



Factors Associated with HIV Testing among Spanish and English- Speaking Latino Youth



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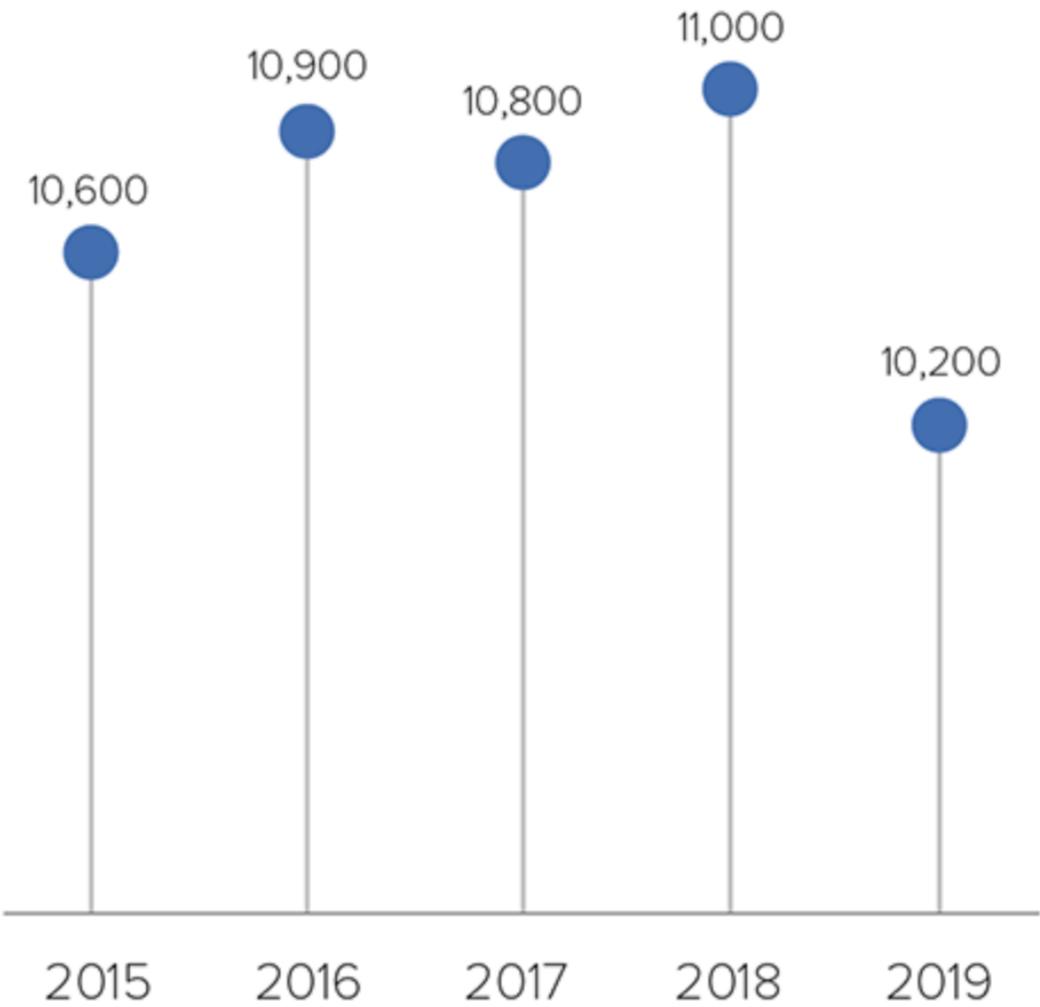
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Background

Estimated HIV Infections Among Latino People in the U.S, 2015 – 2019 ^[1]





SMART Program

SMART Sex Education



SMART Sessions



SMART Squad

Universal Brief Sexual Health Education for AMSM

- Sexual orientation and gender identity
- Sexual activity, pleasure, and consent
- Safer sex (HIV/STI information, substance use, prevention strategies)
- Healthy relationships

Selective Risk Reduction Intervention for AMSM

- Intrinsic and extrinsic pressures around sex and substance use
- Social and emotional consequences of HIV
- Communication skills
- Overcoming barriers to testing, condom use, and PrEP

Indicated motivational interviewing (MI) protocol delivered by MI-trained counselors via video conferencing

- Condom use
- HIV testing
- Pre-exposure prophylaxis

Current Study:

- Using data from our stepped-care online HIV prevention intervention for youth ^[2], we explore factors associated with HIV testing behavior and risk among Latinx youth.
- To our knowledge, this is the first study to assess individual-level demographic and behavioral predictors of HIV risk and testing among Latinx youth aged 13 to 18 in tandem and to include Spanish-speaking youth.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics (n = 524)

	n	%
Age (M = 17.28, SD = 1.30)		
13 – 14	34	6.49
15 – 16	165	31.5
17 – 18	325	62.0
Completed Survey in Spanish		
Yes	61	11.6
No	463	88.4
Ethnicity		
Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano	293	55.9
Caribbean	139	26.5
South American	43	8.2
Central American	49	9.4
Sexual Orientation		
Gay	360	68.7
Bisexual	131	25.0
Other	33	6.3

Table 1 (Continued). Descriptive Statistics (n = 524)

	n	%
Tested for HIV (Lifetime)		
No	338	64.5
Yes	186	35.5
Have a Regular Doctor		
No	200	38.2
Yes	324	61.8
Regular Doctor, Sexual Health		
No	394	69.7
Yes	171	30.3
Regular Doctor, Sexual Orientation		
No	333	63.5
Yes	191	36.5
Regular Doctor, HIV Testing		
No	383	73.1
Yes	141	26.9
HIV Education in School		
No	218	41.6
Yes	347	61.4
HIV Education from Family		
No	356	67.9
Yes	209	37.0
Spoken to Family about Sexual Expectations		
No	314	60.0
Yes	210	40.0
PrEP Willingness		
No, Most Likely Not	388	74.0
Yes, Most Likely	136	26.0
HIV/STI Risk Factors		
	Mean	SD
Number of Male Sex Partners	4.45	7.17
Number of Male CAS Partners	2.37	4.28
HIV Knowledge, Motivation and Behavior		
	Mean	SD
HIV Knowledge, % Correct	64.61	20.20
HIV Perceived Vulnerability	2.37	4.28



Current Study



- Factors associated with ever having received an HIV test, suggests that access to a provider and factors related to having spoken to parents about HIV testing and expectations about sexual behavior were associated with an increased odds of HIV testing
- Latinx youth in our sample were less likely to report HIV education from school, their provider, and their parents. Participants who enrolled in SMART in Spanish were less likely to report HIV education in school and from their providers
- Further, English-speaking Latinx youth were more likely to report awareness of PrEP for HIV prevention.
- These findings suggest that provider – adolescent communication about HIV prevention is more likely to occur among English-speaking Latinxs
- The lack of PrEP awareness and rates of HIV testing among Spanish-speaking Latinx youth in the present study, in conjunction with limited education and conversations between youth and their providers noted in our analyses, highlight a need for HIV outreach and PrEP navigation services targeting Spanish-speaking Latinx youth

