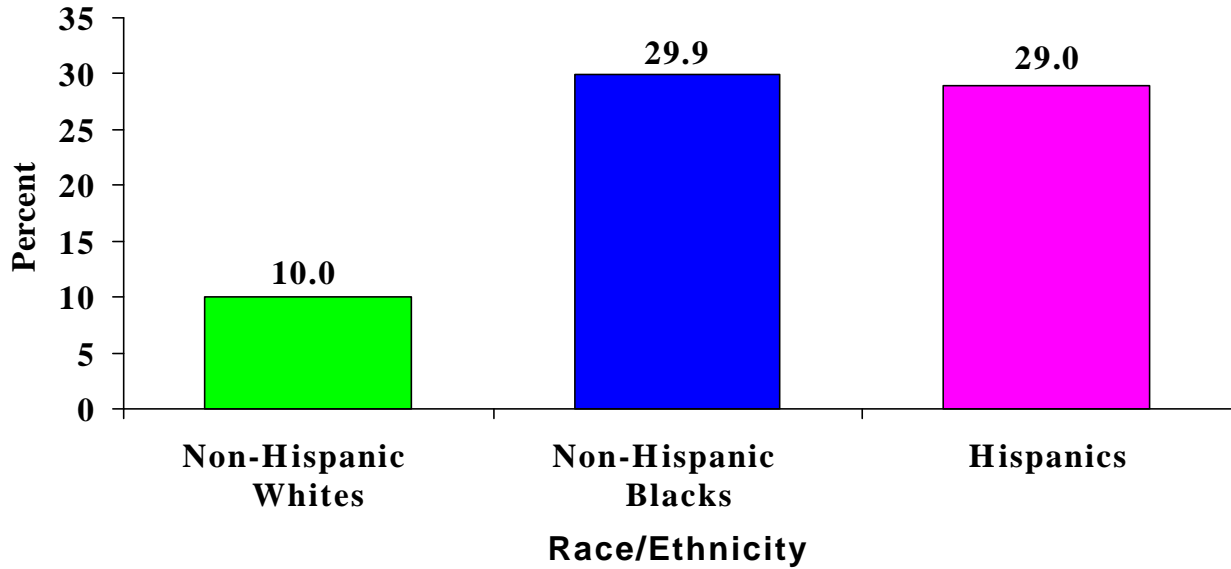


Figure 11. Percentage of Adults Advised by a Health Professional about Preventing STDs through Condom Use among Those Aged 18 to 64 in the Previous 12 Months, by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, Florida, 2002

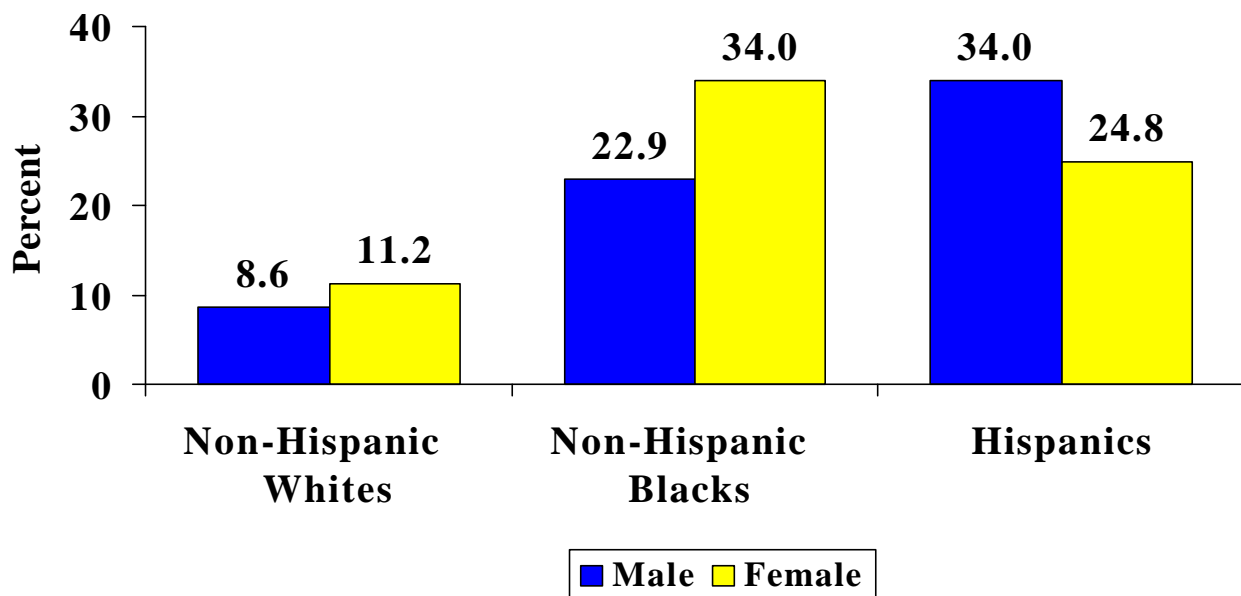
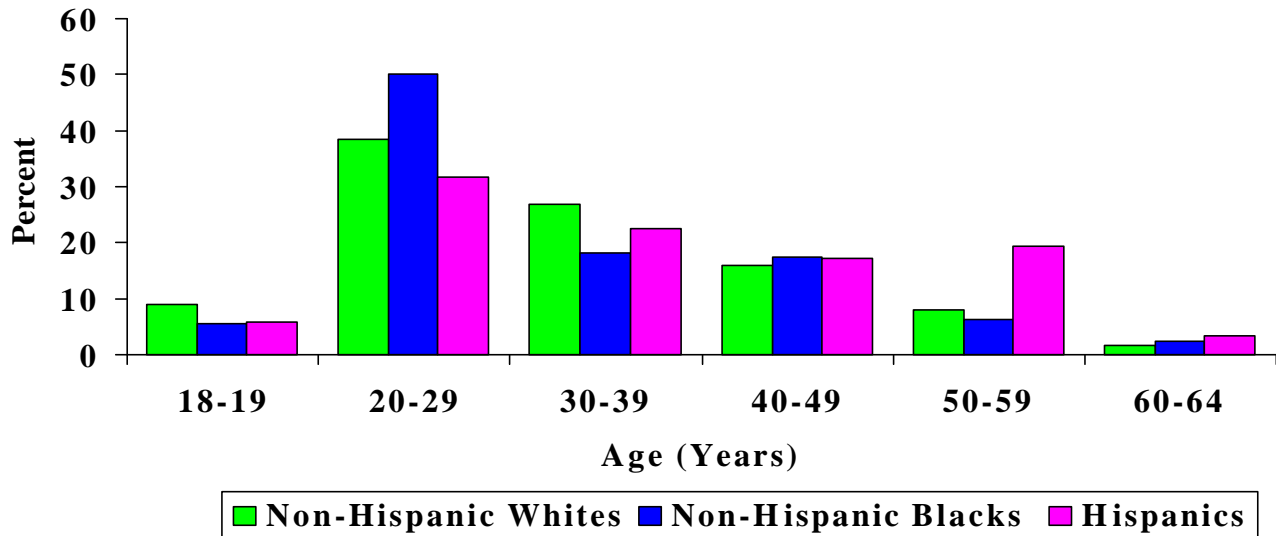


Figure 12. Percentage of Adults Advised by a Health Professional about Preventing STDs through Condom Use in the Previous 12 Months, by Age Group, Florida, 2002

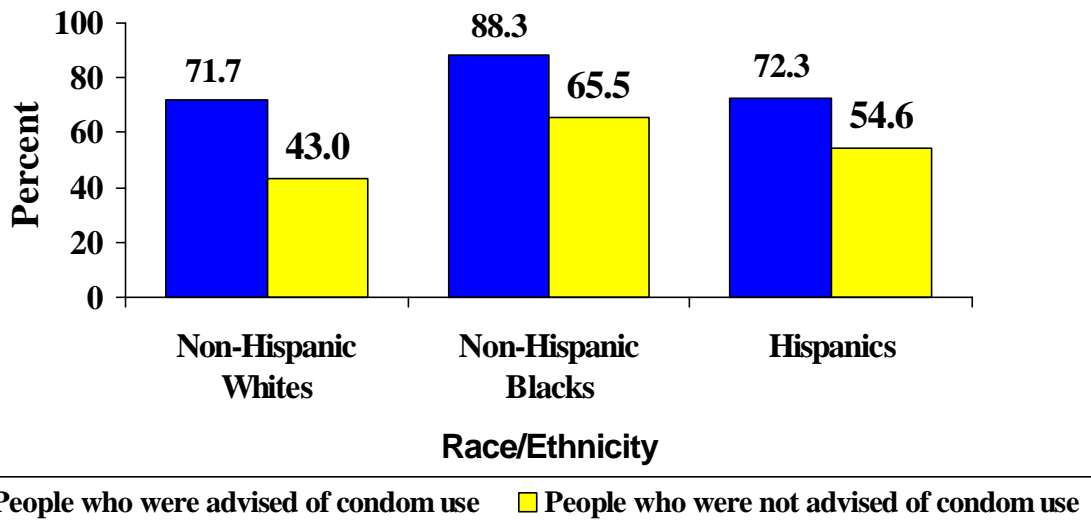


7. Influence of health professional on HIV tests

A strong association was found between having had an HIV test in the past 12 months and having been advised by a health professional to use condoms to prevent STDs. This association is evident for all three racial/ethnic groups. More

information is needed to determine whether these events happen in any cause-effect order, or if they occur concurrently. For example, an adult being tested for HIV may receive advice from a health professional about condom use at the time that they receive their test results. (see Figure 13).

Figure 13. Percentage of Adults Tested for HIV in the Previous 12 Months among Those Aged 18 to 64 Who Ever Tested for HIV by Being Advised of Condom Use and Race/Ethnicity, FL, 2002



Conclusions

1. Non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics versus Non-Hispanic Whites

1) Compared to non-Hispanic Whites, non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics had a higher prevalence of:

- Ever having had HIV tests.
- Having HIV tests in the past two years.
- Being advised by a health professional to prevent sexually-transmitted diseases through condom use.

No gender differences were found in any of the above instances.

2) Among the three racial/ethnic groups, the three most reported reasons for having an HIV test were:

- It was part of a routine medical check-up.
- It was required.
- They just wanted to find out whether they had HIV or not.

These three reasons were most reported among both men and women, with women also reporting pregnancy as a reason for HIV testing.

3) For all three racial/ethnic groups, the three most reported locations for HIV tests were at a private doctor or HMO, a hospital, or a clinic.

Both men and women reported the locations; however, men were more likely than women to also report having had a HIV test while in jail or at home.

2. HIV and age

The highest prevalence for having a HIV test, or being advised by a health professional to prevent sexually-transmitted diseases through condom use, was found among adults, age 20-39.

For adults 40-years-old and older, the likelihood of having had a HIV test, or being advised by a health professional to use condoms to prevent STDs, decreased with age.

3. Need for more data

Findings, such as the strong correlation between having had an HIV test within the previous 12 months and having been advised by a health professional to use condoms to prevent STDs, will remain inconclusive without further information from survey respondents. Also, whether or not the wide variability in timing for HIV tests is meaningful cannot be known without further information. In both cases, the data suggest a need for more studies to understand the role health professionals might play in an individual's decision to be tested for HIV, or that could be used to track whether or not media campaigns influence the timing of HIV tests.

Detailed Tables

Table 1: Percentage of people, 18- to 64-years-old, ever tested for HIV, Florida 2002

	Non-Hispanic White			Non-Hispanic Black			Hispanic		
	%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*	
All	44.2	42.7	45.8	59.7	53.3	66.0	52.7	47.8	57.7
Sex									
Men	43.7	41.5	45.9	56.4	48.0	64.9	49.5	41.2	57.9
Women	44.7	42.5	46.9	61.5	52.6	70.5	55.4	49.9	61.0
Age									
18-44	56.1	53.8	58.3	65.8	56.6	75.1	58.7	53.6	63.9
45-64	29.3	27.4	31.2	47.5	40.2	54.9	39.4	30.0	48.8
Marital Status									
Never married	50.5	46.0	55.0	57.8	43.8	71.8	41.5	28.1	54.8
Married/ living together as a couple	41.4	39.5	43.2	61.8	54.7	68.8	55.3	49.7	60.8
Divorced/ widowed/separated	47.8	44.3	51.2	58.7	49.8	67.5	58.7	49.8	67.7
Education									
0-11 years	45.4	39.9	50.9	52.3	39.9	64.7	39.4	25.9	53.0
HS Grad/GED	40.2	37.5	43.0	60.5	52.7	68.2	57.5	49.5	65.4
1 or more years of college	45.9	43.9	47.9	61.2	50.1	72.3	55.4	49.7	61.1
Household Income									
<=\$24,999	50.1	46.2	54.1	57.2	42.9	71.5	56.3	46.6	65.9
\$25,000 – \$49,999	43.9	41.0	46.8	65.2	57.2	73.2	53.2	45.2	61.2
>=\$50,000	44.2	41.8	46.6	67.3	57.4	77.3	46.9	37.7	56.2

* 95% CI: 95% Confidence Interval

Table 2: Among people, 18- to 64-years-old , ever HIV tested, the percentage tested for HIV in the past two years, Florida 2002

	Non-Hispanic White			Non-Hispanic Black			Hispanic		
	%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*	
All	58.8	56.2	61.4	83.3	78.0	88.5	70.8	65.1	76.6
Sex									
Men	62.7	58.8	66.5	82.8	70.8	94.9	71.9	62.4	81.3
Women	55.2	51.6	58.8	83.5	78.6	88.3	70.1	62.8	77.3
Age									
18-44	60.9	57.8	64.0	84.5	78.1	90.8	70.2	63.6	76.8
45-64	52.0	47.4	56.7	79.4	71.2	87.7	71.5	59.4	83.6
Marital Status									
Never married	74.0	68.9	79.1	89.9	85.2	94.5	89.8	82.9	96.7
Married/ living together as a couple	53.0	49.4	56.6	76.9	65.6	88.2	66.8	59.0	74.5
Divorced/ widowed/separated	59.3	53.8	64.7	82.2	74.2	90.2	65.8	53.4	78.2
Education									
0-11 years	64.1	54.8	73.3	89.7	78.2	100.0	75.3	62.1	88.6
HS Grad/GED	61.6	56.7	66.4	83.7	73.8	93.7	76.5	67.1	86.0
1 or more years of college	57.4	54.1	60.7	81.6	75.7	87.5	66.5	58.3	74.7
Household Income									
<=\$24,999	67.5	62.0	73.0	89.9	85.8	94.0	73.4	64.4	82.3
\$25,000 – \$49,999	60.8	56.4	65.2	77.7	66.6	88.9	61.1	48.8	73.4
>=\$50,000	51.0	46.7	55.3	79.3	68.2	90.4	56.5	41.4	71.5

* 95% CI: 95% Confidence Interval

Table 3: Percentage of people, 18- to 64-years-old, ever told in the past 12 months by a health professional about preventing sexually-transmitted diseases through condom use, Florida 2002

	Non-Hispanic White			Non-Hispanic Black			Hispanic		
	%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*	
All	10.0	8.9	11.0	29.9	23.1	36.6	29.0	24.0	34.0
Sex Men	8.6	7.3	9.9	22.9	15.3	30.4	34.0	24.8	43.1
Women	11.2	9.7	12.8	34.0	24.7	43.2	24.8	20.3	29.3
Age 18-44	14.9	13.2	16.6	36.9	27.9	45.9	29.6	25.0	34.2
45-64	3.5	2.9	4.2	15.7	10.9	20.5	28.0	15.1	40.8
Marital Status Never married	22.0	18.7	25.3	47.1	34.0	60.2	41.8	26.0	57.6
Married/ living together as a couple	6.3	5.1	7.5	19.8	13.0	26.6	25.4	20.7	30.2
Divorced/ widowed/separated	10.4	8.7	12.2	20.0	14.0	25.9	25.1	17.7	32.5
Education 0-11 years	14.2	10.6	17.8	31.0	20.1	41.9	43.4	26.7	60.1
HS Grad/GED	10.7	9.0	12.4	34.2	26.6	41.7	31.4	24.0	38.7
1 or more years of college	9.3	8.0	10.6	26.5	14.1	38.9	22.2	17.5	26.9
Household Income <=\$24,999	20.2	16.6	23.9	45.8	32.2	59.5	42.5	32.8	52.2
\$25,000 – \$49,999	10.3	8.7	11.9	23.8	16.1	31.5	24.9	18.2	31.6
>=\$50,000	5.8	4.6	7.0	12.6	6.5	18.8	11.3	5.2	17.4

* 95% CI: 95% Confidence Interval

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