

Trends in HIV testing among adults in Georgia: Analysis of the 2011-2015 BRFSS data

Benjamin Ansa, MD, MSCR

Institute of Public and Preventive Health, Augusta University

Corresponding author: Benjamin Ansa • Institute of Public and Preventive Health, Augusta University • CJ-2300 1120 15th Street, Augusta, GA 30912 • 706-721-6141 • bansa@augusta.edu

Background: Georgia is ranked fifth highest among states for rates of HIV diagnosis. About 4% of persons living with HIV infection in the United States reside in Georgia, and almost 19% of these people do not know their HIV status. The present study examined the trends and associated factors of HIV testing among adults in Georgia between 2011 and 2015.

Methods: The 2011-2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data were analyzed.

Results: A total of 31,094 persons aged ≥ 18 years were identified who responded to the question "Have you ever been tested for HIV?" Overall, there were 11,286 (44.2%) respondents who had been tested for HIV, with a slight decrease in percentage from 45.6% in 2011 to 43.7% in 2015 (APC= -0.98, not significant). Factors associated with HIV testing were being female ($p=0.004$), black ($p<0.001$), younger than 55 years ($p<0.001$), single ($p<0.001$), attaining education level above high school ($p<0.001$), and earning annual income of \$50,000 or less ($p=0.028$).

Conclusions: Overall in Georgia, there has been a slight decline in the temporal trend of HIV testing, and more than half of adults have never been tested for HIV. For reducing HIV transmission in Georgia, enhancing access and utilization of HIV testing should be a public health priority.

Key words: HIV/AIDS; testing; trends; Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; socio-demographic; Georgia

<https://doi.org/10.21633/jgpha.7.137>

© Benjamin Ansa. Originally published in jGPHA (<http://www.gapha.org/jgpha/>) December 20, 2017. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial No-Derivatives License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work ("first published in the Journal of the Georgia Public Health Association...") is properly cited with original URL and bibliographic citation information. The complete bibliographic information, a link to the original publication on <http://www.gapha.jgpha.org/>, as well as this copyright and license information must be included.