



STI testing behavior among sexual minority adolescent women recruited from FB in the United States

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INTRODUCTION

Despite assumptions that sexual minority teen girls may not be at risk for STIs, HIV, and pregnancy, previous studies have found that sexual minority girls are 2-4 times as likely as heterosexual girls to become pregnant as an adolescent. Less has been reported about sexually transmitted infections for sexual minority girls.

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http://www.imgur.org/user/l.g.b.t._rights/2062572373/1027577963578988605_2062572373



METHODS

317 sexual minority teen girls completed an online survey as part of their enrollment in a pregnancy prevention program. Adolescents were recruited from across the United States through Facebook advertisements.

Eligible youth had to: be between 14-18 years of age, have their own cell phone and plan to have the number for one year, be enrolled in an unlimited text messaging plan, have used text messaging for the past 6 months, be enrolled in high school or its equivalence, identify with a sexual identity that was not exclusively heterosexual, as well as provide informed assent and pass a capacity to consent and self-safety assessment.

RESULTS

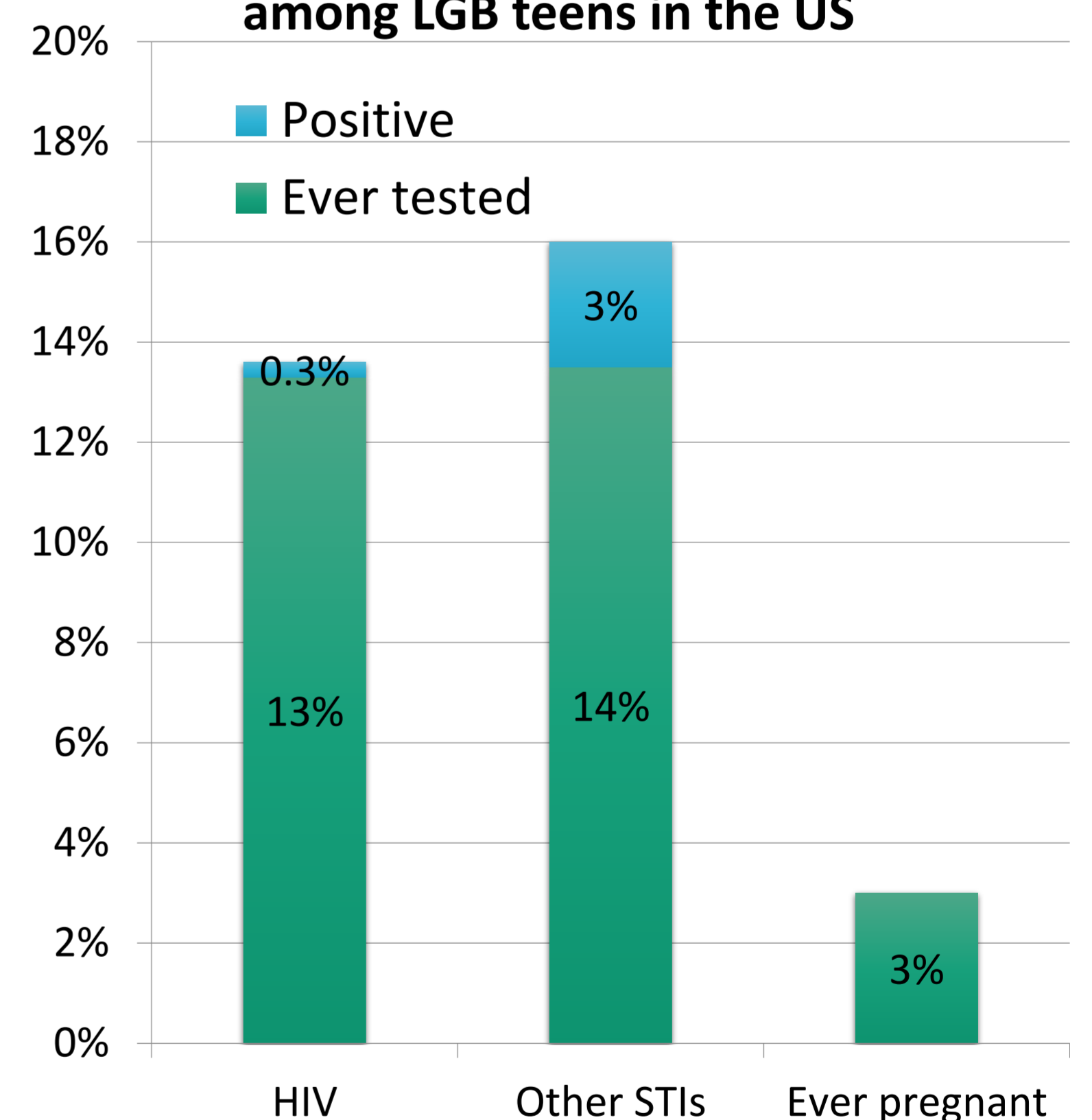
Sample description:

- One in five (22%) girls identified as Hispanic ethnicity; 62% as White, and 12% as Black race.
- One in three (35%) lived in a rural or small town and
- 29% appraised their family income to be lower than average.

Fourteen percent (n=43) of sexual minority girls have been tested for HIV and 16% (n=51) for other STIs. Of those who have been tested, 2% (n=1) said they were HIV positive and 15% (n=8) said they had tested positive for another type of STI. Half (50%) of teens who have had a positive STI test identified as gay, 62% as lesbian, and 38% as bisexual (identity categories are non-exclusive).

Three percent (n=9) of girls in the study sample have ever been pregnant. Over half of these ever-pregnant teens identified as lesbian (n=5) or pansexual (n=5), and one-third (n=3) identified as bisexual (again, identity categories are non-exclusive).

STI testing and pregnancy rates among LGB teens in the US



CONCLUSION

Assumptions that sexual minority girls are not at risk for STI/HIV and pregnancy are false, as is the idea that bisexual girls must be at greater risk than lesbian girls. Identity-inclusive sexual health education that encourages STI testing and use of barriers during sex for sexual minority girls, including lesbian girls, is urgently needed.

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