Mpox Testing Among Men Who Have Sex With Men Who Reported Recent HIV or STI Testing

950

Yasmin P. Ogale[1], Alison D. Ridpath[1], Travis Sanchez[2], Marissa Hannah[2], Kevin P. Delaney[1], Stefan Baral[3], Patrick S. Sullivan[2], Thomas Carpino[3], Kaitlyn Atkins[3], Eboni Galloway[1], Bruce (Bryce) Furness[1], Laura H. Bachmann[1], Winston Abara[1]

[1]Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, USA, [2]Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA, [3]Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, USA

BACKGROUND

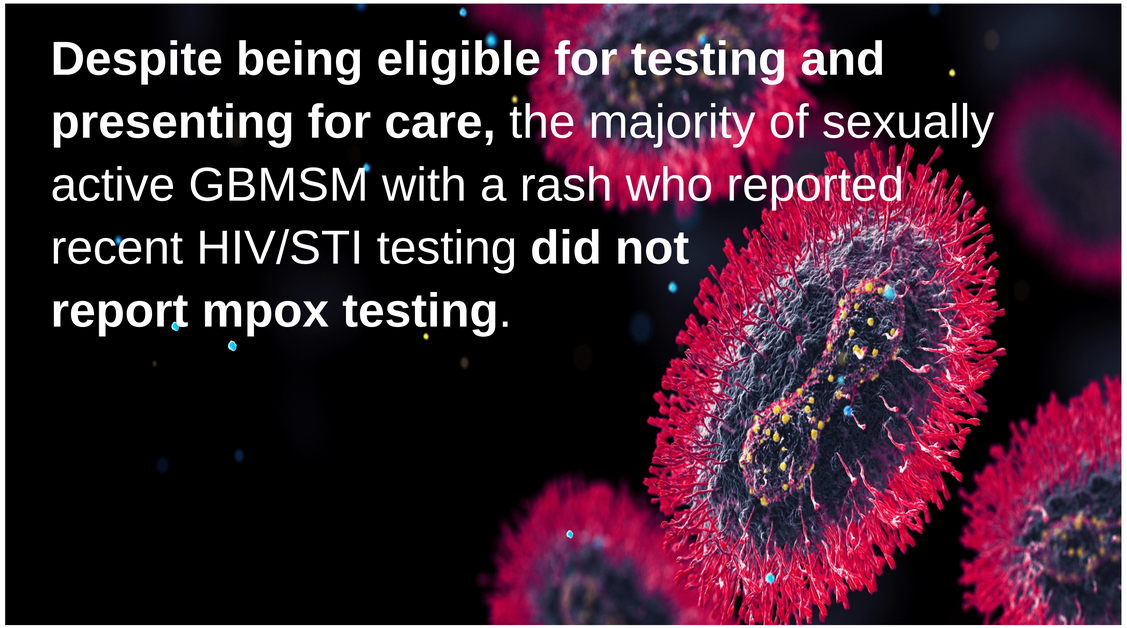
- In the 2022 multinational outbreak, mpox is mostly spread through close or intimate contact
- Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) are disproportionately affected
- Integrating mpox testing with HIV/STI testing when clinically indicated might be an opportunity to increase case finding
- We describe HIV/STI and mpox testing among an online sample of sexually active GBMSM in the United States, including prevalence and access and barriers to testing

METHODS

- We analyzed data administered 8/5/2022–8/15/2022 from the **American Men's Internet Survey (AMIS)—Mpox Survey** (N=842)
- We calculated the prevalence of **no mpox testing** among:
  - GBMSM who reported **HIV or STI testing** in the past 3 months and who reported **any unexplained rash** in the past 3 months
- We described factors associated with **not being tested** for mpox and reported **barriers to testing**

Figure 1. Nine out of ten GBMSM who reported recent HIV/STI testing and rash, reported no mpox testing





Tables 1–3. Sample characteristics (n=52)

	Total (n=52)	Mpox Testing: No (n=47)	Mpox Testing: Yes (n=5)
HIV test in past 3 months			
No	10 (19%)	9 (19%)	1 (20%)
Yes	42 (81%)	38 (81%)	4 (80%)
Any STI test in past 3 months			
No	5 (10%)	4 (9%)	1 (20%)
Yes	47 (90%)	43 (91%)	4 (80%)
Age			
15-24	5 (10%)	4 (9%)	1 (20%)
25-29	6 (12%)	5 (11%)	1 (20%)
30-39	14 (27%)	13 (28%)	1 (20%)
40+	27 (52%)	25 (53%)	2 (40%)

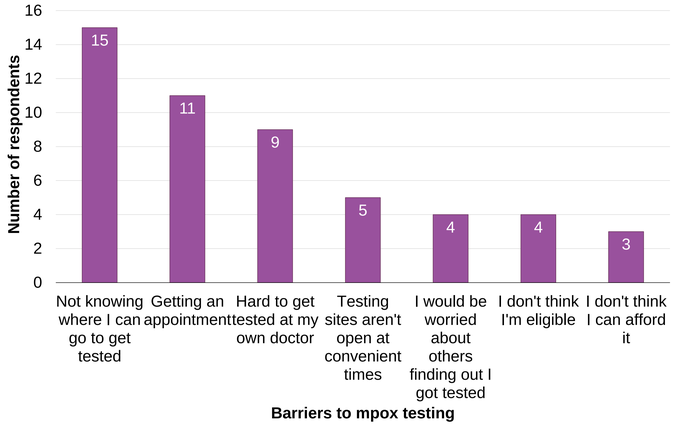
	Total	Mpox Testing: No (n=47)	Mpox Testing: Yes (n=5)
Race/Ethnicity			
NH black	5 (10%)	5 (11%)	0 (0%)
Hispanic	3 (6%)	2 (4%)	1 (20%)
NH white	36 (69%)	32 (68%)	4 (80%)
Other/multi/UNK	8 (15%)	8 (17%)	0 (0%)
Region			
Northeast	9 (17%)	7 (15%)	2 (40%)
Midwest	10 (19%)	9 (19%)	1 (20%)
South	18 (35%)	18 (38%)	0 (0%)
West	15 (29%)	13 (28%)	2 (40%)
HIV status			
Positive	11 (21%)	10 (21%)	1 (20%)
Not positive	41 (79%)	37 (79%)	4 (80%)

	Total	Mpox Testing: No (n=47)	Mpox Testing: Yes (n=5)
Current PrEP use (ppl living w/o HIV only, n=41)			
No	9 (22%)	9 (24%)	0 (0%)
Yes	32 (78%)	28 (76%)	4 (100%)
Number of male sex partners in past 3 months			
1	8 (17%)	8 (19%)	0 (0%)
2+	40 (83%)	35 (81%)	5 (100%)
Any group sex in the past 3 months			
No	30 (58%)	29 (62%)	1 (20%)
Yes	22 (42%)	18 (38%)	4 (80%)
Any condomless anal sex in the past 3 months			
No	13 (25%)	12 (26%)	1 (20%)
Yes	39 (75%)	35 (74%)	4 (80%)
Mpox testing confidence			
High	22 (42%)	22 (47%)	0 (0%)
Low	30 (58%)	25 (53%)	5 (100%)

RESULTS

- Of 52 participants who reported any HIV or STI testing and an unexplained rash in the past 3 months, 47 (90%) reported **no mpox testing** (Figure 1)
- Most who reported no mpox testing were **aged ≥40 years** (53%), from the **South** (38%), and **non-Hispanic White** (68%); many reported **not living with HIV** (79%), **≥2 sex partners** (81%), and condomless **anal sex in the past 3 months** (74%) (Tables 1–3)
- Overall, 53% of GBMSM reporting no mpox testing reported **low confidence** in accessing testing;
  - Barriers to testing included **not knowing where to get tested** (15/19 [79%]), **difficulty getting an appointment** (11/19 [58%]), and **difficulty testing at their doctor's office** (9/19 [47%]) (Figure 2)

Figure 2. Not knowing where to get tested was the biggest barrier to mpox testing (n=19)



CONCLUSIONS

- Nine in ten GBMSM eligible for mpox testing did not report any testing; these individuals represent **missed opportunities** for testing
- Efforts to **integrate mpox within HIV/STI testing** and **reduce testing barriers** are recommended to avoid increasing existing disparities and increase mpox testing and diagnosis, particularly among older GBMSM and GBMSM who engaged in behaviors associated with mpox transmission

ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

Additional info on AMIS available at: https://emoryamis.org/
Additional info on mpox prevention and control available at: https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html

Author contact information:
Yasmin P. Ogale,
kzi3@cdc.gov

www.cdc.gov | Contact CDC at: 1-800-CDC-INFO or www.cdc.gov/info. The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.