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 service 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
  a) Transmission risk
  b) Sexual risk behavior
  c) HIV testing history

Post-diagnosis characteristics
- 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 ≤ 0.05), unadjusted odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI)

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
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Results
- FSU interviewed clients, 2010-2015
  - 55%
  - 48%
  - 49%
  - 46%
  - 46%
  - 45%
  - 32%
  - 38%
  - 34%
  - 32%
  - 32%
  - 33%
  - 10%
  - 12%
  - 14%
  - 16%
  - 16%
  - 17%
  - 2010
  - 2011
  - 2012
  - 2013
  - 2014
  - 2015
  - Black
  - Hispanic
  - White

  - 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%)

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)

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

Conclusions
- 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

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