



MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center Latinx – HIV Case Finding and Prevention

CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care. For those with specific risk factors, CDC recommends getting tested at least once a year



Latinx Population and HIV Risk

- Latinx persons account for 27% of new HIV diagnoses
- Men who have sex with men comprise the majority of new infections in the Latinx community
- 1 in 6 people who are HIV-positive are unaware of their status
- Foreign-born persons are more likely to receive a late HIV diagnosis

HIV Testing

- HIV testing with linkages to prevention and treatment is key
- Reassure that HIV testing is voluntary and confidential
- Offer testing in a safe, private setting
- Offer professional translators as needed. Avoid using family members
- If a patient declines testing, testing should be offered at next encounter, visit, or session
- Patients currently engaging in risky behavior, actively using substances or identify as LGBTQ should be offered repeat testing
- Latinx heterosexual women may also be at risk and should be offered HIV testing
- Provide risk reduction, preferably in patient's native language
- Offer screening for STIs, Hepatitis B and C
- Screen for substance use/misuse, and psychiatric symptoms
- If the patient is HIV negative, offer pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Offer linkages to support services for patient and their family

Barriers/Issues Impacting Engagement

- Language barriers and education levels may limit uptake of information about HIV prevention and treatment
- Consider that a generational gap in HIV knowledge may exist between foreign-born and native-born to the US

- Cultural beliefs surrounding sexuality, sexual behaviors, substance use could impede discussion about HIV testing, diagnosis, and treatment
- HIV-related stigma can be pronounced in the Latinx community and serve as a barrier to HIV testing and linkage to care
- Lack of access to medical care due to family duties, transportation and income gaps serve as barriers to HIV care
- Lack of health insurance, and mistrust in the healthcare system impedes willingness to seek HIV testing

Interventions to Decrease Barriers Impacting Engagement

Messaging that HIV:

- Is preventable with behavior change and PrEP
- Is treatable with the use of antiretroviral therapy
- Can reduce transmission to others
- Can the community spread
- Untreated HIV can lead to cardiovascular and metabolic disorders (diabetes)

Interactions with Patients:

- Use interpreters to assure comprehension of information
- Use patient navigators familiar with Latinx health beliefs, practices, and services available in the community
- If available, engage Spanish speaking providers
- Be sensitive to cultural beliefs regarding health/illness, medications, pain, consent, privacy, self-care, food, etc.
- Address subjects in a nonjudgmental, caring manner
- Meet the patient where they are and when ready to discuss
- Establish rapport to ensure comfort and ease

MODELO DE TEXTO PARA TOMAR UNA HISTORIA DE SALUD SEXUAL

- Buenos días. Mi nombre es _____ y soy (profesión/función) . Puede llamarme _____.
- ¿Cómo prefiere usted que le llame?
- Antes de empezar, ¿hay algo que le preocupe en relación a su salud? Quiero asegurarme de que podamos hablar de esto hoy.
- Las siguientes preguntas son para evaluar los riesgos para su salud sexual. Les hago estas mismas preguntas a todos mis pacientes. ¿Le parece bien que le haga estas preguntas?
 - ¿Cuándo fue la última vez que tuvo relaciones sexuales?
 - ¿Tiene más de una pareja sexual? ¿Cuántas parejas tuvo en la última semana?
¿Y en el último mes?
 - ¿Me podría decir el género de las personas con las que tiene relaciones sexuales?
 - ¿Qué tipos de contacto sexual tiene? (genital, anal, oral, o todos)
 - ¿Toma drogas o alcohol antes o durante las relaciones sexuales?
 - ¿Con qué frecuencia usa condones?
 - ¿Se ha hecho alguna prueba para detectar infecciones de transmisión sexual?
 - ¿Tuvo alguna enfermedad de transmisión sexual en el pasado?
 - ¿Alguna vez tuvo relaciones sexuales a cambio de dinero, alojamiento, comida, ropa, drogas o algún otro regalo?
- ¿Le puedo ayudar refiriéndole a otros servicios médicos que necesite?
- ¿Qué tipo de recursos de apoyo le puedo ayudar a conseguir?

(Translation courtesy of Prof. Mari Felix Cubas Mora)

Translation Services

- Medical Translation and Interpreting Service: 1-800-695-8772
- Pittsburgh Translation Services for documents: (240)-523-3595

SAMPLE SEXUAL HEALTH HISTORY TAKING SCRIPT

- Good morning, my name is _____ and I am a (discipline). You can call me _____.
- How would you like to be addressed?
- Before we begin, are there any issues that are of concern for your health, so I make sure we talk about them?
- The following are questions to assess your sexual health risks, I ask these questions to all my patients. Is it okay to go ahead and ask you these questions?
 - When was the last time you had sex?
 - Do you have more than one sex partner? How many in the past week? Past month?
 - Can you share the gender of the people with whom you are having sex?
 - What kind of sex are you having? (genital, anal, oral, or all)
 - Do you use drugs or alcohol before or during sex?
 - How often do you use condoms?
 - Have you been tested for STIs?
 - Have you had an STI in the past?
 - Have you ever had sex in exchange for money, housing, food, clothing, drugs or other gifts?
- Can I assist in making referrals for other clinical services?
- What kind of support resources can I help you obtain?

MIDATLANTIC AIDS EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER
University of Pittsburgh, School of Public Health
www.maaetc.org
HRSA, HIV/AIDS Bureau, Office of Program Support
Grant No. U10HA29295
Last Modified: March 2022

References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021, August 5). HIV surveillance. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved December 14, 2021, from <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/hiv-surveillance.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021, October 13). Prevention challenges. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved December 14, 2021, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/racialetnic/hispanic-latino/prevention-challenges.html>
- Daniel-Ulloa, J., Ulibarri, M., Baquero, B. et al. Behavioral HIV Prevention Interventions Among Latinas in the US: A Systematic Review of the Evidence. *J Immigrant Minority Health* 18, 1498–1521 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-015-0283-0>
- Pérez A, Santamaría EK, Operario D. A Systematic Review of Behavioral Interventions to Reduce Condomless Sex and Increase HIV Testing for Latino MSM. *J Immigrant Minor Health*. 2018;20(5):1261-1276. doi:10.1007/s10903-017-0682-5
- Sheehan, D. M., Trepka, M. J., & Dillon, F. R. (2015). Latinos in the United States on the HIV/AIDS care continuum by birth country/region: a systematic review of the literature. *International journal of STD & AIDS*, 26(1), 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0956462414532242>