

## **Minority Health and AIDS/HIV Program Survey: Women of Child Bearing Age in the Milwaukee Area**

Minority Health and the AIDS/HIV Program surveyed attitudes and knowledge of women of child bearing age (15-45 years) in the Milwaukee area about pregnancy and HIV testing. The Department of Health Services worked in partnership with Milwaukee Health Services, Sixteenth Street Community Health Center and Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin to administer the surveys. The surveys were completed by women in the clinic setting during WIC, pediatrics and women's health visits.

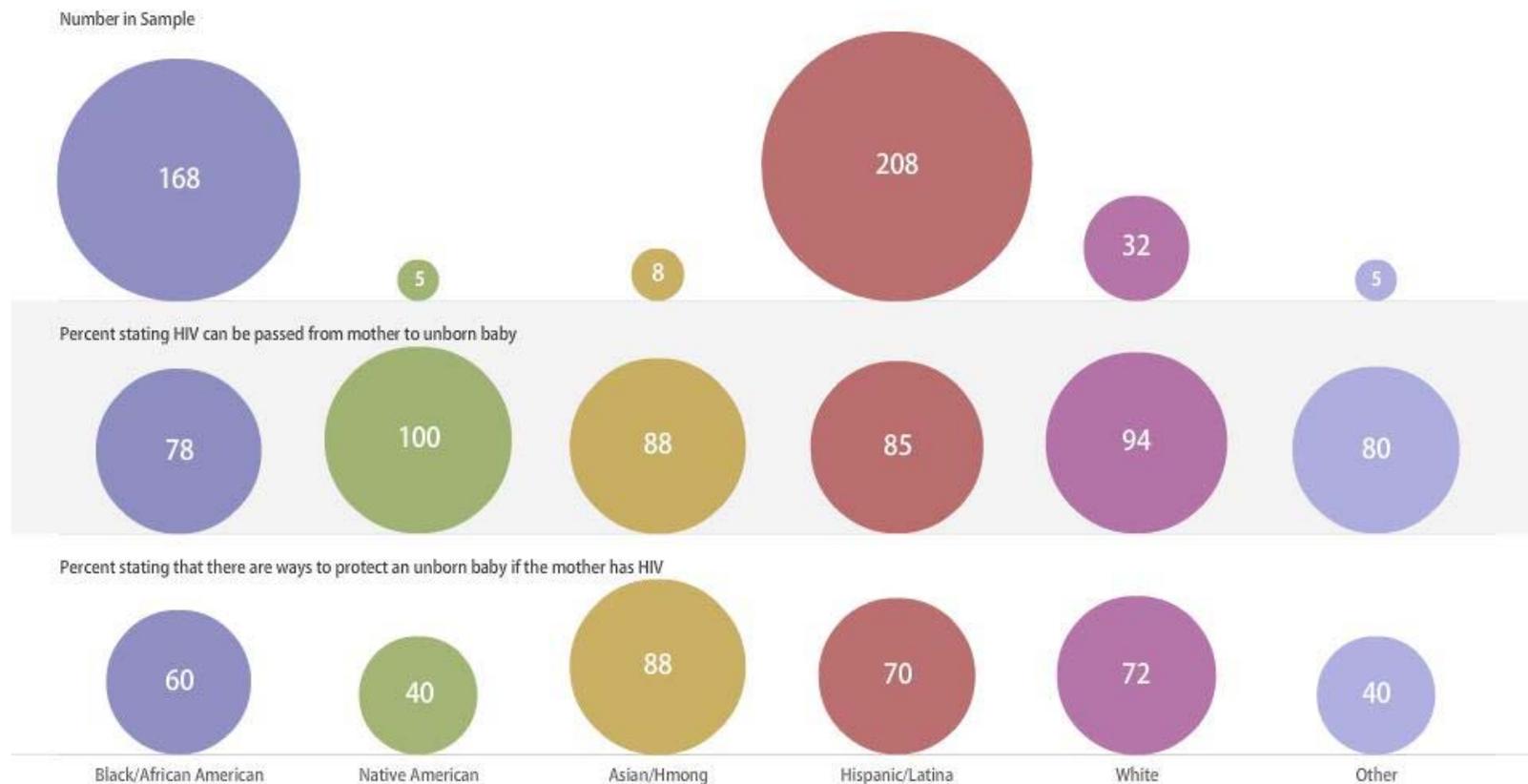
Four hundred thirty eight surveys were completed. Eight surveys were excluded: 6 were over 45 years of age and 2 were missing age data; 430 surveys remained that met the reproductive age criteria (15 - 45 years).

Of the 430 surveys analyzed, 21% were younger than 20 years of age, 64% of the respondents were between the ages of 20 to 35 years, and 15% were older than 35 years.

Two hundred and eight (48 %) were from Hispanics/Latinas; 168 (39 %) from Blacks/African Americans; 32 (7 %) from White Non-Hispanics; 8 (2 %) from Asians/Hmong; 5 (1 %) from American Indians and 5 (1 %) from people of more than one race. The educational level of the respondents was not collected.

Most of the respondents (80%) had been pregnant at least once, and an equally high proportion (77%) had been tested for HIV at least once. While the number of women tested in a perinatal setting could not be distinguished from those tested in a general medical setting, 72% surveyed were tested during their last pregnancy. Of the 339 who reported more than one pregnancy, 53% reported testing for HIV during each pregnancy.

The respondents were generally knowledgeable about HIV transmission by sexual contact (95%) and from mother to child (90%). However, when asked if there are ways to protect a baby if the mother has HIV, 40 % of American Indians, 60% of Blacks/African Americans, 70% of Hispanics/Latinas and 72 % of Whites responded positively. The data shows that 60% of American Indians, 40% of African Americans, 30% of Hispanics/Latinas and 28% of Whites are not aware of existing measures to reduce maternal-to-child transmission in HIV positive pregnant women and further education is needed on this topic.

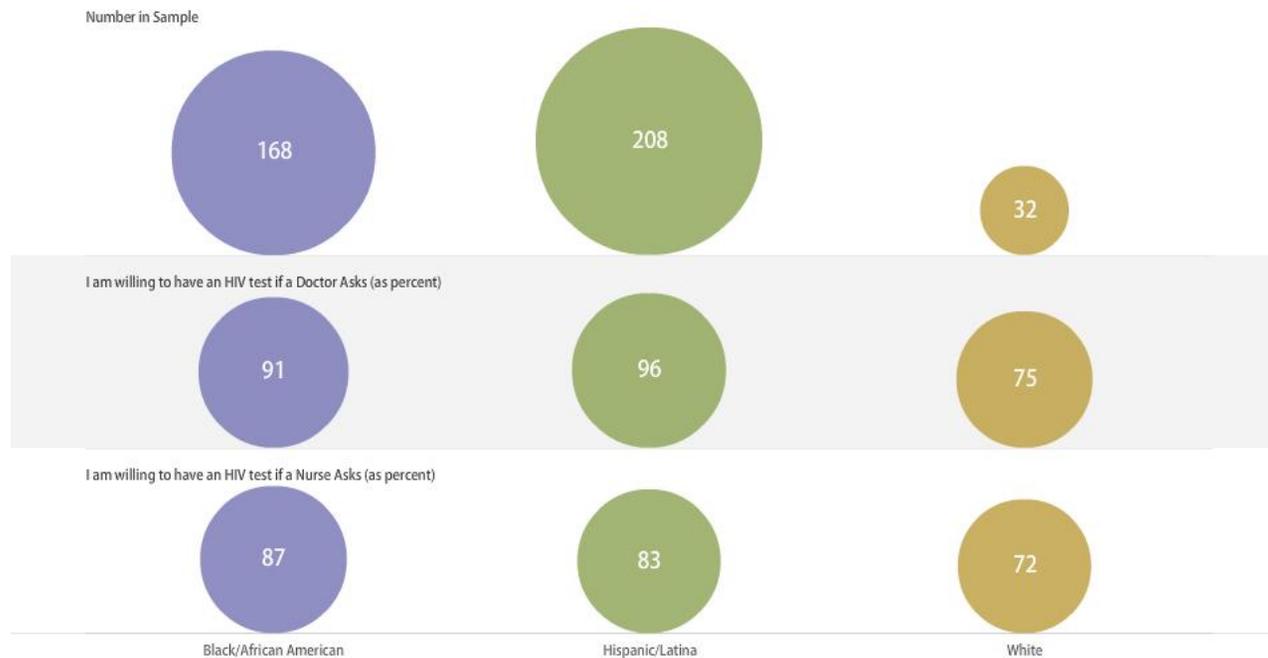


Perinatal HIV Beliefs by Race\Ethnic Group

Created on Many Eyes © IBM

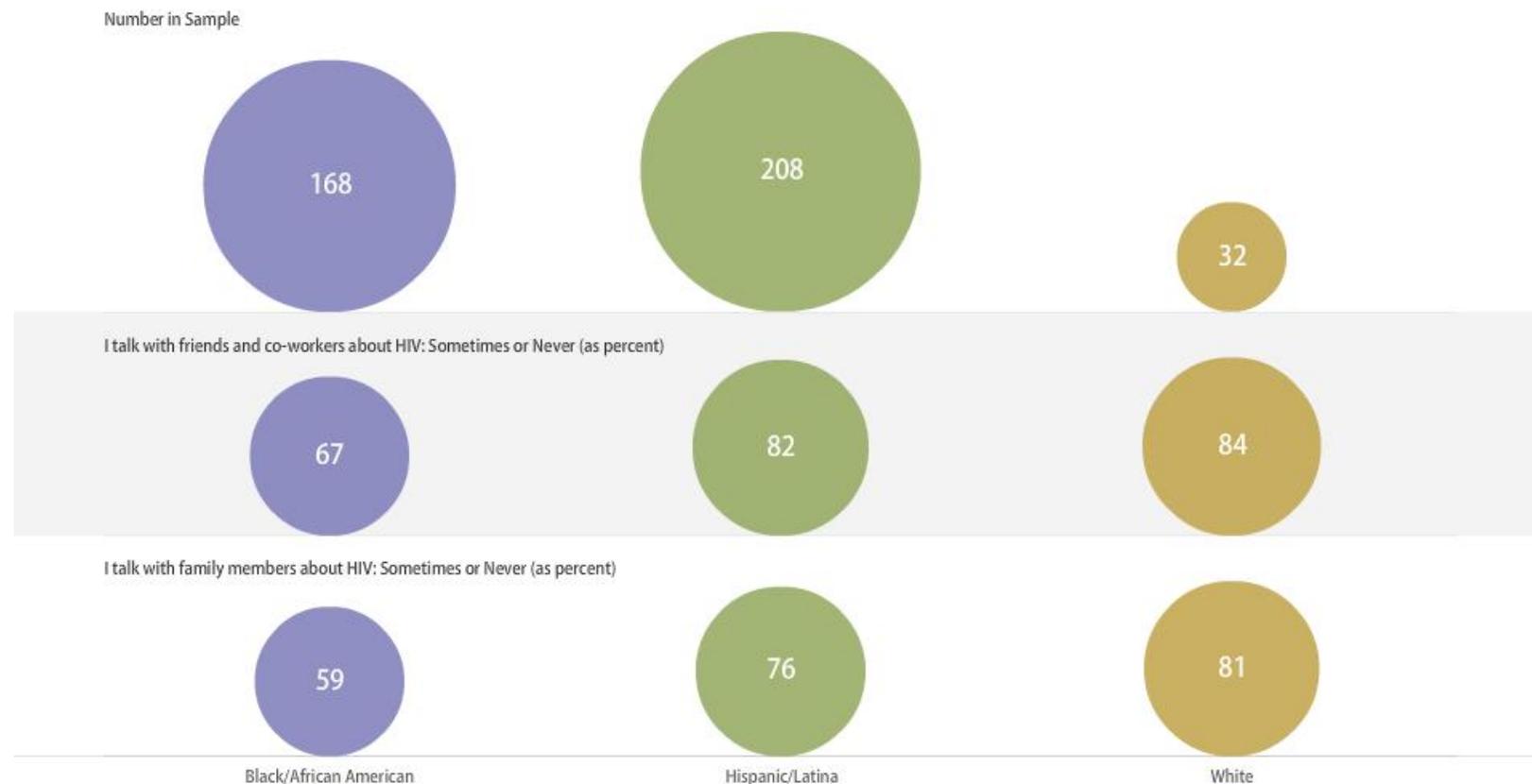
Seventy eight percent of whites, 86% of Hispanics/Latinas; 88% of Blacks/Hispanics and 88% of Asians said they would agree to an HIV test immediately if they discover that they are pregnant. Similarly, 88% of Asians, 90% of whites and 93% of Hispanics/Latinas believe that pregnant women should be tested for HIV. Ninety nine percent of Blacks/African Americans and 100 % of American Indians believe pregnant women should be tested.

Hispanics/Latinas, Blacks/African Americans and Whites all reported that they were more likely to agree to an HIV test if so asked by a doctor rather than by a nurse. The gap is largest for Hispanics/Latinas: 96% would agree to a test if asked by a doctor; only 83% would if asked by a nurse. The percentages are 91% (doctor) versus 87% (nurse) for Blacks/African Americans and 75% (doctor) versus 72% (nurse) for Whites.



Perinatal HIV Test Acceptance by Race\Ethnicity and Provider Type

Eighty four percent of whites, 82% of Hispanics/Latinas and 67% of African Americans say that they rarely (only “sometimes” or “never”) discuss HIV with their co workers. Equally, 81% of whites, 76% of Hispanics/Latinas and 59% of Blacks/African Americans reported rarely (only “sometimes” or “never”) talking about HIV with their family members.



### Talking About HIV with Others by Race\Ethnic Group