

HIV Testing Among Low Socioeconomic Status Heterosexuals in the Portland Metropolitan Area

Results from Chime In (National HIV Behavioral Surveillance) 2016



Chime In

In 2016, the Portland metropolitan area participated in its first year of National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS). This system is locally known as Chime In. We surveyed and offered HIV tests to Portland metropolitan area residents using respondent-driven sampling (RDS). We described our experience using RDS elsewhere (www.chimeinsurvey.org).

How did we obtain these estimates?

To adjust for RDS biases, we created Poisson models with robust standard variances using generalized estimating equations (GEE) by clustering on recruiter and adjusting for network size in the model.

Who participated in 2016?

Our sample consisted of low socioeconomic status (SES) heterosexuals defined by the following:

- Residence within the Portland metropolitan area*
- Age 18 to 60 years
- Vaginal or anal sex with an opposite gender partner during previous 12 months
- Self-identified as male or female (not transgender)
- No injection drug use within the past 12 months
- Income at or below the federal poverty line or no more than a high school education

Why do we care about HIV testing?

- Increased HIV testing is one of the three primary goals for Oregon's End HIV* initiative
- U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that all adults aged 15–65 get screened at least once.

*<https://www.endhivoregon.org/>

Figure 1. Percentage ever tested for HIV by age, gender—low SES heterosexuals, Portland metropolitan area, 2016

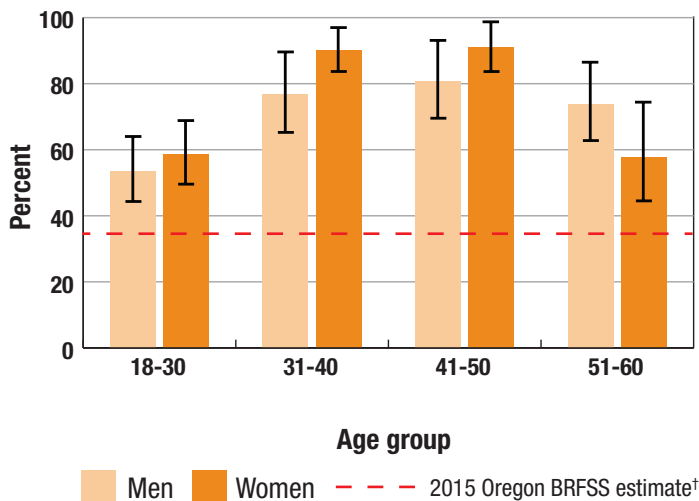
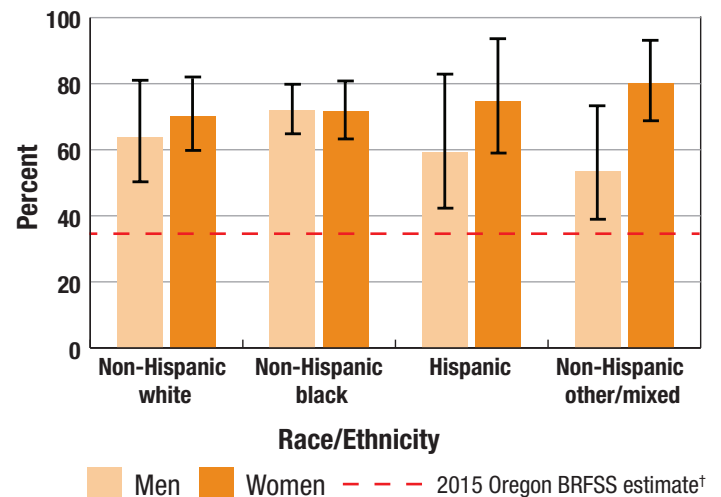


Figure 2. Percentage ever tested for HIV by race/ethnicity, gender—low SES heterosexuals, Portland metropolitan area, 2016



*For this project, the Portland metropolitan area includes Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill counties in Oregon and Clark and Skamania counties in Washington

[†]Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Estimate applies to ages 18 years and older.

Table 1. Testing among low socioeconomic status heterosexuals within the previous 12 months

	Men* % (95% CI)	Women* % (95% CI)
Overall*	26.3 (21.2, 32.6)	27.2 (22.3, 33.2)
Race*		
Non-Hispanic white	25.8 (15.5, 43.1)	23.4 (15.6, 34.9)
Non-Hispanic black	31.4 (24.5, 40.2)	28.5 (21.3, 38.1)
Hispanic	19.7 (9.1, 42.4)	28.8 (15.7, 52.9)
Non-Hispanic other	10.1 (3.6, 28.3)	27.7 (17.7, 43.1)
Casual sex†		
No	22.9 (14.5, 36.4)	23.8 (16.5, 34.2)
Yes	18.2 (12.7, 25.9)	29.4 (22.7, 38.1)
Multiple sex partners†		
No	22.9 (13.5, 38.8)	23.0 (15.9, 33.2)
Yes	18.8 (13.5, 26.3)	29.9 (23.2, 38.6)
Unprotected anal sex†		
No	20.0 (13.7, 29.0)	27.2 (17.5, 42.2)
Yes	20.3 (11.5, 35.8)	26.9 (21.1, 34.5)
Unprotected vaginal sex†		
No	14.1 (8.0, 25.0)	25.20 (15.0, 39.7)
Yes	22.3 (15.4, 32.4)	27.5 (21.2, 35.7)
STD test (not including HIV)†		
No	16.2 (11.4, 23.2)	11.5 (6.9, 19.1)
Yes	48.5 (38.1, 61.6)	43.0 (34.8, 53.0)
Provider offered HIV Test†‡		
No	9.8 (5.9, 16.4)	7.1 (4.1, 12.3)
Yes	60.5 (44.2, 82.8)	75.4 (63.1, 90.0)

*Model adjusted for age

†Reported in the last 12 months; model adjusted for age and race/ethnicity

‡ asked only to those who had seen a healthcare provider within the last 12 months

What did we find?

- Women aged 31–50 years are most likely to have had an HIV test at least once in their life.
- Rates for lifetime HIV testing do not meaningfully differ among races/ethnicities.
- Reporting risky sexual behavior within the last 12 months is not associated with increased likelihood of HIV testing.
- Women and men are both more likely to have had an HIV test within the last 12 months if they also had an STD test within the last 12 months.
- People who are offered an HIV test by their provider are significantly more likely to have an HIV test within the last 12 months.

What does this mean?

Universal HIV testing is one of three principal goals of Oregon’s End HIV initiative. Before Chime In, data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) provided the only available source that we are aware of for HIV testing rates in Oregon. Statewide, BRFSS responses suggest that <40% of Oregon adults have ever been tested for HIV. Chime In provides an opportunity to assess HIV testing rates in the Portland metropolitan area, specifically among low SES heterosexuals.

Overall, low SES heterosexuals in the Portland metropolitan area are more likely to have had an HIV test than BRFSS estimates suggest. However, there is an opportunity to increase testing rates among men and women under 30 and over 50 years old. Additionally, people with multiple sex partners, especially those who engage in condomless vaginal or anal intercourse, should be tested regularly for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STI), not just once. However, in this population, these behaviors were not associated with increased likelihood of past-year testing. This suggests a need for health care providers to more thoroughly collect this information and increase frequency of HIV and STI testing.

Questions?

Contact Chime In’s Data Manager at breanna.mcardle@state.or.us