

Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Most infants and children with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection or the acquired immunodeficiency disease syndrome (AIDS) were exposed before or during birth or through breast-feeding. Despite declines in perinatal HIV transmission, there were 4 pediatric AIDS cases and 24 pediatric HIV cases reported in California in 2005. The U.S. Public Health Service, the Institute of Medicine, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that all pregnant women be tested for HIV. Good prenatal care, use of antiretroviral medications, avoidance of breastfeeding, and elective caesarean section at delivery reduce the risk of perinatal HIV transmission. Moreover, studies have shown that HIV testing is acceptable to over 90.0 percent of pregnant women.

Women who participated in the California Women's Health Survey (CWHS) in 2003 and

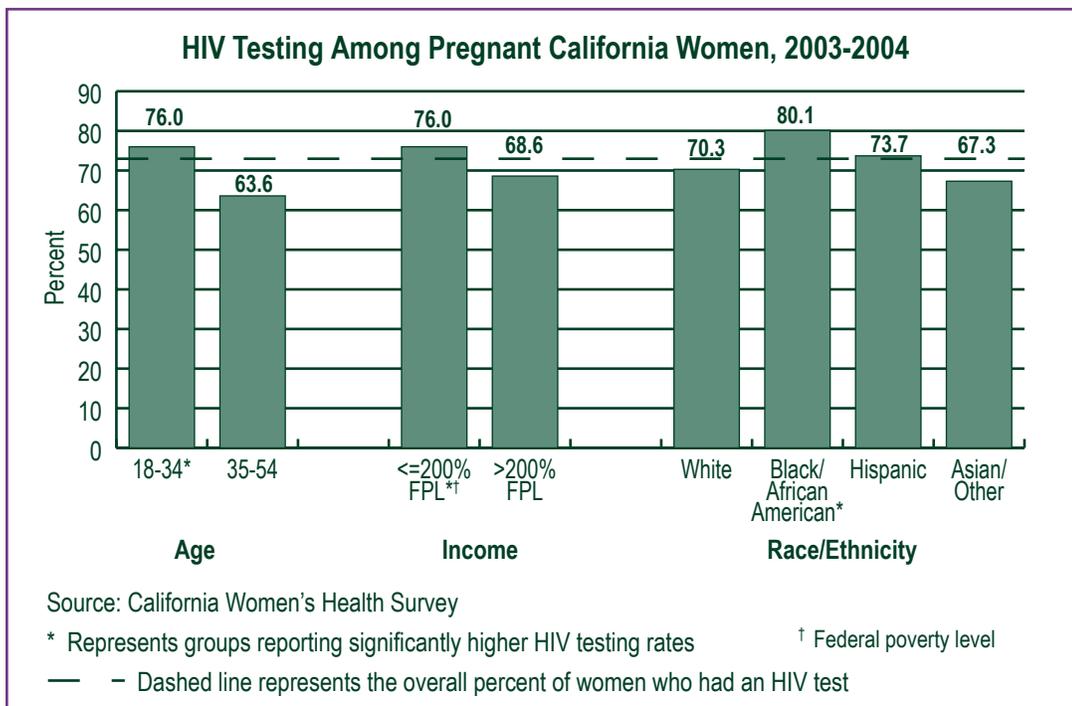
2004, and reported being pregnant within the past five years were asked if they had an HIV test during their most recent pregnancy.

Seventy-two percent of women were tested for HIV during a pregnancy in the past five years. Adult women less than 35 years of age were significantly more likely to report being tested for HIV during pregnancy compared with women 35 years of age or older (75.9 percent vs. 63.5 percent, respectively).¹ Women with incomes at 200 percent of the federal poverty level or lower were more likely to report that they had an HIV test compared with pregnant women with higher incomes (76.0 percent vs. 68.6 percent, respectively).² A higher proportion of Black/African American women reported being tested for HIV (80.1 percent) compared with Hispanic (73.7 percent), White (70.3 percent), and Asian/Other (67.3 percent) women.

HIV Testing Among Pregnant California Women, 2003-2004

California Department of Health Services
Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning Branch
Office of Women's Health

Public Health Message:
Targeted interventions are needed to reduce barriers to prenatal HIV testing among women. Increased efforts are needed to educate women about the risks of HIV.



***HIV Testing Among
Pregnant California
Women, 2003-2004***

- 1 p < .001.
- 2 p < .001.

California Department of
Health Services
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cent Health/Office of Family
Planning Branch
Office of Women's Health

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For additional copies of CWHS 2003-2004 Data Points please contact the Office of Women's Health:

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