



CityMatCH Conference

HIV Prenatal Testing and Discussions among
Race/Ethnicity in the 2005 Los Angeles LAMB Study

Infectious Diseases in MCH Populations
August 23, 2009, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

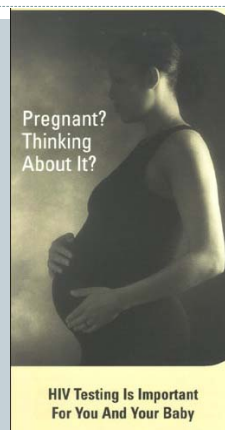
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Background



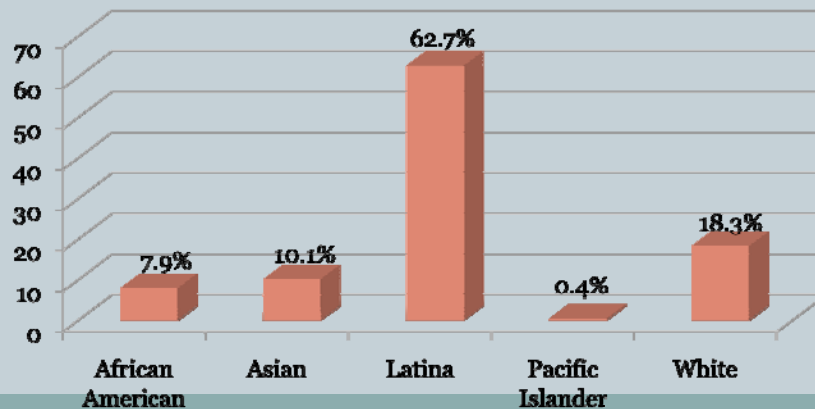
- The CDC,¹ IOM,² ACOG³ and WHO/UNAIDS⁴ all recommend routine HIV testing for pregnant women
- Despite 76% prenatal HIV testing in Southern California, there are discrepancies in testing among races⁵
- African Americans and Latinas are disproportionately impacted by HIV⁶



1. CDC Prevention Topics. Pregnancy and Childbirth: Perinatal HIV Transmission. CDC Online Publications. October 10, 2007.
2. IOM: Make prenatal HIV testing part of routine care. Institute of Medicine. AIDS Alert. 1998 Dec; 13(12):137-8.
3. ACOG Statement of Policy. Joint Statement on HIV Screening During Prenatal and Perinatal Period.
4. UNAIDS Global Reference Group on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights. Global and Regional Policies. August 2003.
5. Cozen W, Mascola L, Enguidamos R, et al. Screening for HIV and hepatitis B virus in LACounty prenatal clinics: a demonstration project. JAIDS. 1993 Jan;6(1):95-8.
6. CDC HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet. HIV/AIDS Statistics by Race/Ethnicity of Person. Revised August 2008.

- California currently deploys opt-out testing for HIV

Percent of Live Births in LAC, by Race, 2002



- We examined the prevalence of discussing and testing for HIV. Focus was placed:
 - On race and ethnicity among testing practices among postpartum women in Los Angeles County;
 - To assess possible gaps in prenatal HIV discussions and testing;
 - To acknowledge potential successes.



Methods & Data Collection

- 2005 Los Angeles Mommy & Baby Project (LAMB)
- The LAMB Project:
 - a biennial population-based representative sample;
 - postpartum women in Los Angeles County;
 - Provided in both English and Spanish.



LAMB 2005 Data



- 143,455 total eligible births
- 13,940 sampled
 - African Americans and Latina birth records were oversampled to ensure power
- 5,158 complete respondents
- Weighted based on the known proportions in the birth population by SPA (Service Providing Area) and Race



The Los Angeles Mommy and Baby Project
Healthy Mommies and Healthy Babies





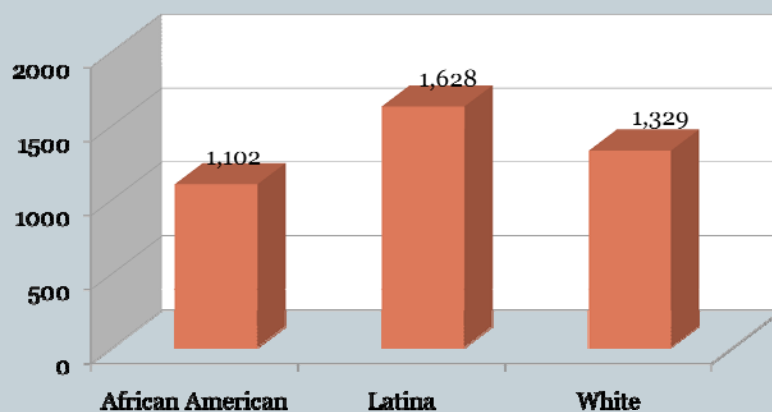
Methods & Data Collection II



- **Responses Analyzed:**
 - Q36: “At any time during your most recent pregnancy or delivery, did you have a test for HIV (the virus that causes AIDS)?” (Yes/No/Don’t Know)
 - Q38: “During any of your prenatal care visits, did a doctor, nurse or other health care worker talk with you about any of the things listed below? Please count only discussions, not reading materials or videos”
 - × “j. Getting tested for HIV (the virus that causes AIDS)”
- **Chi-squared tests and Fisher’s Exact tests were used to discover significant differences between the mothers’ race/ethnicity and HIV testing**



Number of Respondents By Race

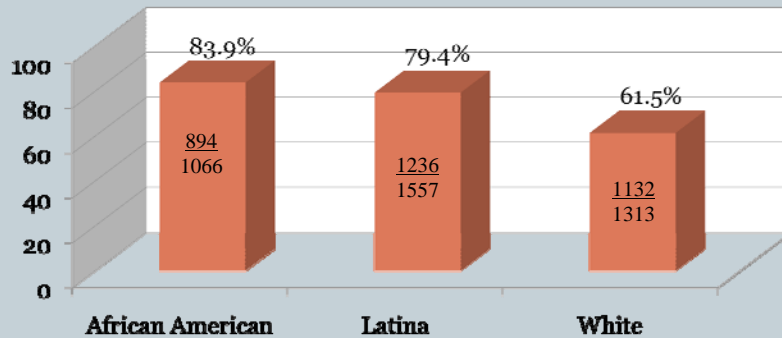




Percentage Reporting Tested



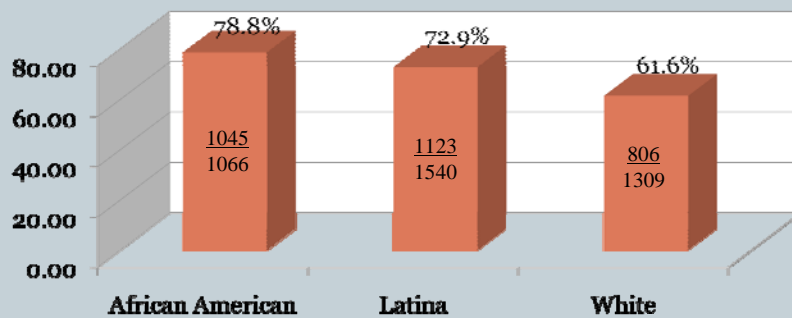
- African Americans reported having tested for HIV during the prenatal period more than Latinas, and both groups more than Whites ($p < 0.0001$)



Percentage Reporting Discussing Test



- Similarly, African Americans and Latinas reported discussing an HIV test with a healthcare provider greater than their White counterparts ($p < 0.0001$)



Conclusions



- Our findings demonstrate striking differences in prenatal HIV discussions and testing within racial groups in Los Angeles County
- This data indicates that recent attempts to increase testing and discussions among heavily impacted racial/ethnic groups (i.e. African Americans and Latinas) may be effective

Conclusions

- Continued effective culturally sensitive targeted campaigns to increase prenatal HIV testing among African Americans and Latinas in this region is necessary
- Such initiatives would create earlier HIV diagnosis and treatment for the mother and baby, crucial for improved long term outcomes

- **Role of Patient:**

- Study: Pregnant women who declined were more likely to believe that they were not at risk for HIV than those that tested¹
- Study: Refusal was eight times more likely for those that did not receive general information about HIV and three times more likely for those that did not receive specific HIV information²
- Study: Minority and Low SES women more likely to report that physician stressed importance of HIV test³

- **Role of Provider:**

- Study: Providers who were White were statistically less likely to take histories from their patients regularly compared to Hispanic / Asian / African American / Other providers⁴

1. Campbell T, Bernhardt S. Factors that contribute to women declining antenatal HIV testing. *Health Care Women Int.* 2003 Jul;24(6)
2. Aynalem G, et al. Who and why? HIV-testing refusal during pregnancy: implication for pediatric HIV epidemic disparity. *AIDS Behavior.* 2004 Mar;8(1):25-31.
3. Kelly KA, Harrison CH. Universal prenatal HIV screening: patient attitudes and perceptions. *Women Health.* 2004;40(1):41-57.
4. Kushnker M, Solorio MR. The STI and HIV testing practices of primary care providers. *J Natl Med Assoc.* 2007 Mar; 99(3):258-63

	Los Angeles County	Latina	White	African-American
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Access to Health Care Before Pregnancy				
No health insurance	35.6	47.2	9.6	16.4
No usual place of care	32.8	38.8	18.8	22.2
On Medi-Cal	22.4	25.4	8.0	37.0
Prenatal Care				
Entered prenatal care after 1st trimester	7.2	7.4	5.4	12.6
Did not meet the PHS prenatal care guidelines ⁴	17.0	16.8	19.4	14.2
Dissatisfaction with prenatal care received	10.6	11.2	7.4	10.0
Reported Discrimination				
Any discrimination	33.8	31.2	33.6	50.8
At work	17.0	14.4	21.8	25.2
When getting medical care	6.6	6.2	6.2	9.8



Limitations of Study



- A self-administered mail survey may suffer from
 - Biases;
 - Self-censorship;
 - Discomfort surrounding sensitive topics and stigmatized issues such as HIV
- African American women and Latinas had lower response rates than their White counterparts. This was accommodated through over sampling and weighted adjustment for these respondents



Thank you!



New Orleans

