



ASSESSING HIGHER HIV DIAGNOSIS RATES AMONG BLACKS IN NEW YORK CITY USING PARTNER SERVICES DATA

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Background

- Blacks in New York City (NYC) have persistently high HIV diagnosis rates compared to Hispanics and Whites, despite the availability of well-established HIV-testing, partner services, HIV treatment and support services in NYC
- The Field Services Unit (FSU) in the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control conducts partner services interviews with newly HIV diagnosed individuals in NYC to elicit sex and needle-sharing partners and link them to HIV care

Objective

- To compare newly diagnosed Blacks with Hispanics and Whites to assess differences in:

Pre-diagnosis behavior

- Transmission risk
- Sexual risk behavior
- HIV testing history

Post-diagnosis characteristics

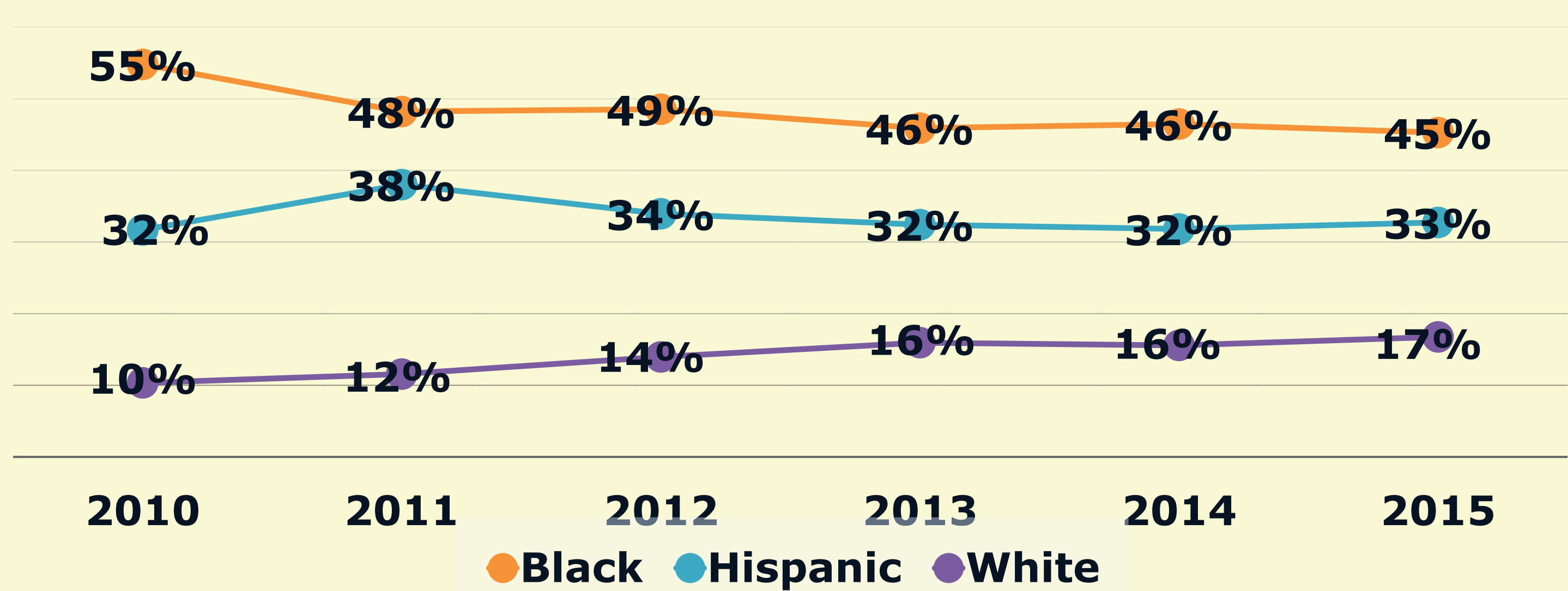
- Concurrent AIDS diagnosis
- Clinical status (CD4 count and viral load)
- Timely linkage to HIV care (within 91 days of diagnosis)

Methods

- Partner services interviews collect data on HIV-diagnosed persons' sociodemographic characteristics, HIV transmission risk and sexual risk behavior
- Data collected on HIV-related laboratory results including CD4 counts and viral loads
- Bivariate analysis comparing Blacks, Hispanics and Whites in terms of transmission risk, clinical status and sexual risk behavior; differences in proportions, chi-square test (statistical significance at $\alpha \leq 0.05$), unadjusted odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI)

Results

FSU interviewed clients, 2010-2015



- Interviewed clients were predominantly Black (48% overall)
- Proportion of Blacks among newly diagnosed was persistently higher than Hispanics or Whites

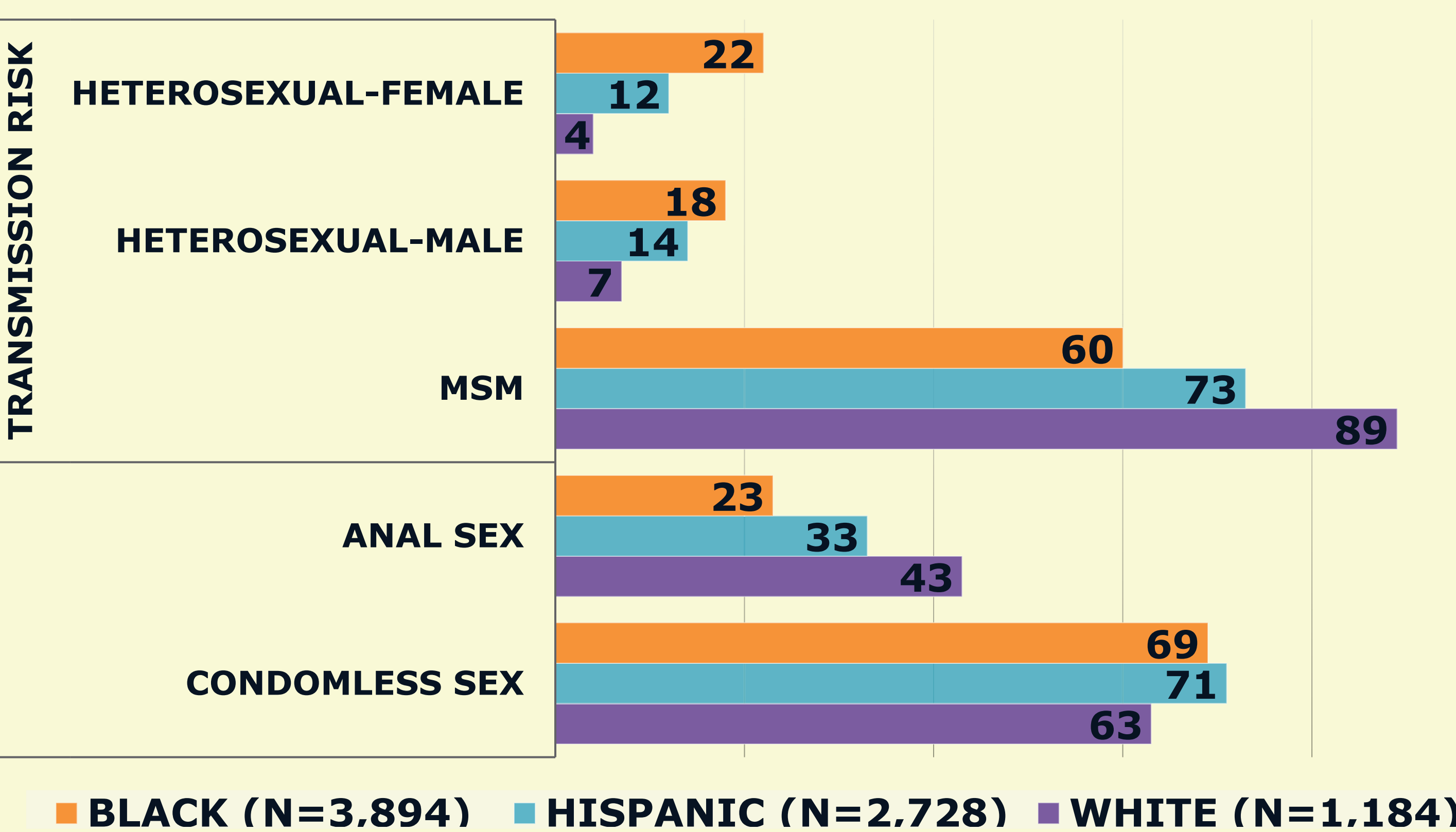
Gender differences

- Females constituted more than one third (34%) of newly diagnosed Blacks
- This proportion was significantly higher than among Hispanics (21%) or Whites (7%)

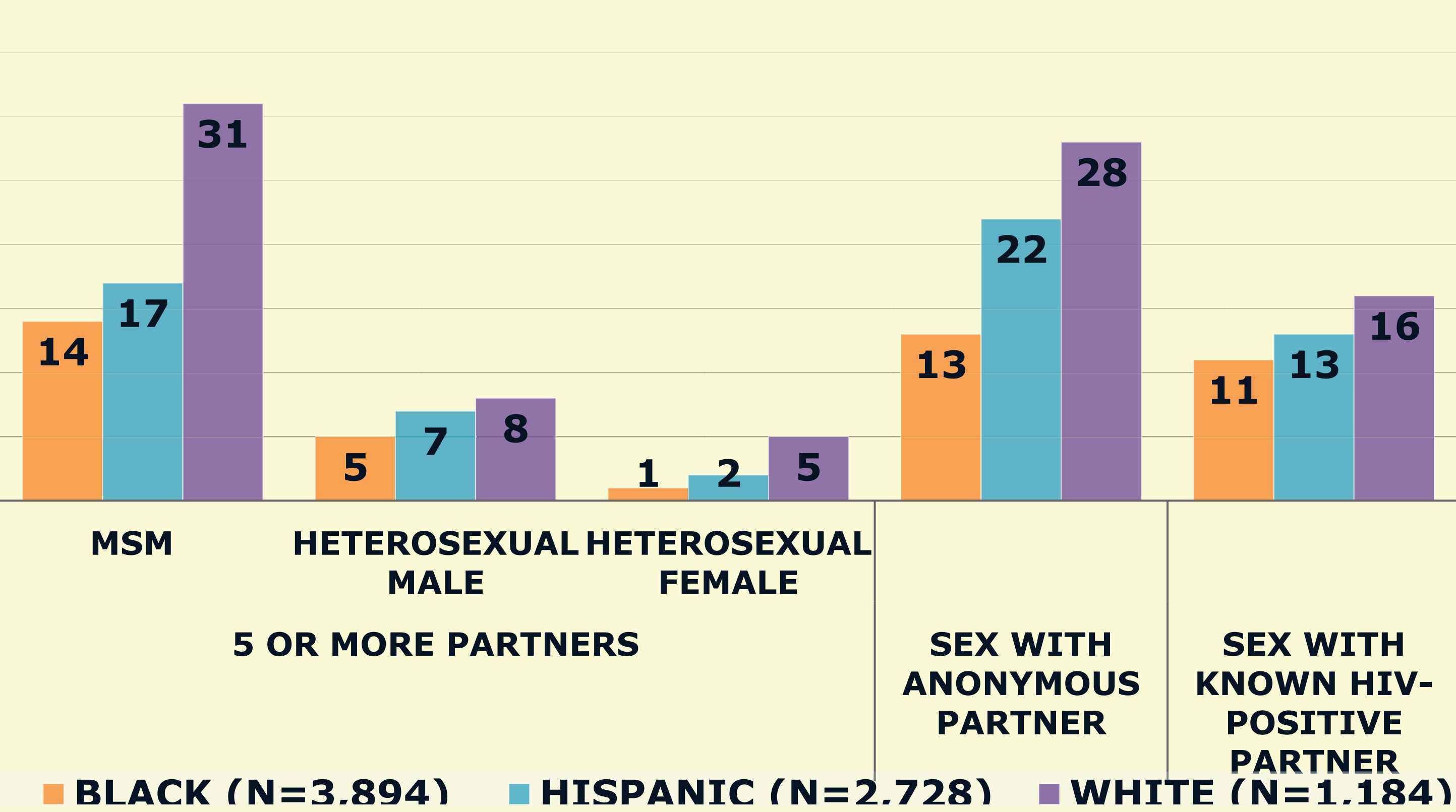
Results

Pre-diagnosis: Sexual risk

Sexual risk behavior in the past 12 months among newly HIV-diagnosed Black, Hispanic and White individuals interviewed by FSU, 2010-2015 (N=8,195)



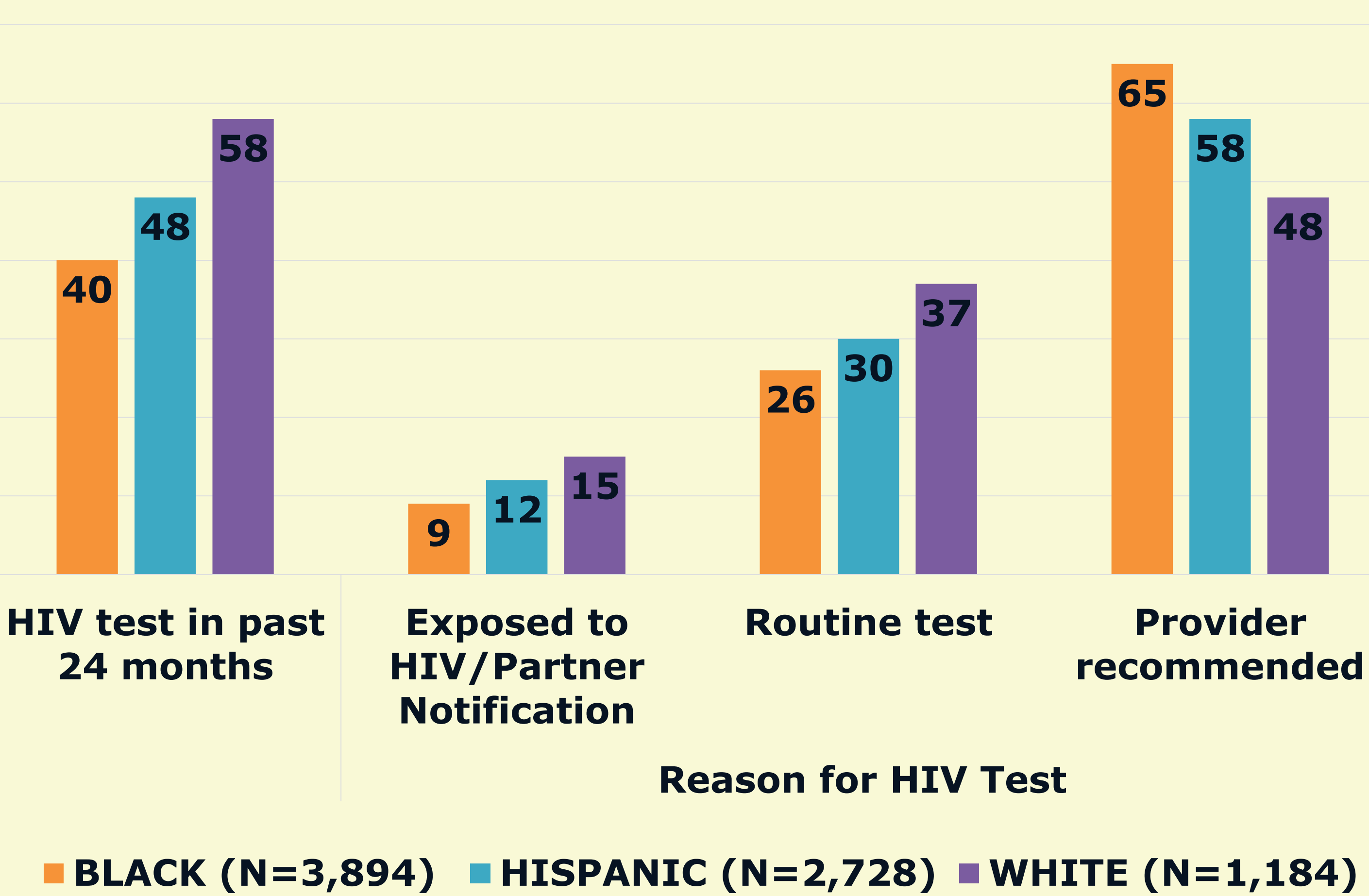
Partner history in the past 12 months among newly HIV-diagnosed Black, Hispanic and White individuals interviewed by FSU, 2010-2015 (N=8,195)



- Black clients had the highest proportion of same race/ethnicity partners (80%) versus Hispanics (71%) and Whites (56%)

Pre-diagnosis: HIV Testing History

HIV testing history among newly HIV-diagnosed Black, Hispanic and White individuals interviewed by FSU, 2010-2015 (N=8,195)



Post-diagnosis characteristics

Bivariate logistic regression of clinical status and timely linkage to care among newly diagnosed Black, Hispanic and White individuals interviewed by FSU, 2010-2015

	Black vs Hispanic	Black vs White
	OR (95% CI)	OR (95% CI)
Concurrent AIDS diagnosis	1.31 (1.18-1.45)	1.86 (1.60-2.16)
High VL (400-9,999 cc/mL)	1.19 (1.05-1.35)	1.63 (1.36-1.95)
Low CD4 count (≤ 50)	1.30 (1.11-1.54)	1.68 (1.32-2.14)
Linked to care within 91 days of diagnosis	0.87 (0.71-1.06)	0.65 (0.49-0.89)

Conclusions

- Blacks reported fewer HIV risk behaviors than Hispanics or Whites
- Fewer Blacks reported anal or condomless sex in the past 12 months
- Blacks were less likely to report sex with an anonymous partner, a known HIV-positive partner or to have 5 or more partners

- Blacks were less likely to have had an HIV test in the past 2 years
- Immunological status of Blacks was poorer than Hispanics or Whites – evidence of late HIV diagnosis
- Targeted and enhanced strategies are needed to address HIV-related race/ethnic disparities, particularly among Blacks

Acknowledgments

This work was supported by a cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for HIV prevention (12-1201)