

# HIV Screening Among U.S. Physicians - Results from a National Survey

Kyle T Bernstein<sup>1</sup>, Elizabeth Begier<sup>1</sup>, Ryan Burke<sup>1,2</sup>, Adam Karpati<sup>1</sup>, Matthew Hogben<sup>3</sup>

1 - New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control- New York, NY

2 - CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship

3 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention- Atlanta, GA

Kyle T Bernstein, PhD ScM  
 Director, Special Projects  
 Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control  
 40 Worth Street, Rm. 1502  
 New York, NY 10013  
 (P): 212 788 4284  
 (F): 212-788-2273  
 email: [kbernste@health.nyc.gov](mailto:kbernste@health.nyc.gov)

## BACKGROUND

- In 2006, the CDC recommended routine HIV screening for all patients ages 13-64 years in the U.S.
- Effective evaluation of the implementation of these recommendations requires measures of baseline HIV screening among providers
- Using a national sample of U.S. physicians, we examined the frequency and correlates of HIV screening among a sample of U.S. physicians in 2000

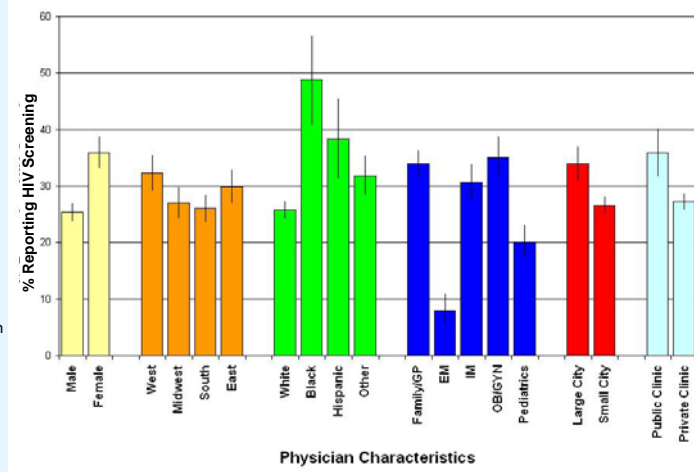
## METHODS

- Surveys mailed to a random sample of 7,300 U.S. physicians who:
  - Specialized in Obstetrics/Gynecology, internal medicine, family/general practice, emergency medicine, or pediatrics
  - Spent at least 50% of their time in direct patient care
  - Cared for patients between the ages of 13 and 60 years old
- Physicians were asked, "Which asymptomatic patients do you screen for HIV?" with Yes/No responses for males, non-pregnant females and pregnant females
- We defined HIV screening as physicians reporting HIV screening for either male or non-pregnant female patients

## RESULTS

- 4,133 physicians returned a completed survey for an adjusted completion rate of (70.2%)
- 138 (3.3%) did not answer questions regarding HIV screening and were excluded from analysis
- Among the 3,995 physicians who responded to the questions regarding HIV screening, 1,133 (28.4%) reported offering HIV testing to their asymptomatic cases
- Female, non-White, and physicians practicing in large cities or public clinics were more likely to report HIV screening (Figure)
- Emergency Medicine and Pediatric specialists were less likely to report HIV screening (Figure)
- Important factors associated with HIV screening varied by region of physician practice (Table)

**Figure. Proportion of U.S. Physicians Surveyed who Reported HIV Screening Asymptomatic Male or Non-Pregnant Female Patients**



## CONCLUSIONS

- In 2000, only approximately a quarter of U.S. physicians reported screening asymptomatic patients for HIV
- HIV screening rates varied substantially by practice setting and physician characteristics
- Given higher screening rates in larger cities and public clinics, U.S. providers may be offering screening based on perceived local prevalence of HIV and risks of the populations they serve
- HIV screening in Emergency Departments remains a missed opportunity for intervention
- We could not evaluate what screening approach (i.e., routine or risk-based screening) was used among providers who reported screening, although risk-based likely predominated
- These data represent baseline levels of HIV screening for which to evaluate the uptake of 2006 CDC recommendations for universal HIV screening

**Table. Multivariate Odds Ratios for HIV Screening Asymptomatic Male or Non-Pregnant Female Patients Among U.S. Physicians, Stratified by Practice Region**

Physician Characteristic	U.S. OR (95% CI)	West OR (95% CI)	Midwest OR (95%CI)	South OR (95%CI)	East OR (95%CI)
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	1.0	1.0	1.0		1.0
Female	1.66 (1.39-2.00)	1.61 (1.10-2.37)	2.27 (1.58-3.26)		2.19 (1.45-3.31)
<b>Race</b>					
White	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Black	2.21 (1.50-3.28)	2.06 (0.78-5.47)	4.73 (1.82-12.33)	1.58 (0.88-2.85)	3.46 (1.41-8.49)
Hispanic	1.50 (1.04-2.17)	2.20 (1.02-4.77)	1.05 (0.40-2.71)	1.88 (1.10-3.22)	1.36 (0.49-3.80)
Other	1.06 (0.84-1.34)	1.35 (0.88-2.08)	0.68 (0.40-1.15)	1.11 (0.71-1.75)	1.33 (0.81-2.16)
<b>Specialty</b>					
Family/General Practice	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Emergency Med	0.18 (0.12-0.28)	0.11 (0.04-0.32)	0.27 (0.13-0.54)	0.20 (0.09-0.41)	0.16 (0.05-0.47)
Internal Med	0.68 (0.55-0.86)	0.52 (0.33-0.83)	0.77 (0.49-1.23)	0.85 (0.58-1.26)	0.81 (0.48-1.36)
OB/GYN	1.01 (0.79-1.30)	0.97 (0.59-1.58)	1.54 (0.93-2.54)	0.90 (0.58-1.40)	1.06 (0.59-1.90)
Pediatrics	0.44 (0.34-0.50)	0.41 (0.25-0.70)	0.43 (0.25-0.75)	0.45 (0.28-0.74)	0.59 (0.33-1.07)
<b>Population density</b>					
Small City	1.0		1.0		
Large City	1.37 (1.13-1.67)		2.10 (1.36-3.23)		
<b>Clinic type</b>					
Public Clinic	1.0			1.0	
Private Clinic	0.63 (0.49-0.80)			0.52 (0.35-0.76)	