

One in five younger Americans tested for HIV

2 June 2015



22 percent for females and 16 percent for males, CDC says.

(HealthDay)—Nearly one-fifth of teens and younger adults in the United States have been tested recently for HIV, federal health officials reported Tuesday.

In 2011, more than 1 million Americans 13 and older had HIV, but one in seven did not know their infection status. Routine, voluntary testing is known to reduce transmission of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Researchers at the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics analyzed data from 5,600 females and more than 4,800 [males](#), ages 15-44, who took part in the 2011-2013 National Survey of Family Growth. The researchers found that 19 percent had undergone HIV testing in the past year, an increase from 17 percent in both 2002 and 2006-2010.

HIV testing rates in 2011-2013 were 22 percent for females and 16 percent for males, compared with 20 percent for females in 2002. There was no significant increase among males, the researchers said.

In all time periods included in the study, females were more likely than males to have had an HIV test in the past year.

Females ages 25-34 were most likely to have been tested (29 percent), followed by females ages 15-24 (22 percent) and those ages 35-44 (16 percent). Black females were more likely to have been tested (45 percent) than Hispanics (21 percent) or whites (16 percent).

Among females ages 22-44, those with a [high school diploma](#) or less were more likely to have been tested (26 percent) than those with some college (25 percent) or those with a bachelor's degree or higher (20 percent).

Males ages 25-34 were more likely to have been tested (19 percent) than those ages 35-44 (13 percent) and those ages 15-24 (16 percent). Black males were more likely to have been tested (33 percent) than Hispanics (15 percent) or whites (13 percent).

Education had little effect on rates of HIV testing among men.

Females who had same-sex contact in the past year were more likely to have been tested for HIV (35 percent) than those with any opposite-sex contact (approximately 25 percent). Slightly less than 40 percent of males who had any same-sex contact in the past year had been tested, compared with 20 percent who had any opposite-sex contact.

Twenty-six percent of females who had vaginal intercourse or oral sex with a male were tested, compared with 18 percent of males who had vaginal or [oral sex](#) with a female.

Rates of HIV testing were similar for [females](#) and males who had anal sex with an opposite-sex partner (25 percent and 23 percent, respectively), or any same-sex contact in the past year (35 percent and 38 percent, respectively).

More information: AIDS.gov has more about [HIV testing](#).

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