

HEPATITIS C TESTING 2015: MICHIGAN BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM



Background

The Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (MiBRFSS) is composed of annual, state-level telephone surveys of Michigan residents, aged 18 years and older. These annual state-level surveys also known as Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Surveys (MiBRFS) act as the only source of state-specific, population-based estimates of the prevalence of various behaviors, medical conditions, and preventive health care practices among Michigan adults.

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) is a blood-borne pathogen that affects the liver. Between 3 and 6 million Americans are thought to be infected with HCV. Without treatment, chronic HCV infection can lead to cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma and even death. It is estimated that 50-75% of persons infected with HCV are unaware of their infection because of the often asymptomatic nature of the disease. Because few people have been tested for HCV even less have received therapies which can cure HCV infection. Health disparities and lack of healthcare access are often seen as barriers to testing and treating persons for HCV infection.

The MDHHS Viral Hepatitis Unit added the question "Have you ever been tested for Hepatitis C Virus?" to the 2015 MIBRFS to determine demographic and behavioral factors associated with HCV testing. Data collected from the MiBRFS in 2015 (N=2689) was stratified based on HCV testing status and analyzed by various socio-demographic and behavioral factors.

MiBRFSS:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_5104_5279_39424---,00.html

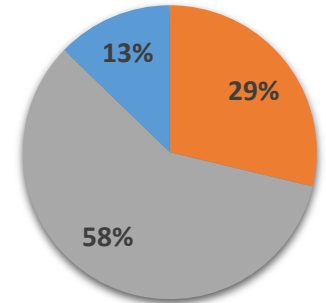
HCV:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/populations/1945-1965.htm>

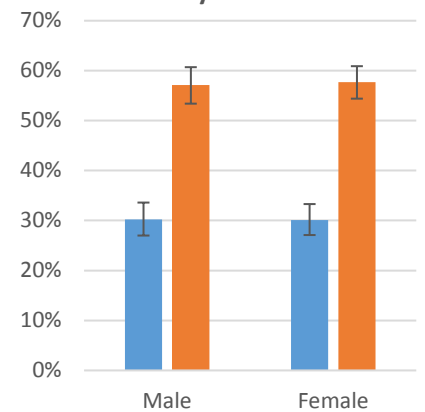
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/Racial_Disparities_in_HCV_infection_518019_7.pdf



Have you ever been tested for HCV?
MIBRFS 2015



Have you ever been tested for HCV?
By Sex



30% of survey respondents reported ever being tested for HCV

"Baby-Boomers" were less likely to have reported ever being tested for HCV than those <50 years old

Have you ever been tested for HCV?

By Race

Race	Yes	No
Caucasian	26.4% (24.0-28.8)	60.4% (57.6-63.0)
African American	48.8% (41.2-56.6)	42.1% (34.6-50.0)
Other/Multi-racial	48.4% (35.1-61.8)	40.8% (28.5-54.3)
Hispanic	52.1% (37.3-66.5)	45.1% (31.0-60.0)

Have you ever been tested for HCV?

By Age

Age	Yes	No
18-49 years	36.8% (33.0-40.8)	50.9% (46.8-55.0)
50-70 years	27.2% (24.3-30.2)	60.6% (57.2-63.9)
71+ years	13.6% (10.3-17.7)	73.4% (68.4-77.8)

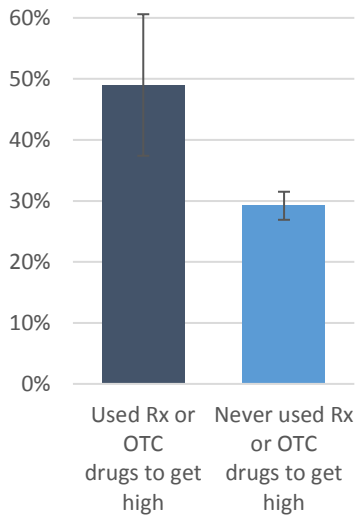
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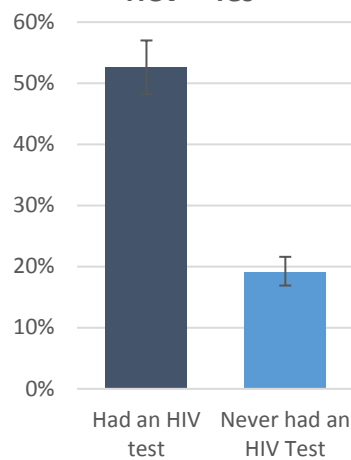
Have you ever been tested for HCV? By Insurance Status

	Private	Medicaid	Medicare	Healthy Michigan	Medicaid + Medicare	None
Yes	29.1% (25.7-32.8)	50.2% (40.3-60.1)	23.9% (20.2-28.1)	44.8% (27.7-63.3)	32.3% (26.5-38.6)	28.0% (20.8-36.5)
No	58.6% (54.7-62.3)	38.4% (28.9-48.8)	64.5% (60.1-68.6)	52.7% (34.2-70.5)	54.7% (48.2-61.1)	54.2% (44.9-63.3)

Ever been tested for HCV = Yes

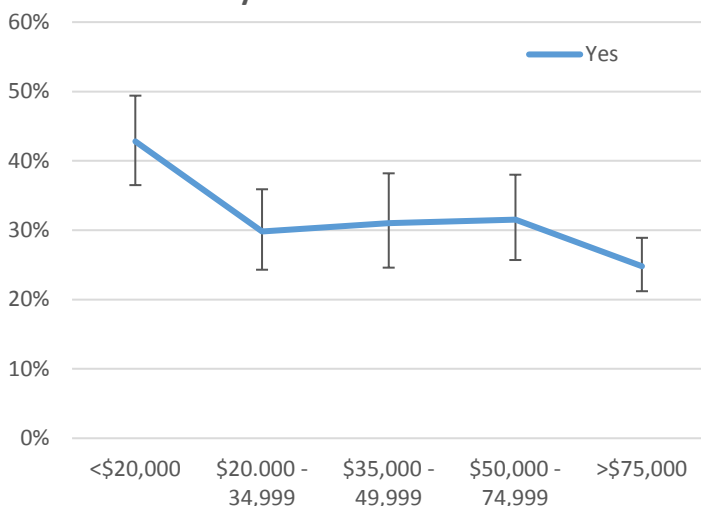


Ever been tested for HCV = Yes



Persons who reported using over the counter or prescription drugs to get high and persons who ever had an HIV test were more likely to have been tested for HCV than those that did not.

Have you ever been tested for HCV
By household income



Conclusions

Overall, 29% of the 2,689 respondents reported ever being tested for HCV. The proportion of persons tested for HCV was similar between males and females. Caucasians were less likely to have reported being tested for HCV compared to other racial groups.

Lower socio-demographic status is often seen as a barrier to receipt of healthcare. However, according to survey data, there was an inverse correlation between household income and likelihood of ever being tested for HCV. Similarly, persons with public insurance were more likely to be tested for HCV than those with private insurance.

According to national statistics, over 75% of persons infected with HCV were born in the Baby-Boomer birth cohort (born between 1945 and 1965). CDC campaigns have targeted this age group for HCV screening; yet those aged 50-70 years old (i.e. "Baby-Boomers") were less likely to have reported ever being tested for HCV compared to those less than 50.

It is important to note that survey data has limitations. Responses may not be representative of the entire Michigan population and may be subject to recall bias.

We hope to monitor these data over time to see if initiatives and campaigns promoting HCV testing increase the number of persons reporting having been tested for HCV and to continue to stratify these data to detect disparities in HCV testing behaviors in the population.

For more information on HCV visit www.mi.gov/hepatitis or www.cdc.org/hepatitis