

HIV/AIDS Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors among African American Students Attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities

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"The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."



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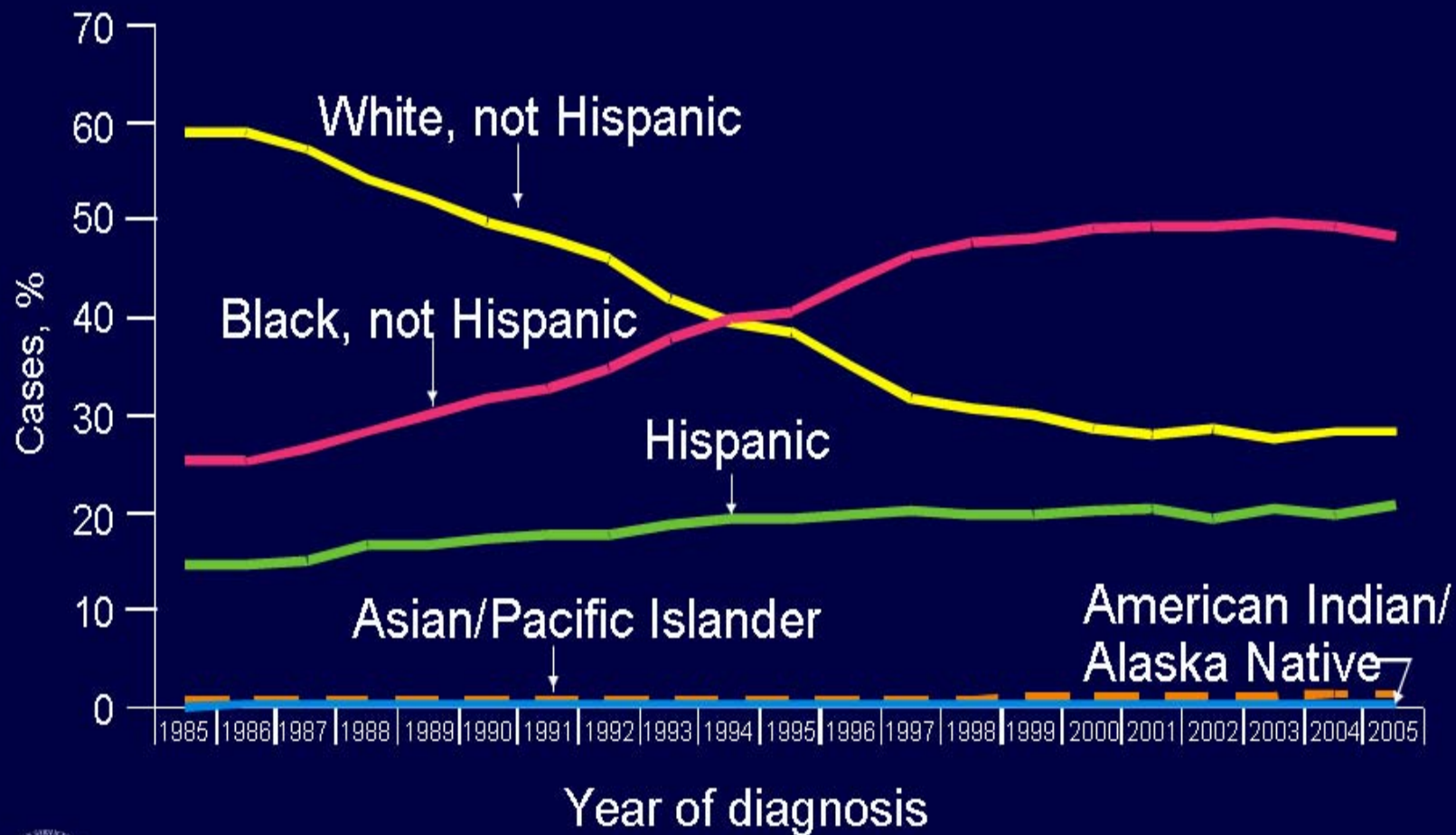


Background

- African Americans are disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS
- Half of all new HIV infections occur in persons under age 25
- Black student enrollment at HBCUs = 13% of all Black undergraduate college enrollment
- Few data on HIV/AIDS on HBCU campuses



Proportions of AIDS Cases among Adults and Adolescents, by Race/Ethnicity and Year of Diagnosis 1985–2005—United States and Dependent Areas



Note. Data have been adjusted for reporting delays.

Revised June 2007



HIV/AIDS Cases among Female Adolescents and Young Adults, by Transmission Category 2001–2005—33 States

Transmission Category	13–19 years		20–24 years	
	N	%	N	%
Injection drug use	333	14	800	14
High-risk heterosexual contact*	2,086	85	4,740	85
Other/not Identified [†]	22	<1	47	<1
Total	2,441	100	5,586	100

Note. Data include persons with a diagnosis of HIV infection regardless of AIDS status at diagnosis. Data from 33 states with confidential name-based HIV infection reporting since at least 2001. Data have been adjusted for reporting delays and cases without risk factor information were proportionally redistributed.

* Heterosexual contact with a person known to have, or to be at high risk for, HIV infection.

† Includes hemophilia, blood transfusion, perinatal exposure, and risk factor not reported or not identified.



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Background

- What do we know about HIV/AIDS and African American students at college campuses?
 - Seroprevalence of 0.2% (30 out of 16,863 specimens) among 19 schools (only 1 school in the Southeast; not specific to African Americans) (*Gayle H, 1990, NEJM*)
 - Recent study of an HIV epidemic among college students in North Carolina: 84 newly diagnosed young men at 37 different colleges throughout NC; mostly African American males (*Hightow LB, 2005, JAIDS*)



Objective

- To understand the level of knowledge and attitudes about HIV/AIDS, as well as to assess the prevalence of certain sexual behaviors among students attending HBCUs.
- To assess willingness of HBCU students to obtain an HIV test.



Methods

- Collaboration with CDC and UNCF-SP
- 25 HBCUs in 14 states
- Eligibility criteria: African American students enrolled at 4-year HBCUs and ages 18-25 years
- Anonymous online surveys administered
- Data analyzed using SAS



Online Questionnaire

- Instrument content included:
 - (1) general HIV knowledge questions;
 - (2) culturally based questions that include conspiracy theories, perceived vulnerability and severity of HIV/AIDS;
 - (3) attitudes about condom use and sex;
 - (4) self-efficacy questions;
 - (5) information about sexual behaviors, practices and beliefs.



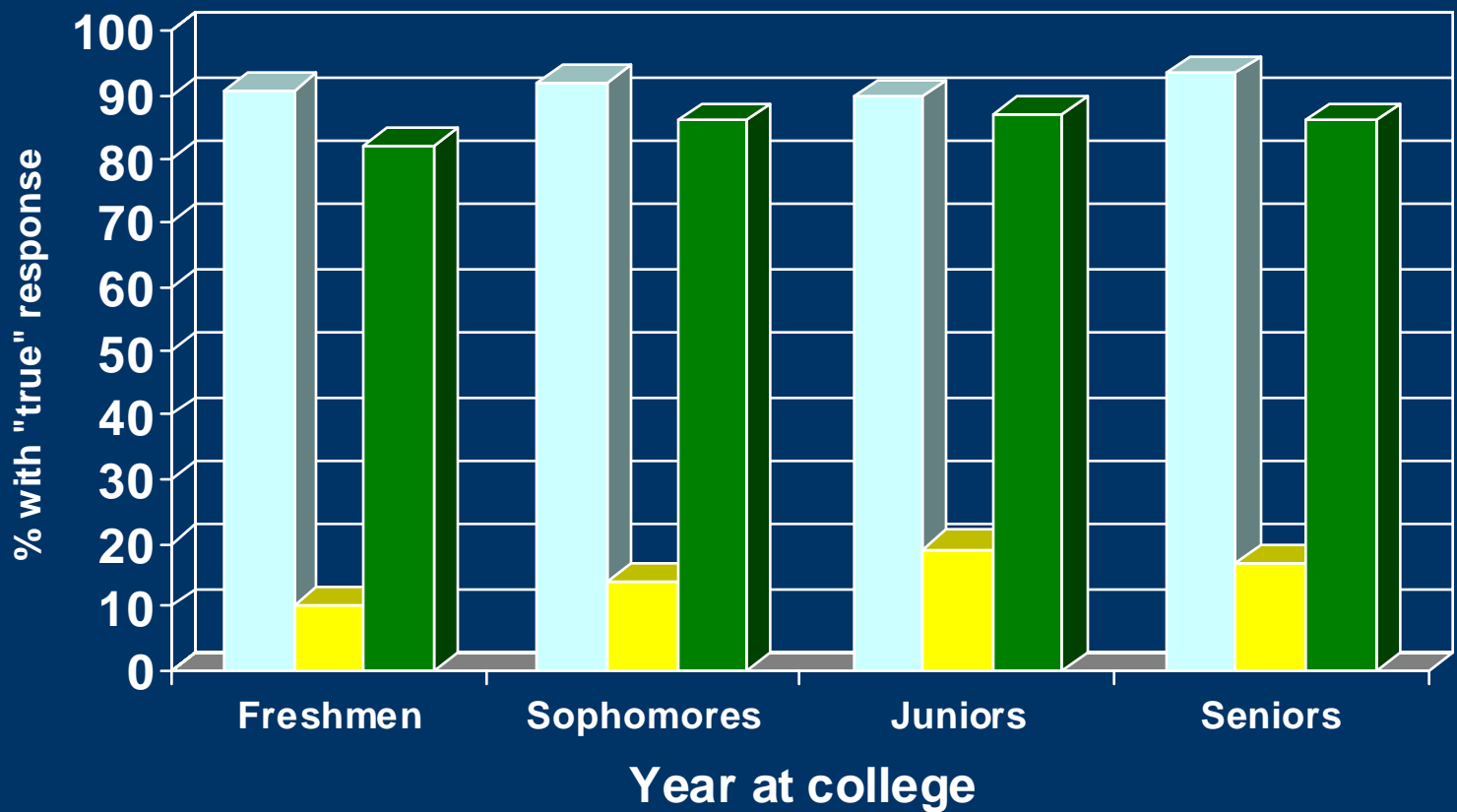
Results

- 1172 of 1230 (95.3%) surveys were analyzable
 - Female=52%
 - Ages 18-21=75%
 - Freshmen and sophomores=56%



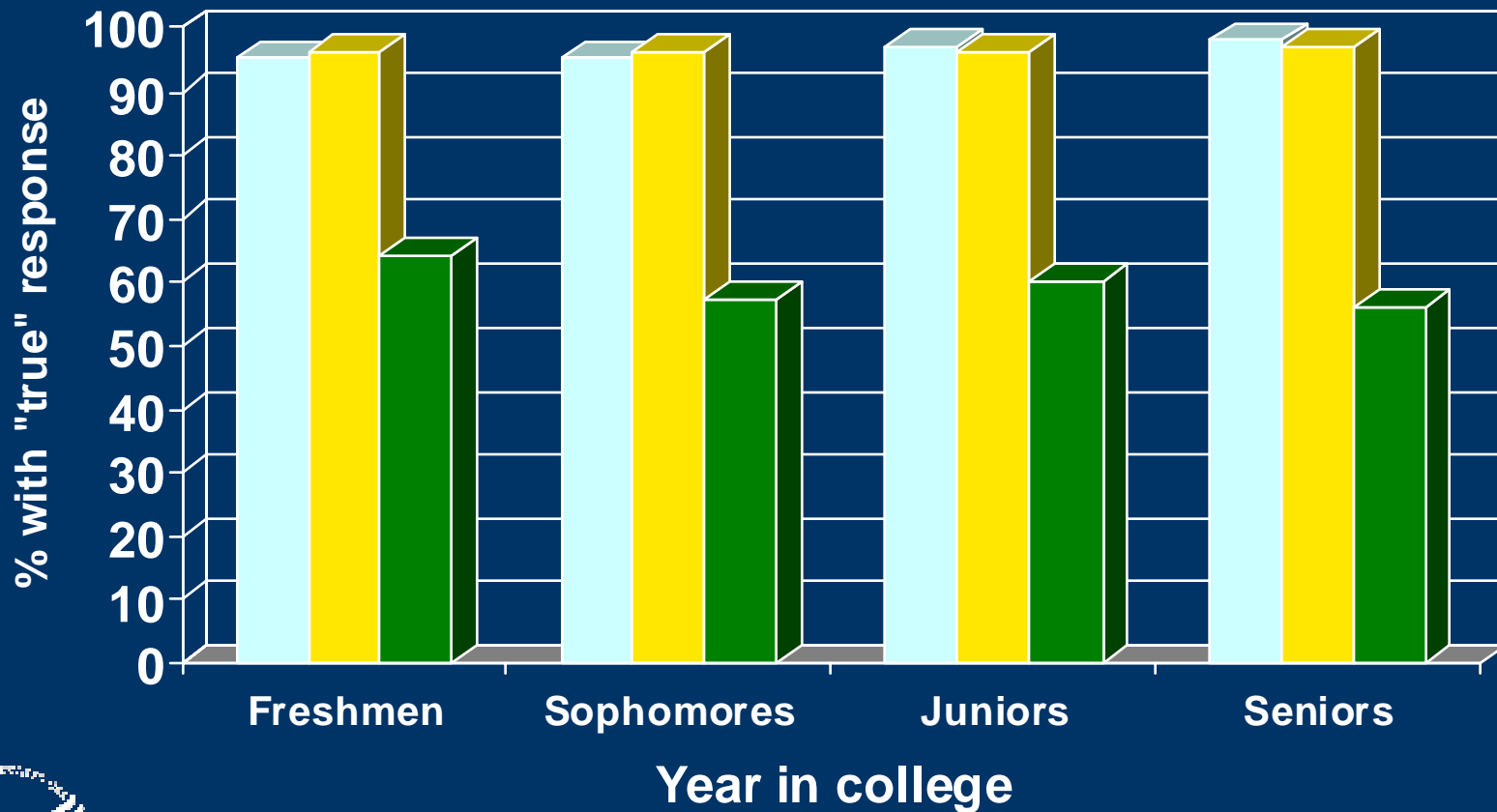
General knowledge of HIV/AIDS

■ HIV causes AIDS ■ Cure for AIDS ■ Immune disorder



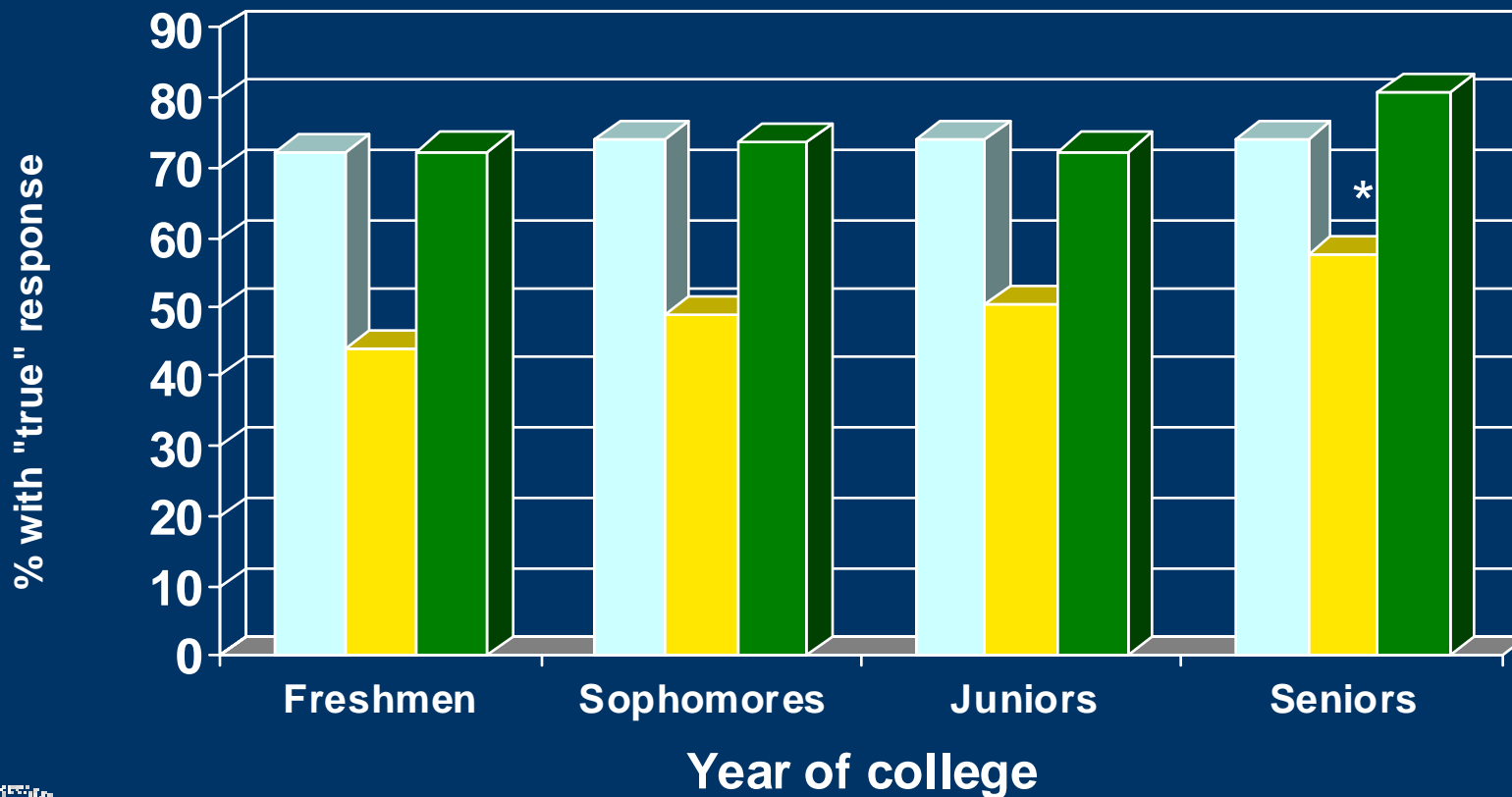
How can you get HIV?

■ Sex without condom ■ Sharing needles for drugs ■ Giving blood



Risk factors for acquiring HIV

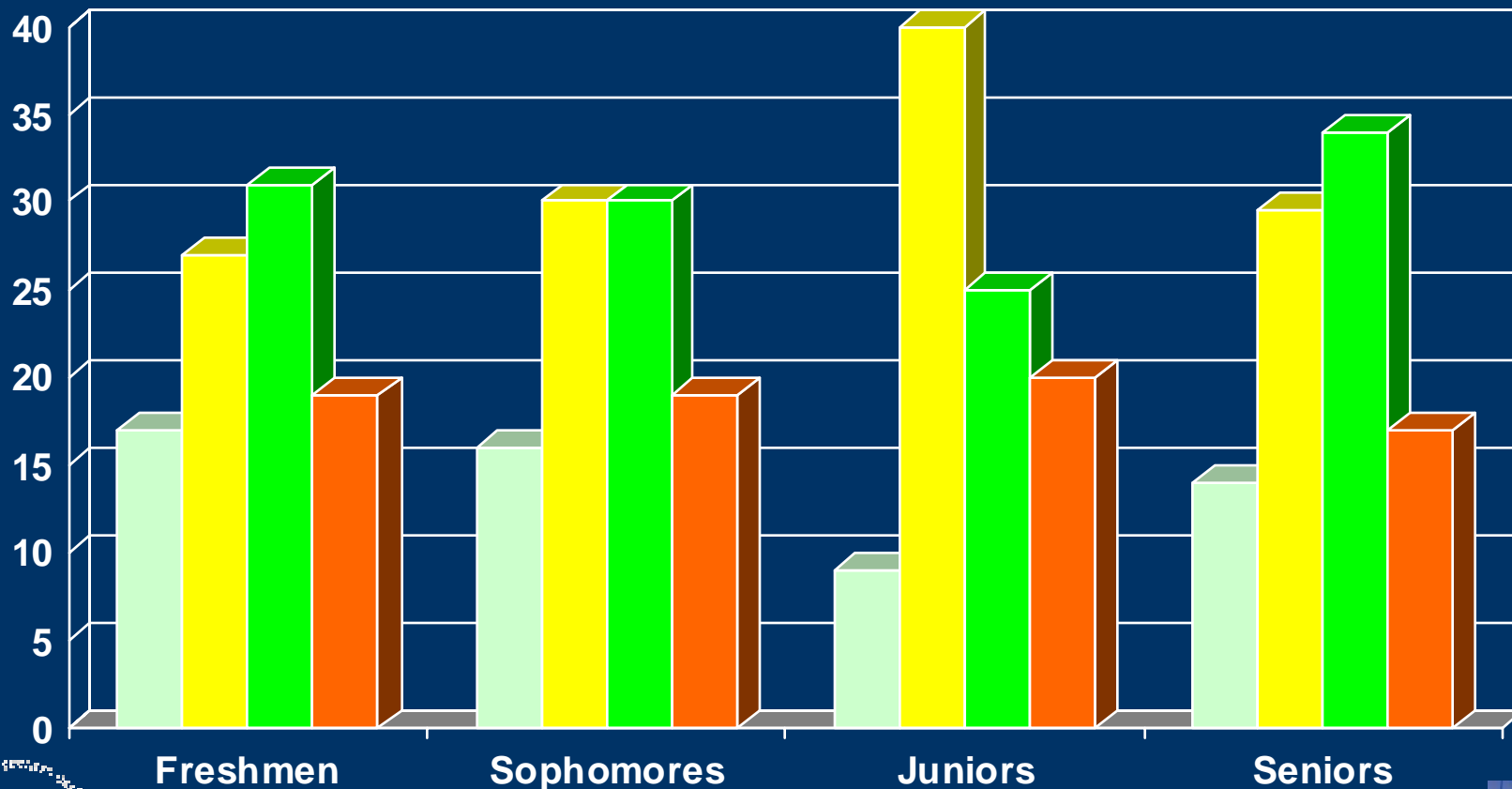
■ STD increases risk ■ Using alcohol/drugs ■ Having multiple sex partners



* $p < 0.05$

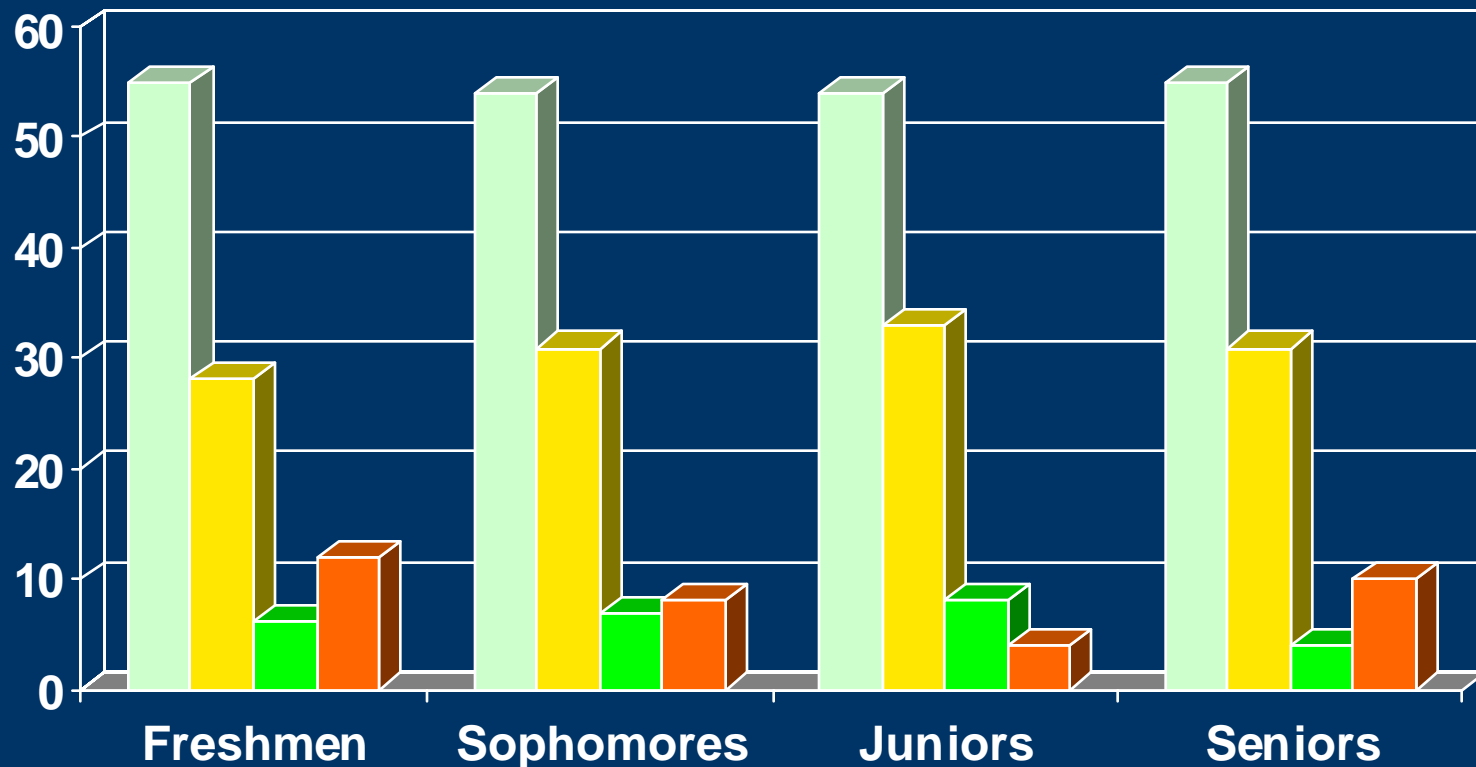


Number of sex partners during previous 12 months



Use of condom at last sexual encounter

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know ■ Refuse to answer



Results (continued)

- Males reporting sex with only females
 - 45% had 2-5 partners in the previous 12 months
- Males reporting sex with only males
 - 59% had 2-5 partners in the previous 12 months
- Females reporting sex with only males
 - 48% had 2-5 partners in previous 12 months

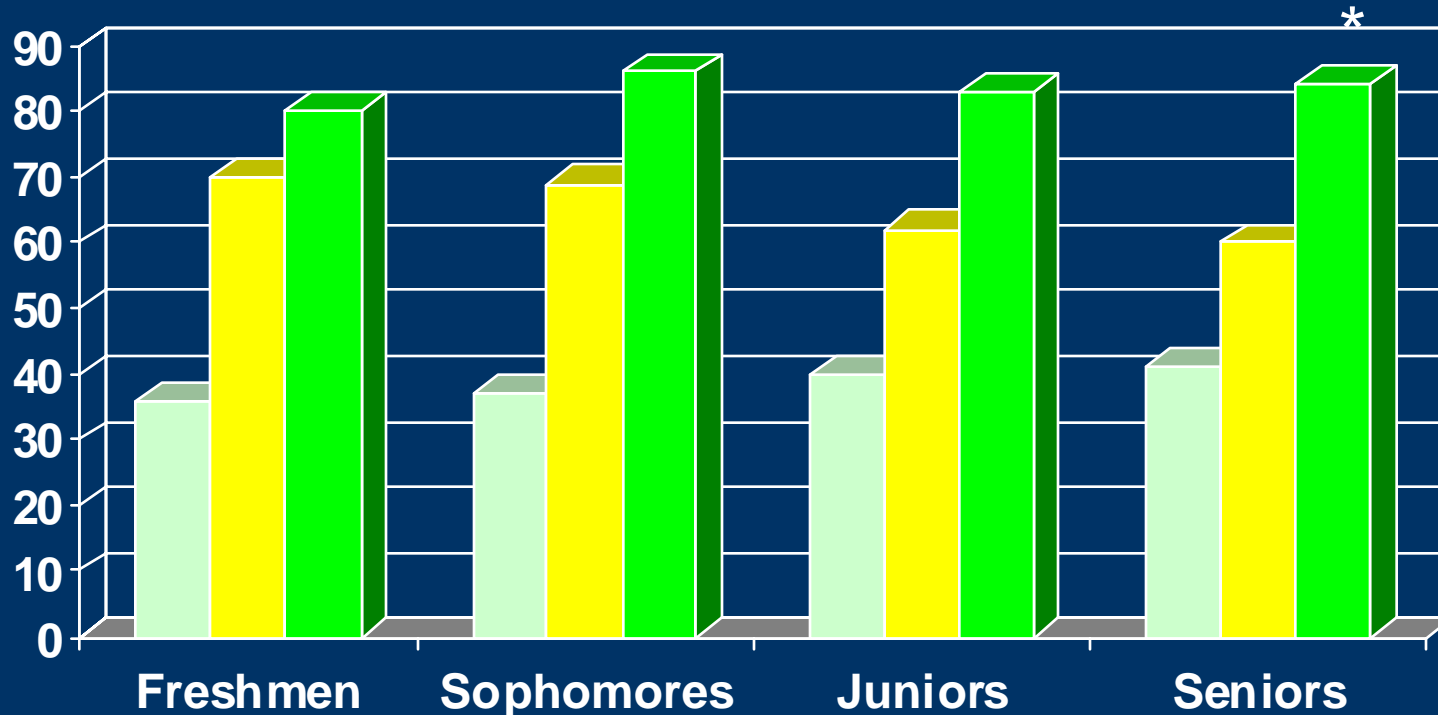


What would you say your chances are of acquiring HIV?

- “very low or low”=78.5%
- “average”=19%
- “high or very high”=2.3%



HIV Testing



*=p<0.05



Results (continued)

- Important factors in deciding to have an HIV test done
 - Recommendation by a health professional (90%)
 - Unprotected sexual encounter (78%)
 - Previous partner who tested positive (90%)
 - Confidentiality, convenience, low cost, and nonjudgmental staff



Conclusions

- Overall, students have a good general knowledge of HIV, but there is some misinformation.
- Multiple sex partners and inconsistent condom use are prevalent as risk factors for HIV acquisition.
- Most students felt themselves to be at low risk for HIV acquisition.
- Many students have been previously tested for HIV.



Implications

- Prevention efforts should increase awareness about risk-reduction behaviors and consider expanding HIV testing services at HBCUs and surrounding communities.
- Providers who interact with African American young adults should consider using these opportunities to discuss HIV.



Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

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