



# Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

**C**ounseling women about the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) during pregnancy may help initiate behavior change to prevent HIV infection and assist those already infected with HIV to initiate antiretroviral therapy and obtain further counseling and referrals for additional prevention, medical care and other needed services. HIV counseling also provides the healthcare provider an opportunity to offer HIV testing and get informed consent. In 1995, California required all prenatal care providers to offer HIV information, counseling, and voluntary testing to all pregnant women. In 2003, the state mandate was modified to include HIV testing with consent as part of routine prenatal testing and require the California Department of Health Services to develop culturally sensitive informational material covering HIV testing and counseling.

California Women's Health Survey (CWHS) respondents in 2003 and 2004 who reported

being pregnant within the past five years were asked, "During your most recent pregnancy, did a doctor, nurse or healthcare provider talk with you about HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) and about testing your blood for HIV?"

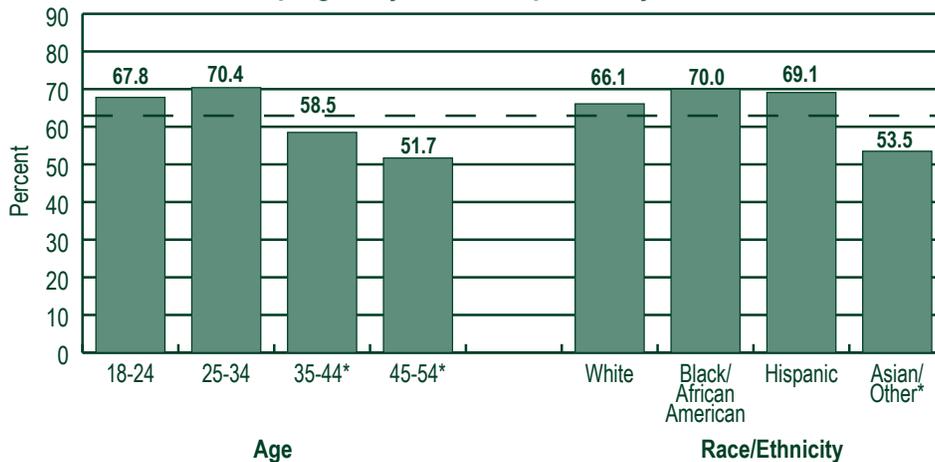
Two-thirds (65.9 percent) of all respondents who were pregnant within the past five years reported that a healthcare provider talked to them about HIV and offered HIV testing during their last pregnancy. Women between 35 and 54 years of age were significantly less likely to report being counseled and offered an HIV test (58.0 percent) compared with younger women (70.0 percent). Asian/Other women were significantly less likely to report being counseled and offered an HIV test (54.0 percent) than White (66.0 percent), Hispanic (69.0 percent), or Black/African American women (70.0 percent).

## Prenatal HIV Counseling, California, 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:** *Despite statewide recommendations to provide HIV counseling and offer HIV testing to all pregnant women, one-third of pregnant women had not been counseled for HIV. Efforts to increase access to HIV counseling, specifically to older and Asian/Other pregnant women, are warranted.*

**Percent of Women Who Reported that a Healthcare Provider Discussed HIV and HIV Testing during their most recent pregnancy within the past five years**



Source: California Women's Health Survey

\* Represents groups reporting significantly lower HIV counseling and test offering

— — Dashed line represents the overall percent of women receiving HIV counseling and test offering

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California, 2003-2004***

California Department of  
Health Services  
Maternal, Child and Adoles-  
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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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[www.dhs.ca.gov/director/owh](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/director/owh)

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