

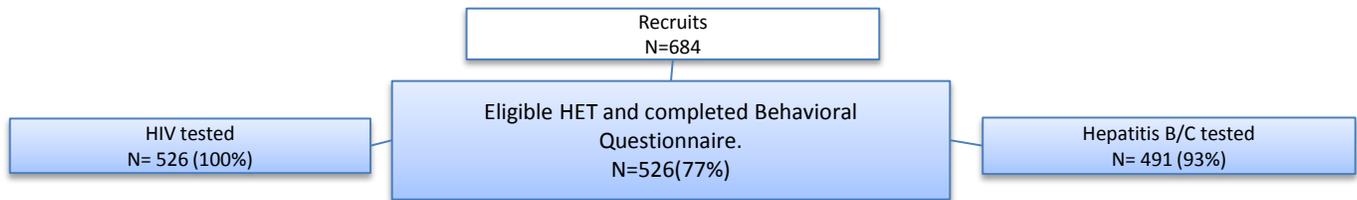
National HIV Behavioral Surveillance among Heterosexuals at Increased Risk for HIV NHBS-HET4, 2016

NHBS is a CDC-funded behavioral surveillance system that has been implemented each year since 2004 in 20 cities nationwide to help state and local health departments monitor HIV risk behaviors among groups at highest risk for HIV infection. NHBS-HET in Los Angeles County (LAC) is designed to generate estimates that are representative of the overall population of heterosexuals at increased risk for HIV in LAC (HET). In 2016, the LAC Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP) completed the fourth cycle of NHBS among HET. In NHBS, heterosexuals at increased risk for HIV are defined as heterosexuals who reside in high HIV/AIDS morbidity areas.

Respondent-driven sampling, a peer-referral sampling method, was used to recruit HET. Participants had to be 18-60 years old, male or female (not transgender), residents of LAC and report vaginal or anal sex with a partner of the opposite sex in the past 12 months. Interview locations were set up in census tracts by high HIV/AIDS morbidity.

Participants completed an interviewer-administered, anonymous standardized questionnaire about HIV-related behaviors. All participants were offered anonymous rapid HIV and standard Hepatitis B and C testing. All testers received HIV counseling and referrals for social and medical services as needed.

Figure 1. NHBS Screening, Eligibility and Participation



Demographics and Other Characteristics

Between August and December 2016, 684 recruits were screened and 526 were eligible and completed the survey. Of these, 54% were male and 46% female. Seventy-two percent were under forty years of age. Fifty-seven percent were Black, 36% Latino and 2% White. Eighty-three percent reported no more than a high school diploma/GED and 82% reported a household income at or below the federal poverty level. Eighty-four percent had health insurance. Eleven percent reported being homeless at the time of the interview and 14% had been incarcerated in the previous 12 months.

Table 1. HIV Testing History, STD Diagnosis and Sexual Behavior by Gender and Race/Ethnicity among HET

	Male		Female		Total (n=526)
	Black (n=146)	Latino (n=113)	Black (n=155)	Latina (n=73)	
HIV Testing History					
Ever tested	68%	48%	81%	73%	69%
Tested in the past 12 months	36%	13%	44%	23%	31%
Self-Reported HIV Status					
Negative	64%	42%	84%	68%	64%
Unknown	36%	58%	16%	32%	36%
STD testing and self-reported diagnosis in the past 12 months					
Tested in the past 12 months	40%	20%	58%	37%	41%
Diagnosis with a bacterial STD*	7%	1%	10%	4%	6%
Sexual Behavior in the past 12 months					
No. of partners of the opposite sex: mean (median)	6(3)	4(2)	4(2)	5(2)	4(2)
Condomless vaginal sex	85%	80%	90%	95%	87%
Condomless anal opposite sex	18%	23%	15%	36%	20%
Exchanged sex for drugs/money	7%	5%	9%	7%	8%

*Self-report of diagnosis with chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis by a health-care provider within the 12 months before the interview. For within gender comparisons, bold font in table 1 indicates a statistically significant difference between Blacks and Latinos p<0.05.

HIV /STD Testing and Sexual Behaviors

- 69% had tested for HIV in their lifetime and 31% had tested in the previous 12 months. Proportionally more Black males (68%) than Latino males (48%) reported testing for HIV in their lifetime (Table 1).
- 41% of participants reported testing for a bacterial STD (chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis) and 6% reported an STD diagnosis in the previous 12 months. In the 12 months prior to the interview, proportionally more black males (7%) than Latino males (1%) had been diagnosed with an STD (Table 1) .
- Participants reported an average of 4 opposite-sex partners in the previous 12 months.
- In the past 12 months 87% reported condomless vaginal sex, 20% reported condomless anal sex in the past 12 months and 8% reported exchanging sex for drugs or money (Table 1).
- Proportionally more Latinas (36%) than Black females (15%) reported condomless anal sex.
- 40% reported condomless vaginal or anal sex with casual partners in the past 12 months (data not shown).

Exposure to and use of HIV/STD Prevention services

- 34% had received free condoms in the past 12 months and 9% had participated in an individual or group-level HIV behavioral intervention.
- 6% had heard of PrEP, however PrEP use was not reported by any of the participants.

Table 2. HIV/HCV Prevalence, and HBV Screening Results by Age and Race/Ethnicity among LAC Heterosexuals at Increased Risk for HIV, 2016. (n=526)

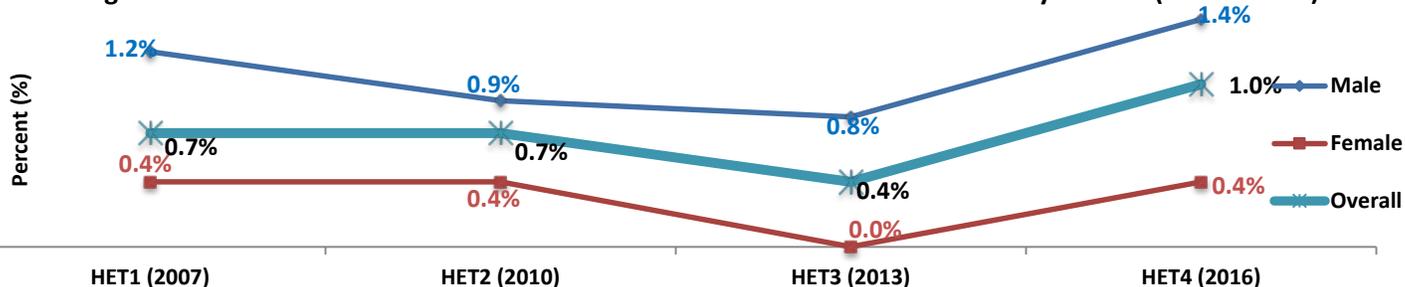
	No. HIV+	HIV Prevalence	No immunity to HBV	HCV prevalence
Total	5	1.0%	60%	4%
Age				
18-39	1	0.3%	54%	1%
40-60	4	2.7%	74%	9%
Race/Ethnicity				
Black	4	1.3%	55%	4%
Latino	0	0%	66%	2%
White	1	-	-	-

HIV and HCV Prevalence.

- HIV prevalence among heterosexuals at increased risk for HIV in LAC was 1% (5/526).
- HIV prevalence was higher among older participants (2.7%).
- HIV prevalence was higher among black participants (1.3%).
- Hepatitis C prevalence was 4%.

60% had no laboratory evidence of Hepatitis B virus immunity. (Table 2).

Figure 2. NHBS HIV Prevalence in LAC Heterosexuals at Increased Risk for HIV by Gender (2007 – 2016)



Note: The HIV prevalence among Whites is not reported due to small numbers.

Overall, HIV prevalence has remained under 1% among LAC heterosexuals at increased risk for HIV (2007 -2016).

- HIV prevalence is consistently higher in heterosexual males as compared with females.
- Black heterosexuals continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV.
- Although HIV prevalence among heterosexuals is relatively low, reports of sexual risk taking, including exchange sex and condomless anal sex underscore the need for effective HIV interventions in this population.