

ARE PERSONS LIVING IN RURAL AREAS MORE LIKELY TO BE LATE TESTERS IN NEW MEXICO?



HIV/AIDS Prevention in Rural Communities

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Monica Olkowski

HIV Surveillance Coordinator

New Mexico Department of Health

Outline of Presentation

- ❖ New Mexico
- ❖ Definitions of rural
- ❖ Rural vs. urban HIV/AIDS
- ❖ Late testing
- ❖ Comparison of rural and urban late testers
- ❖ BRFSS

New Mexico

- ❖ 2 Million people
- ❖ 15 Persons per square mile
- ❖ Majority-minority state
- ❖ Border five states
- ❖ Three counties border Mexico
- ❖ Navajo, Apache and 19 Pueblos

HIV/AIDS Surveillance in New Mexico

- ❖ HARS HIV/AIDS Reporting System
- ❖ AIDS reportable in 1981
- ❖ HIV reportable in 1998
- ❖ Active/Passive surveillance system

What is Rural??

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

❖ Santa Fe MSA

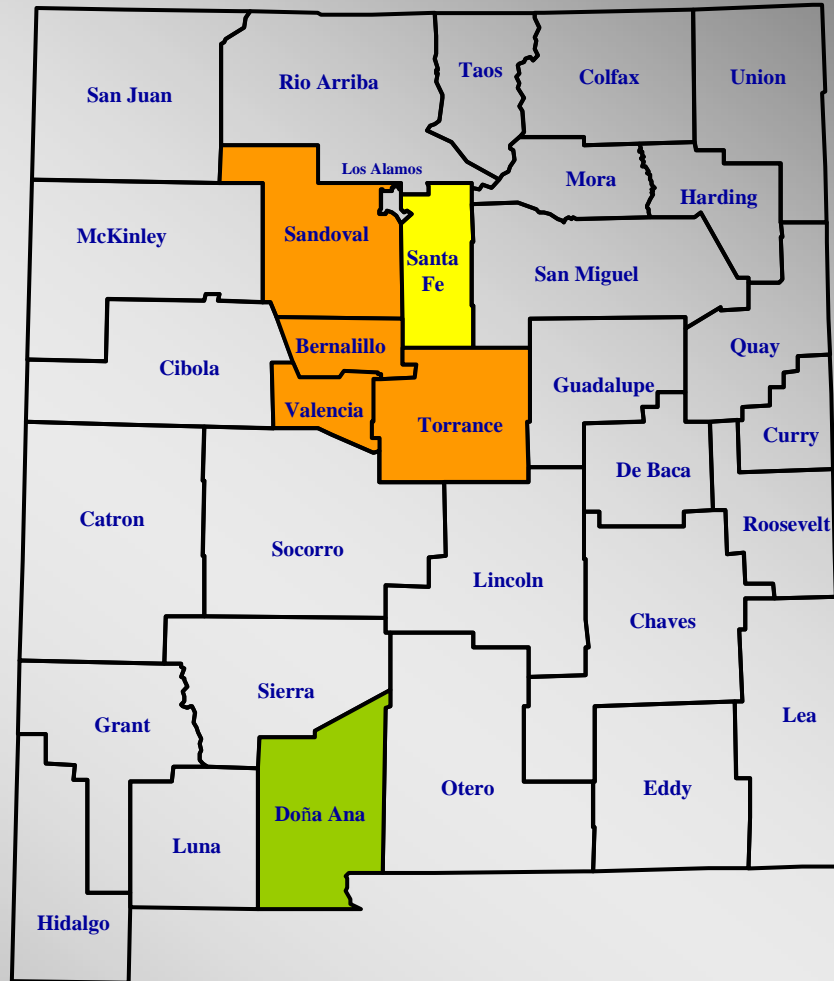
- ❖ Santa Fe ~ 62,000
- ❖ Madrid ~ 150

❖ Albuquerque MSA

- ❖ Albuquerque ~ 500,000
- ❖ Cuba ~ 600

❖ Las Cruces MSA

- ❖ Las Cruces ~ 82,000
- ❖ Hatch ~ 1,600



What is Rural??

❖ US Census definition:

- ❖ Anything outside of an urban area or cluster
- ❖ Fewer than 2500 residents
- ❖ Urban areas include densely settled surrounding areas- **unable to define for individual cases**

❖ New Mexico:

- ❖ 40 Urban 'clusters'
- ❖ 5 Urban 'areas'
- ❖ 25% of persons in NM live outside of an urban area or cluster



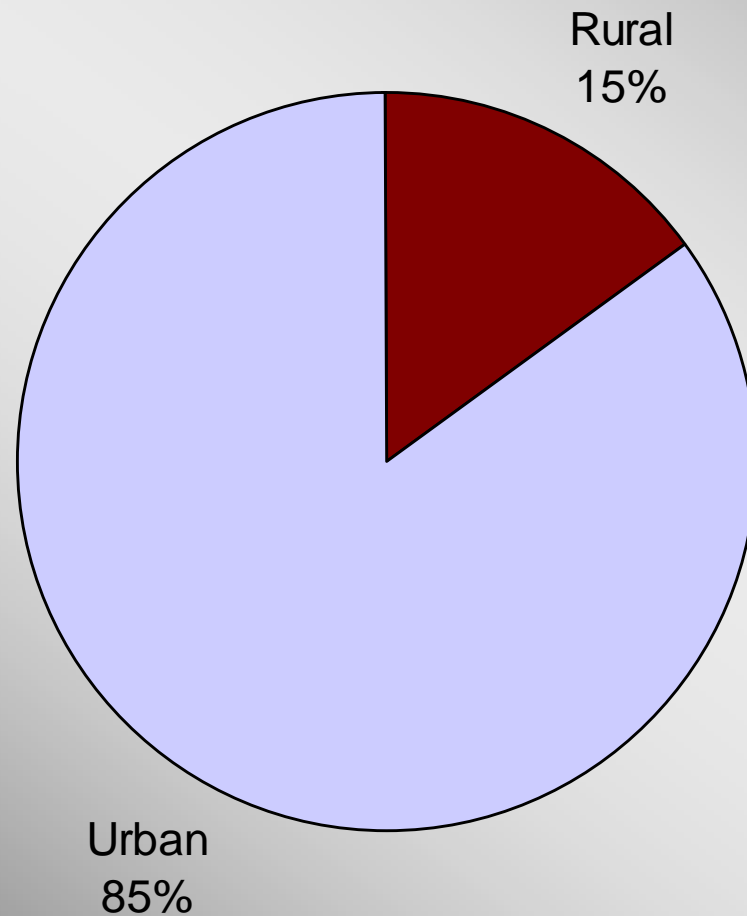
What is Rural?

For the purpose of this analysis, we used...

- ❖ Areas outside of cities and towns *named* as urban areas or clusters

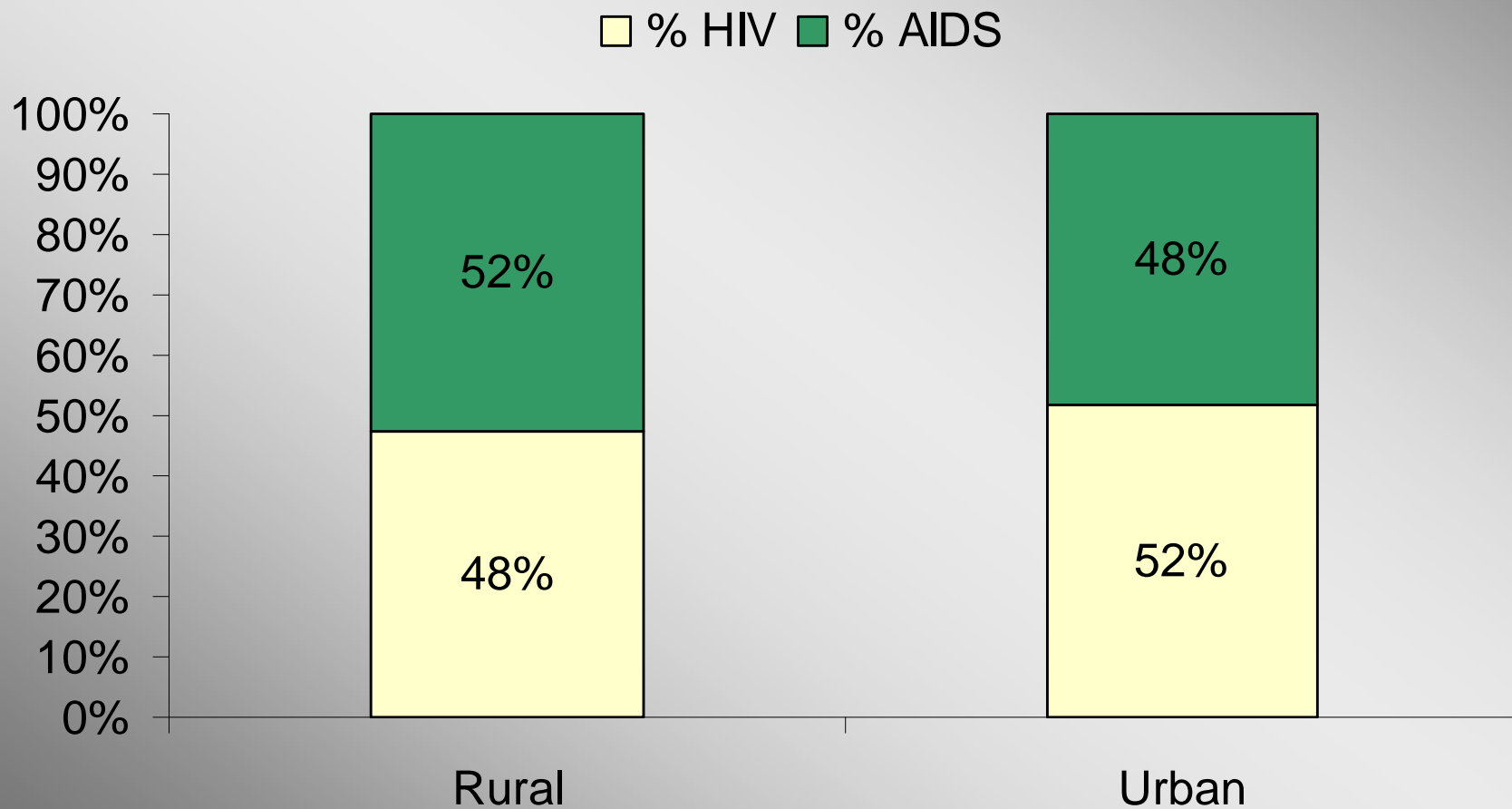
- ❖ Cities/towns < 50,000 persons
 - ❖ Excludes:
 - ❖ Albuquerque
 - ❖ Santa Fe
 - ❖ Rio Rancho
 - ❖ Las Cruces

Rural vs. Urban: HIV/AIDS NM, 1998-2005



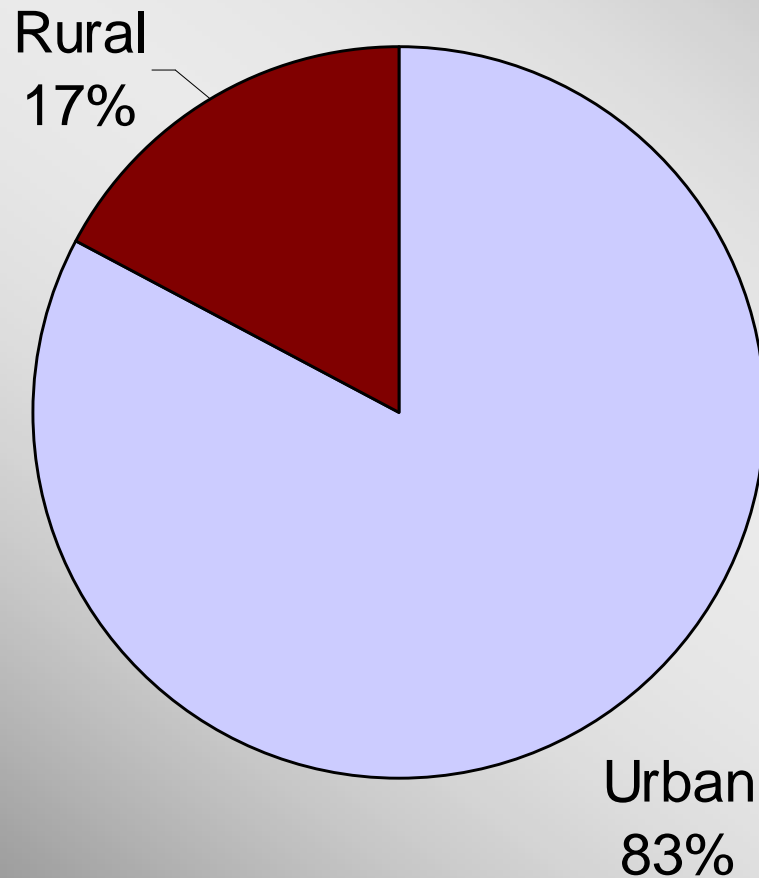
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Rural vs. Urban: HIV vs. AIDS NM, 1998-2005



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Late Testers: Rural vs. Urban NM, 1998-2005



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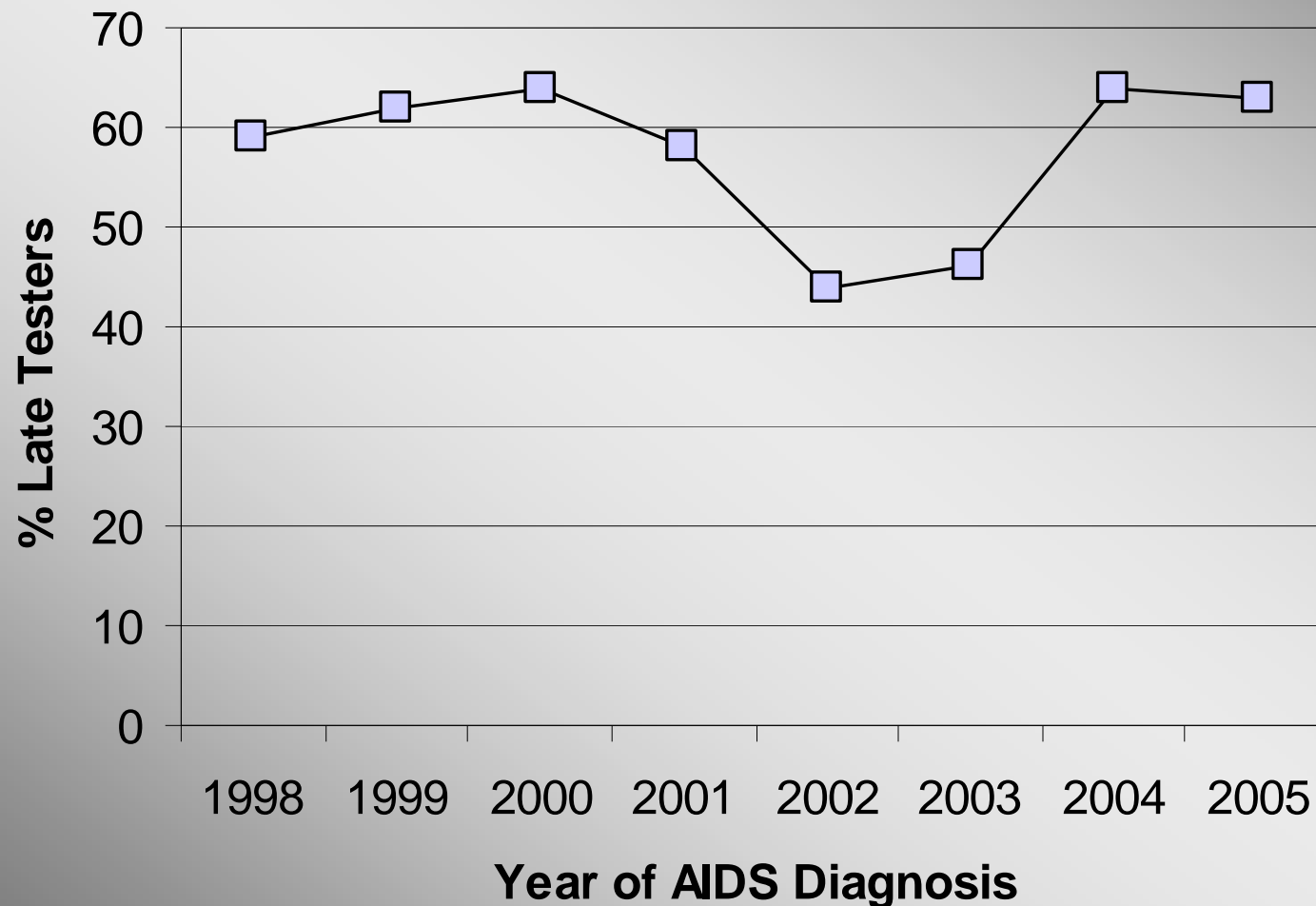
Late Testers

- ❖ Definition: a diagnosis of AIDS within 12 months of initial diagnosis of HIV
 - ❖ Late testing = Concurrent diagnosis
- ❖ Problem:
 - ❖ Early treatment = better prognosis
 - ❖ Increased transmission of disease (unknowingly)

Late Testers in NM

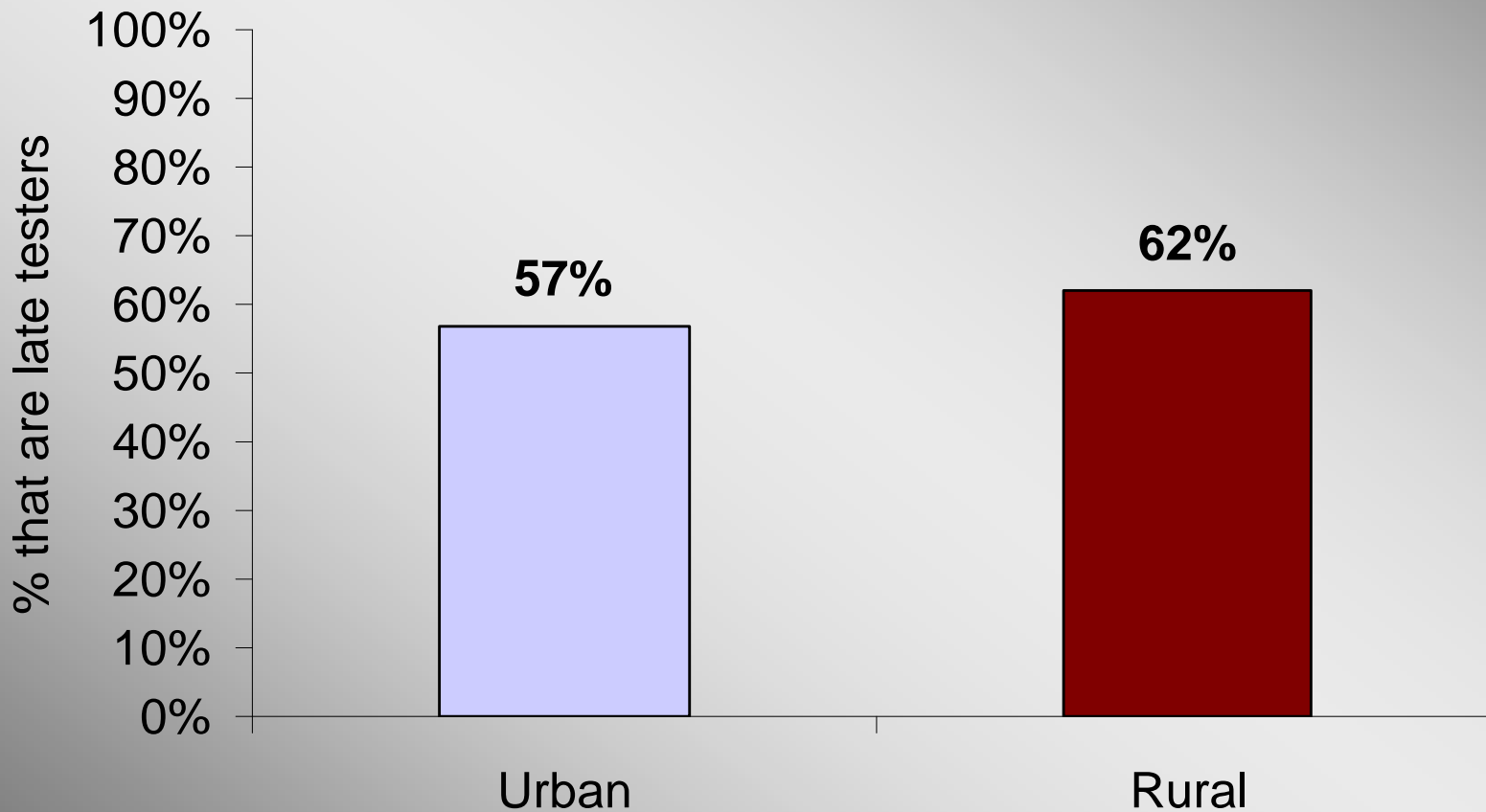
- ❖ 57% of overall cases late testers
 - ❖ (nationally 39% late testers)
- ❖ Late testers most likely to be:
 - ❖ Male (59%)
 - ❖ Hispanic (66%)
 - ❖ Heterosexual (61%)/No Identified Risk (78%)

Year of AIDS Diagnosis for Late Testers NM, 1998-2005



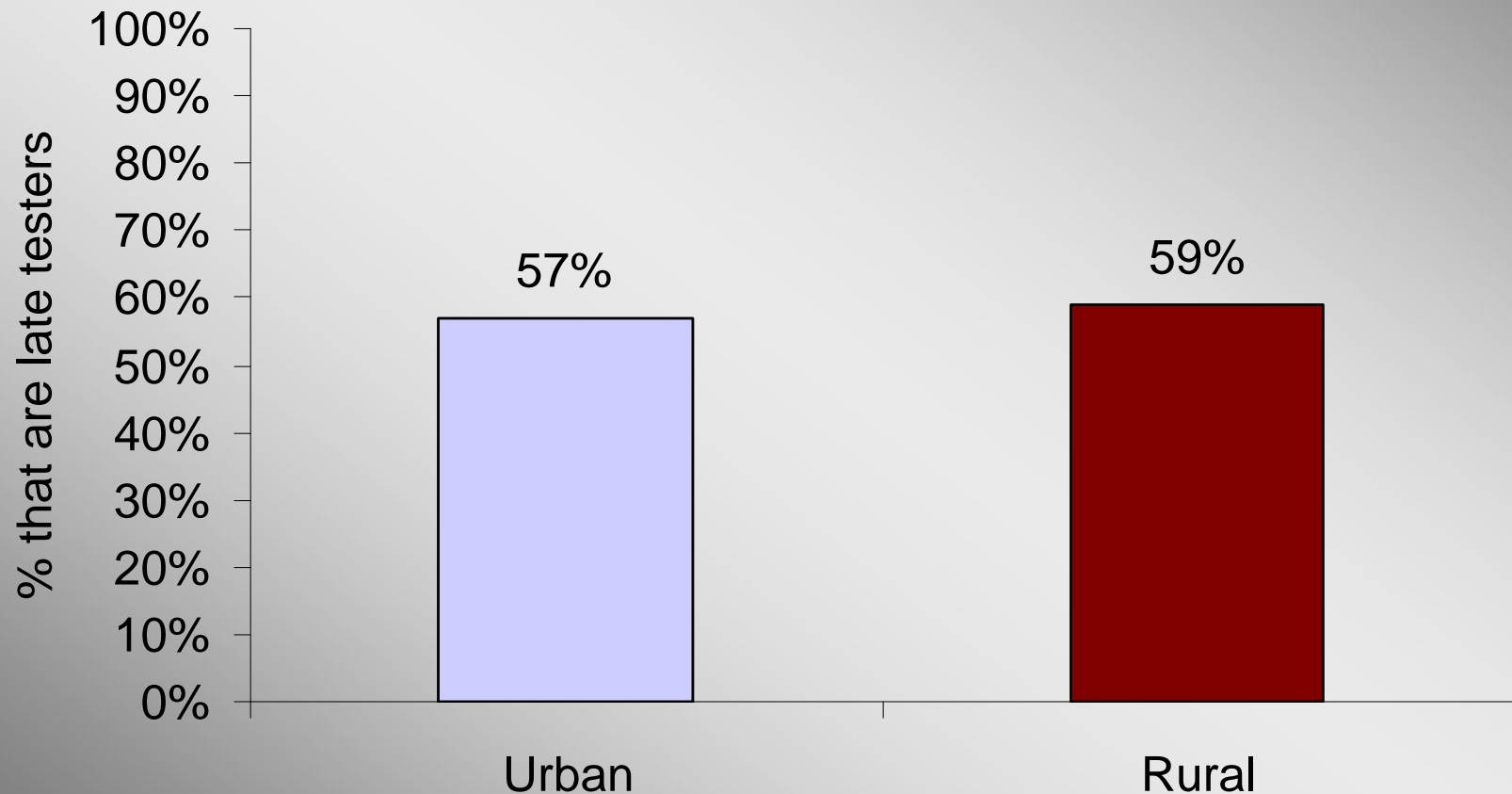
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Late Testers: Rural vs. Urban NM, 1998-2005



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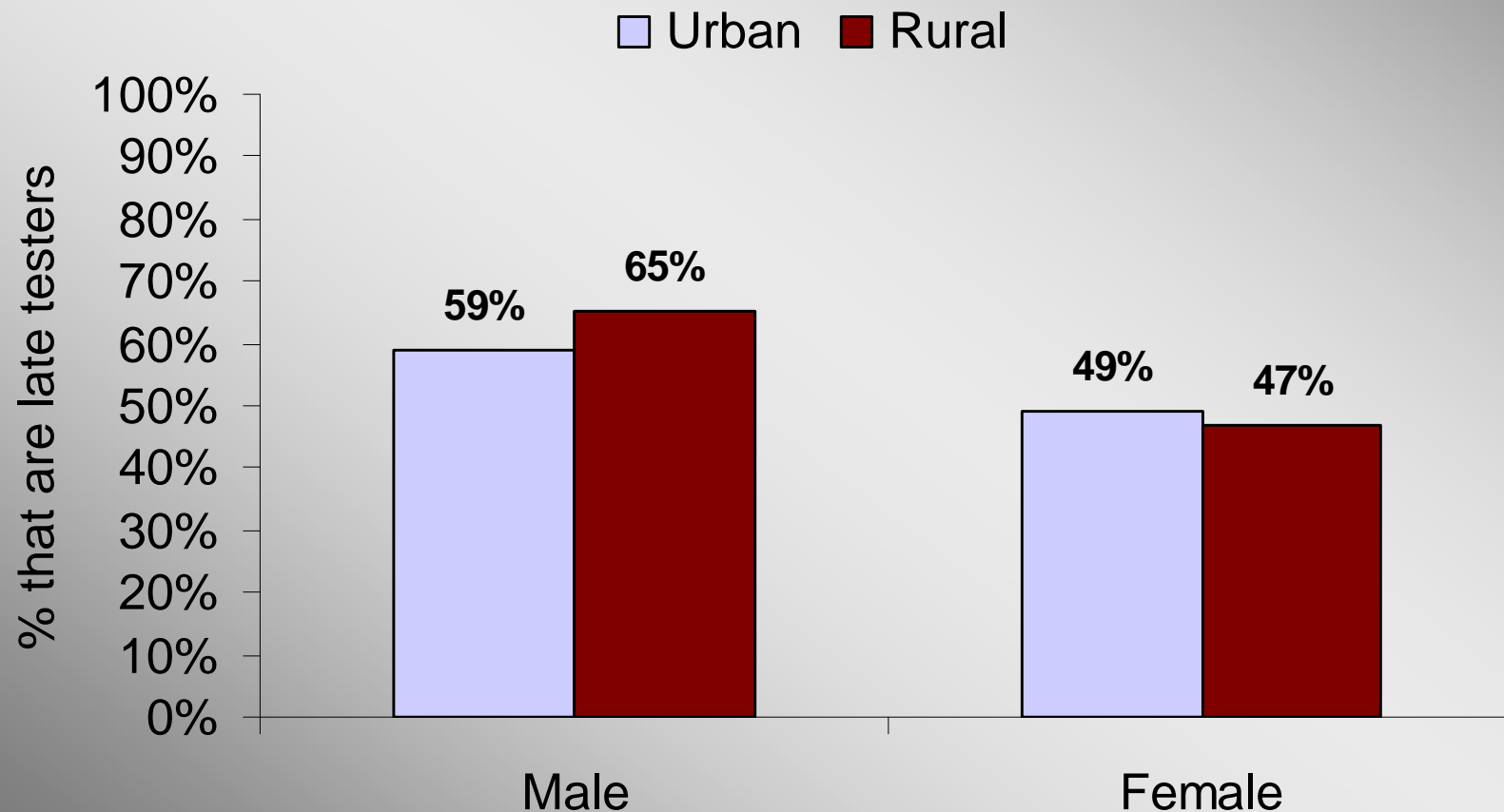
Late Testers: Rural vs. Urban NM, 1998-2005 (rural < 50,000)



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Late Testers by Sex

Rural vs. Urban NM, 1998-2005

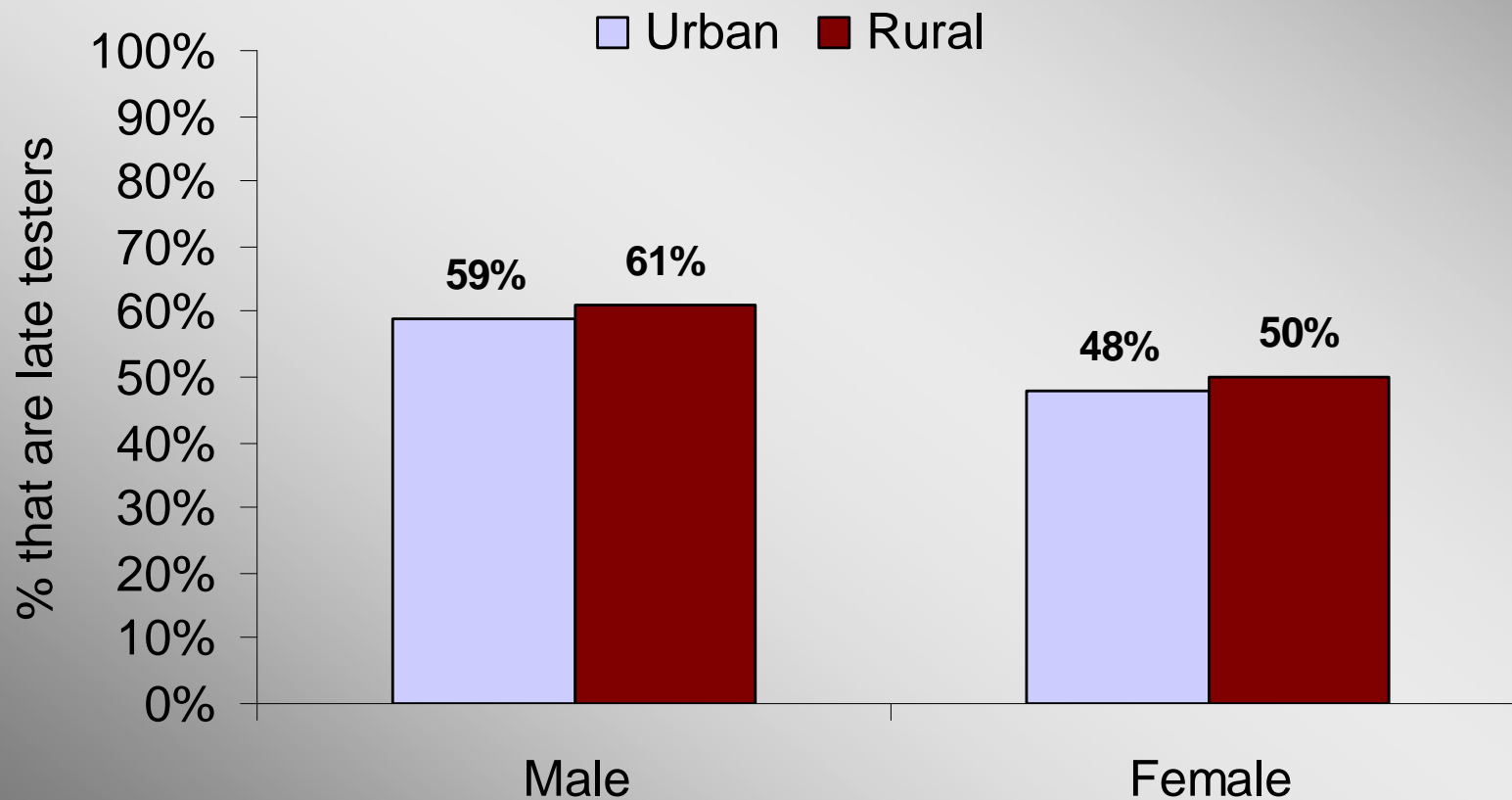


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Late Testers by Sex

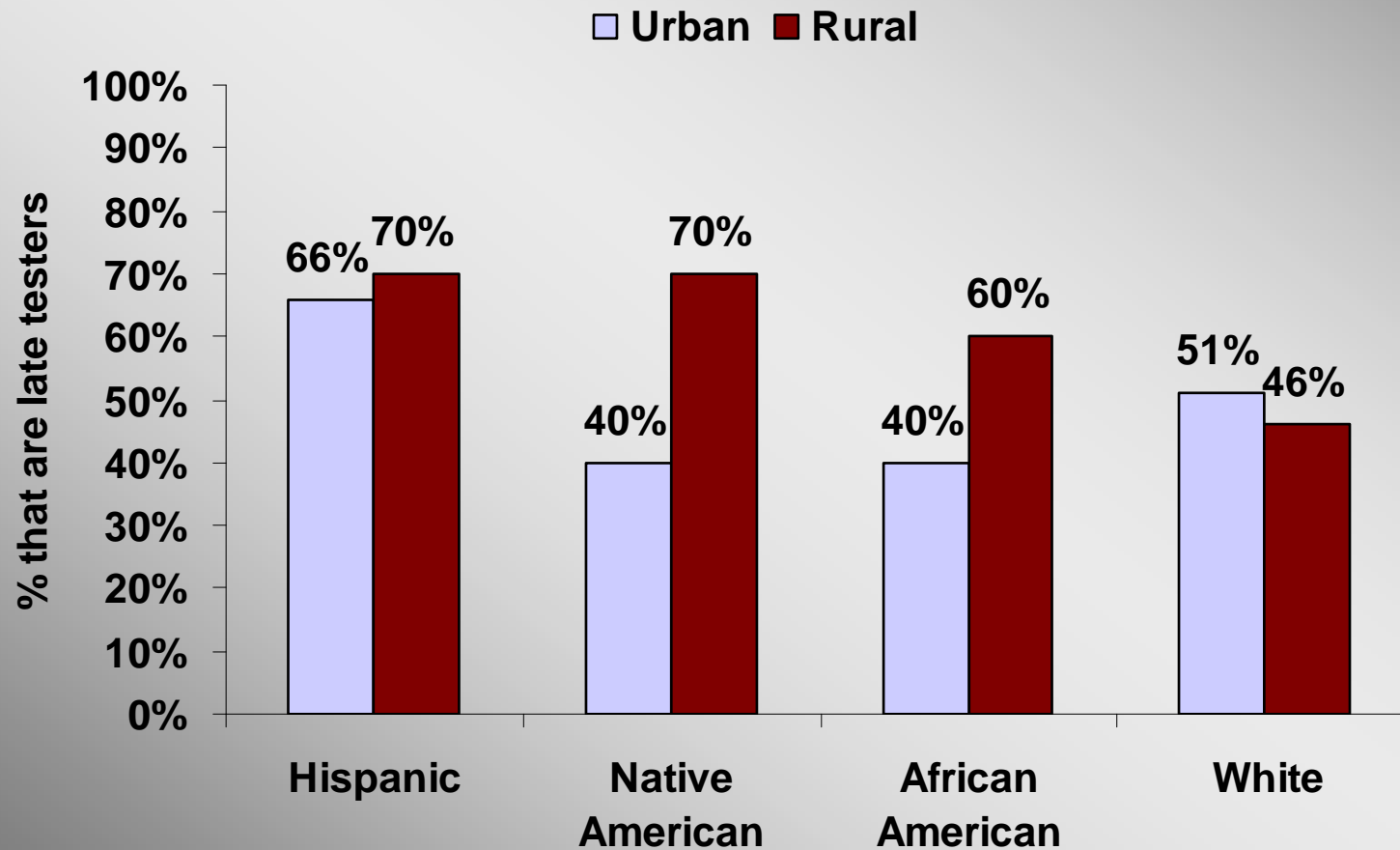
Rural vs. Urban NM, 1998-2005

(rural < 50,000)



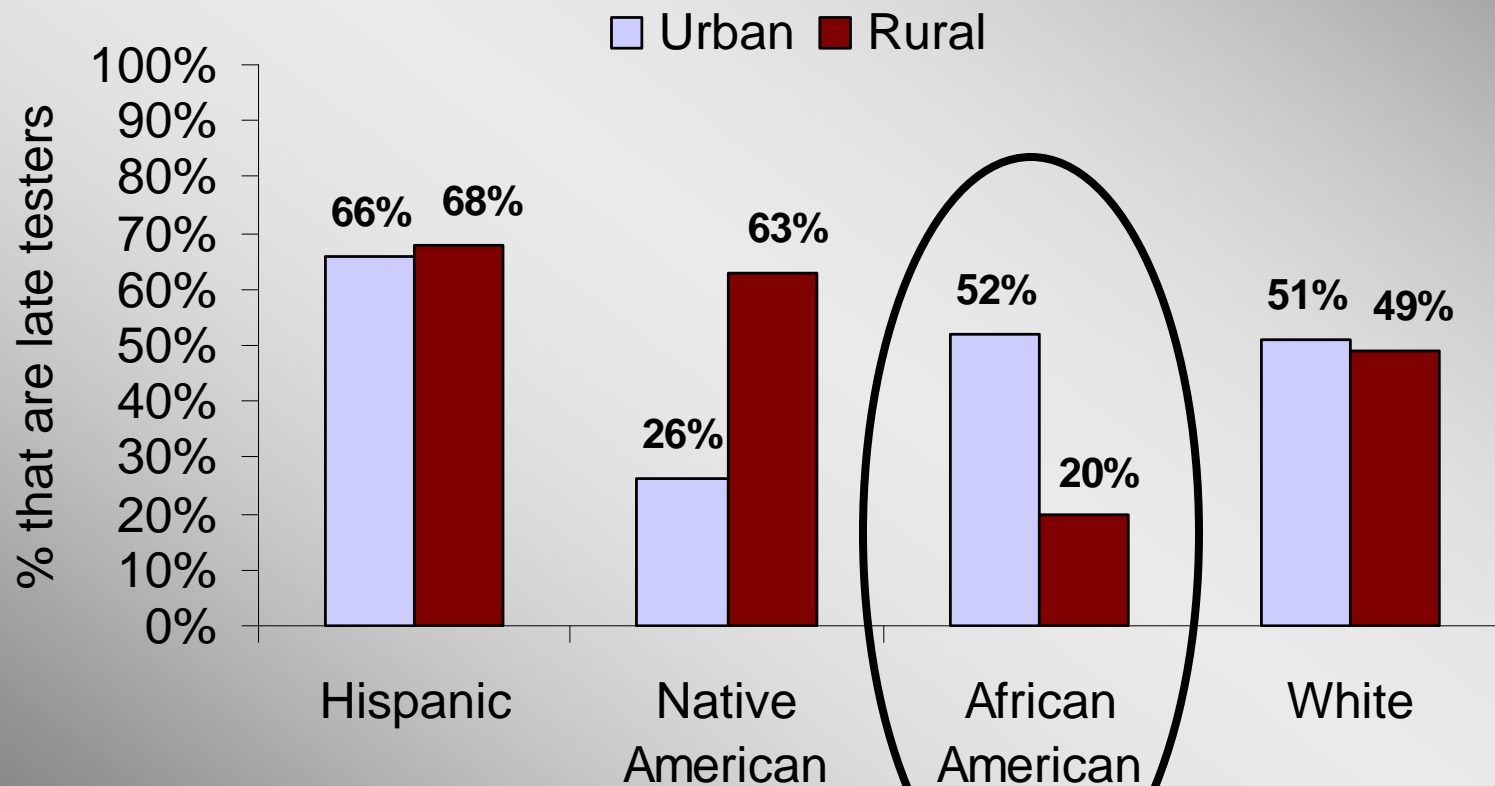
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Late Testers by Race/Ethnicity Rural vs. Urban NM, 1998-2005



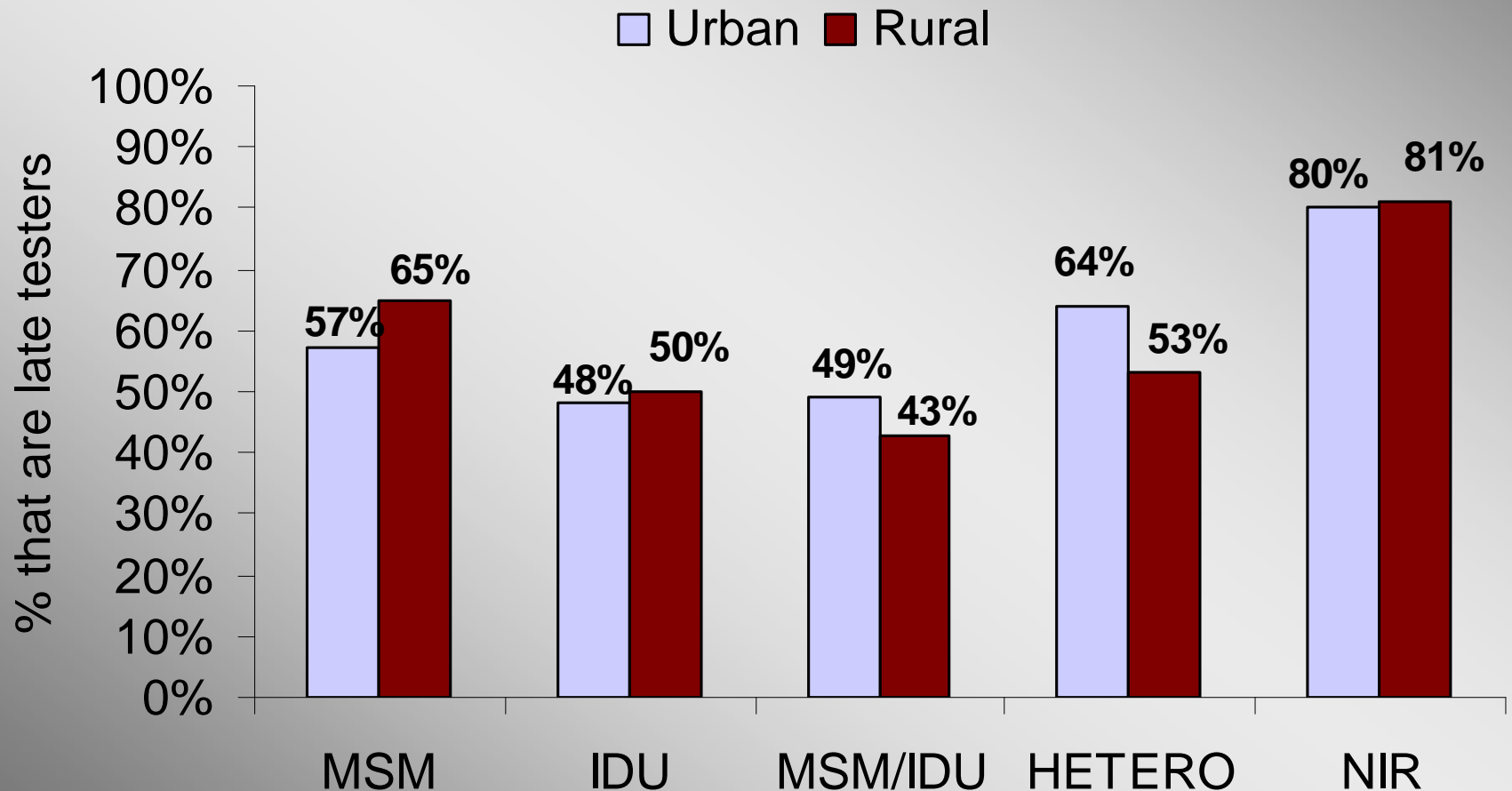
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Late Testers by Race/Ethnicity Rural vs. Urban NM, 1998-2005 (rural < 50,000)



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Late Testers by Transmission Category Rural vs. Urban NM, 1998-2005

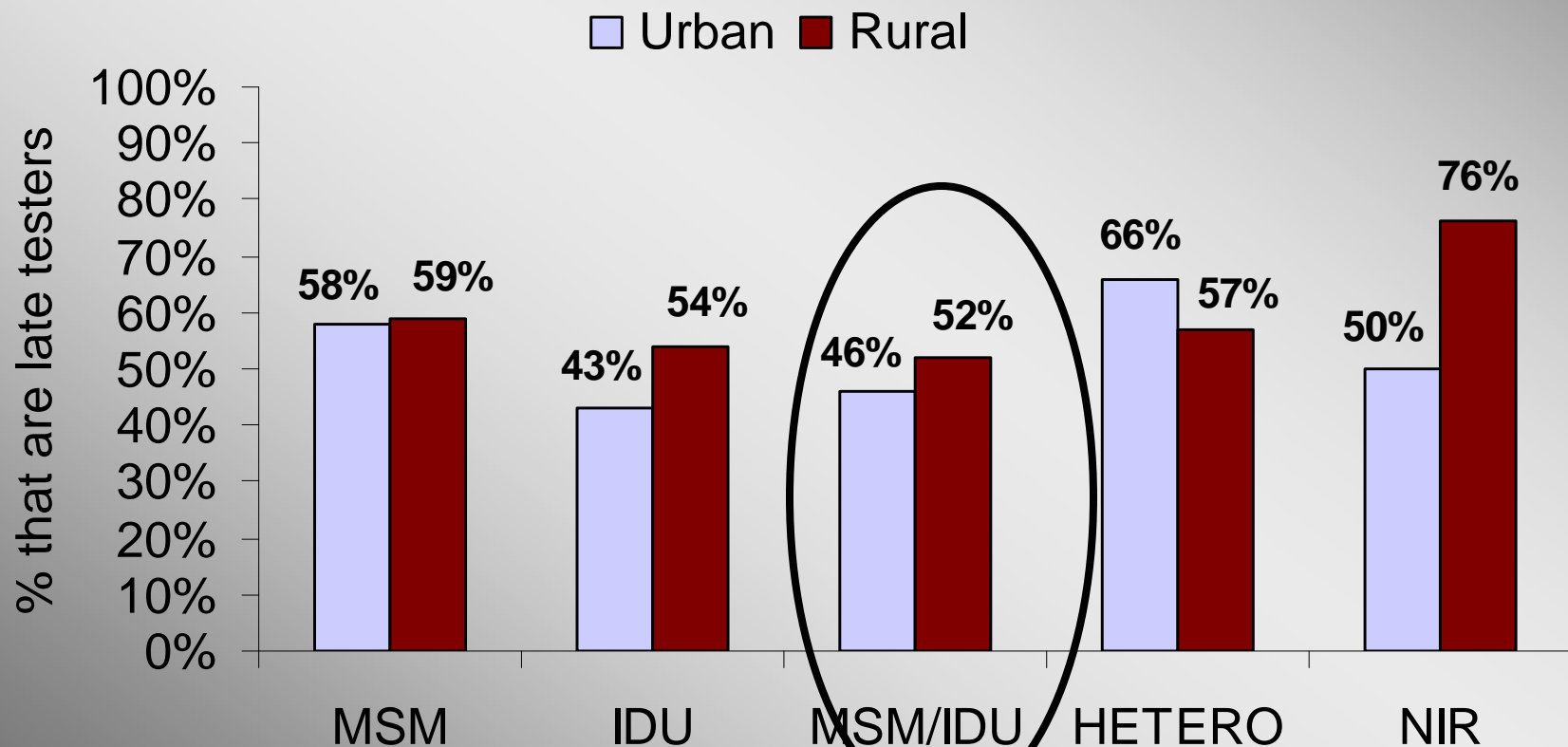


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Late Testers by Transmission Category

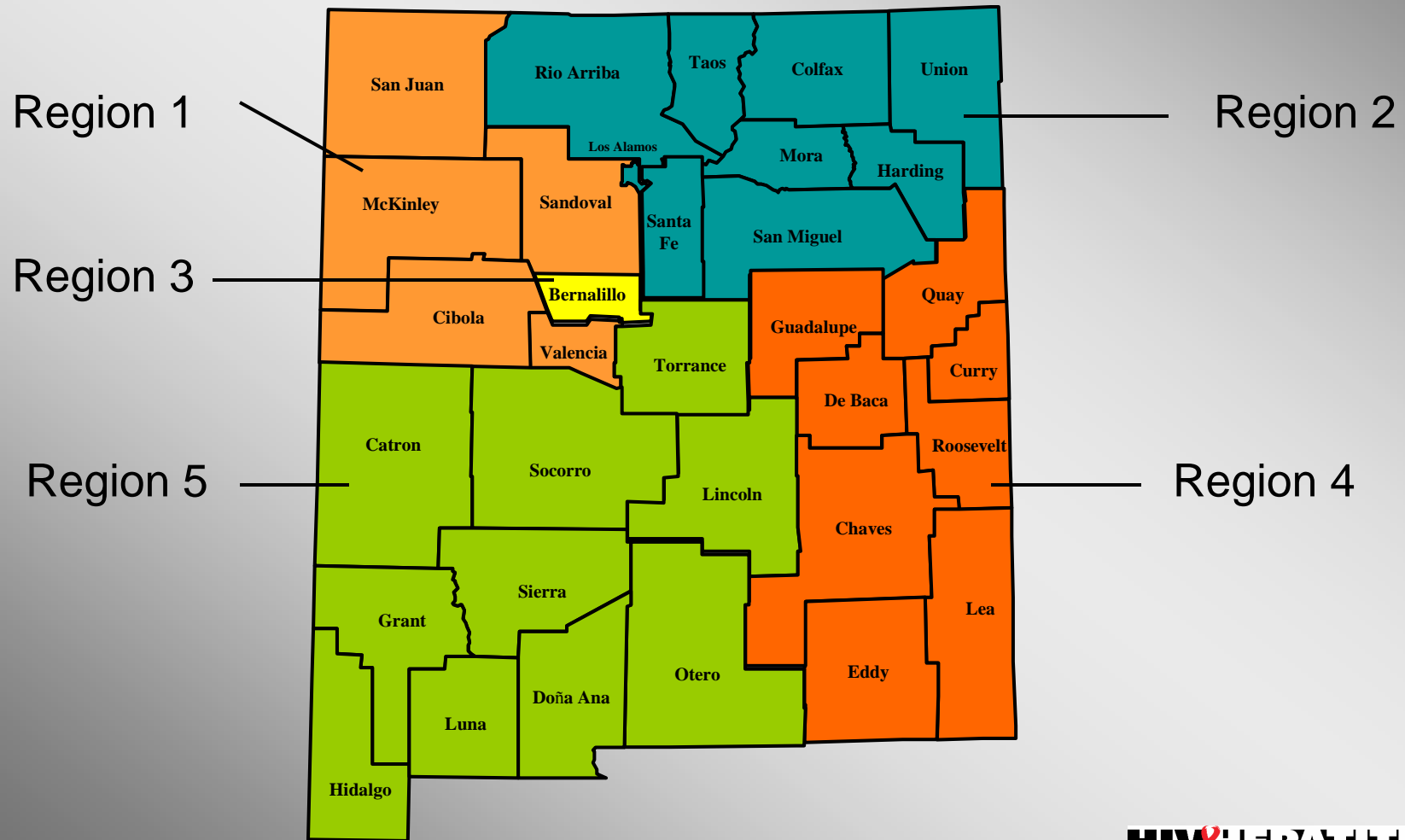
Rural vs. Urban NM, 1998-2005

(rural < 50,000)



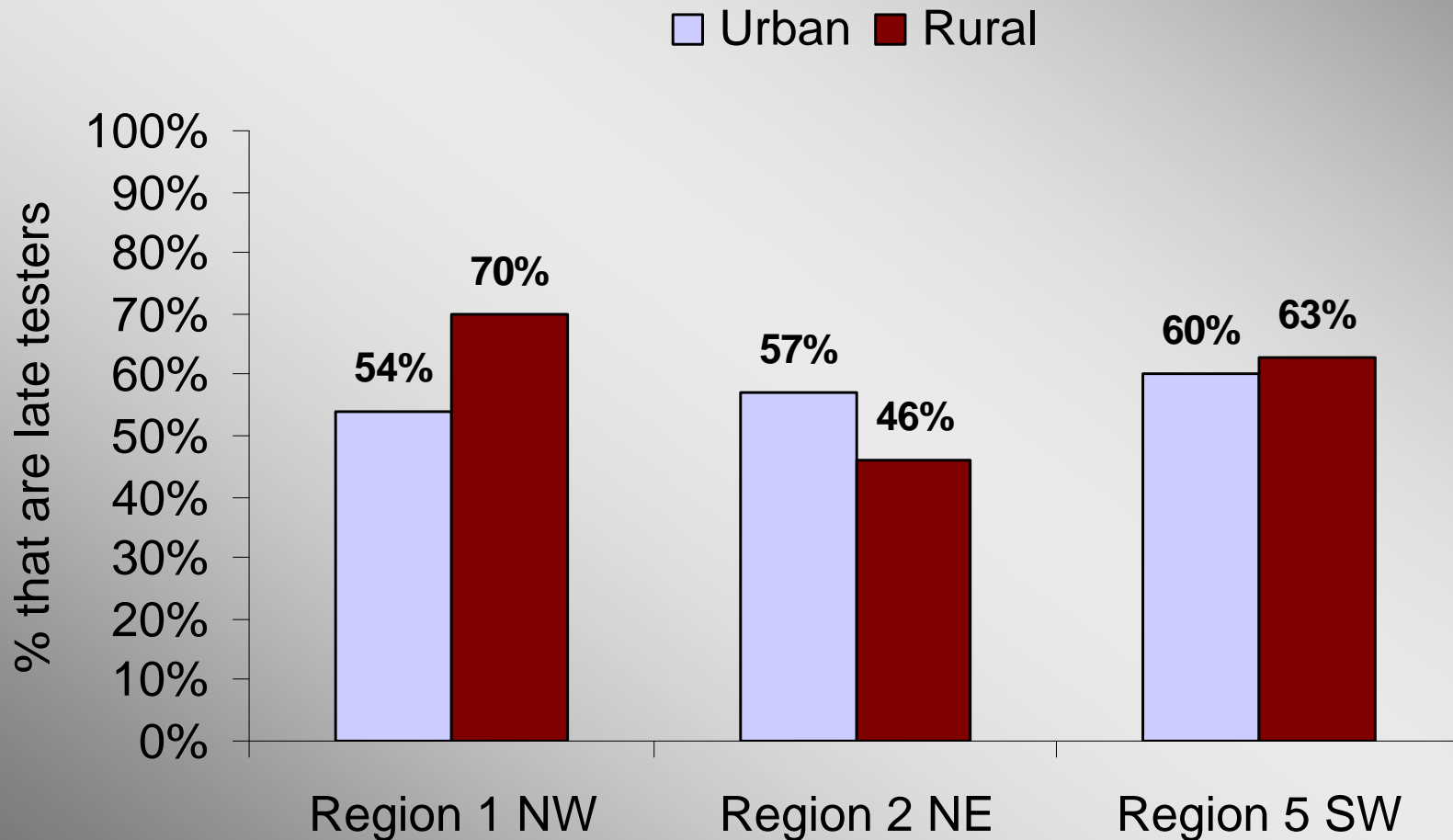
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Public Health Regions in New Mexico



Late Testers by Region

Rural vs. Urban NM, 1998-2005

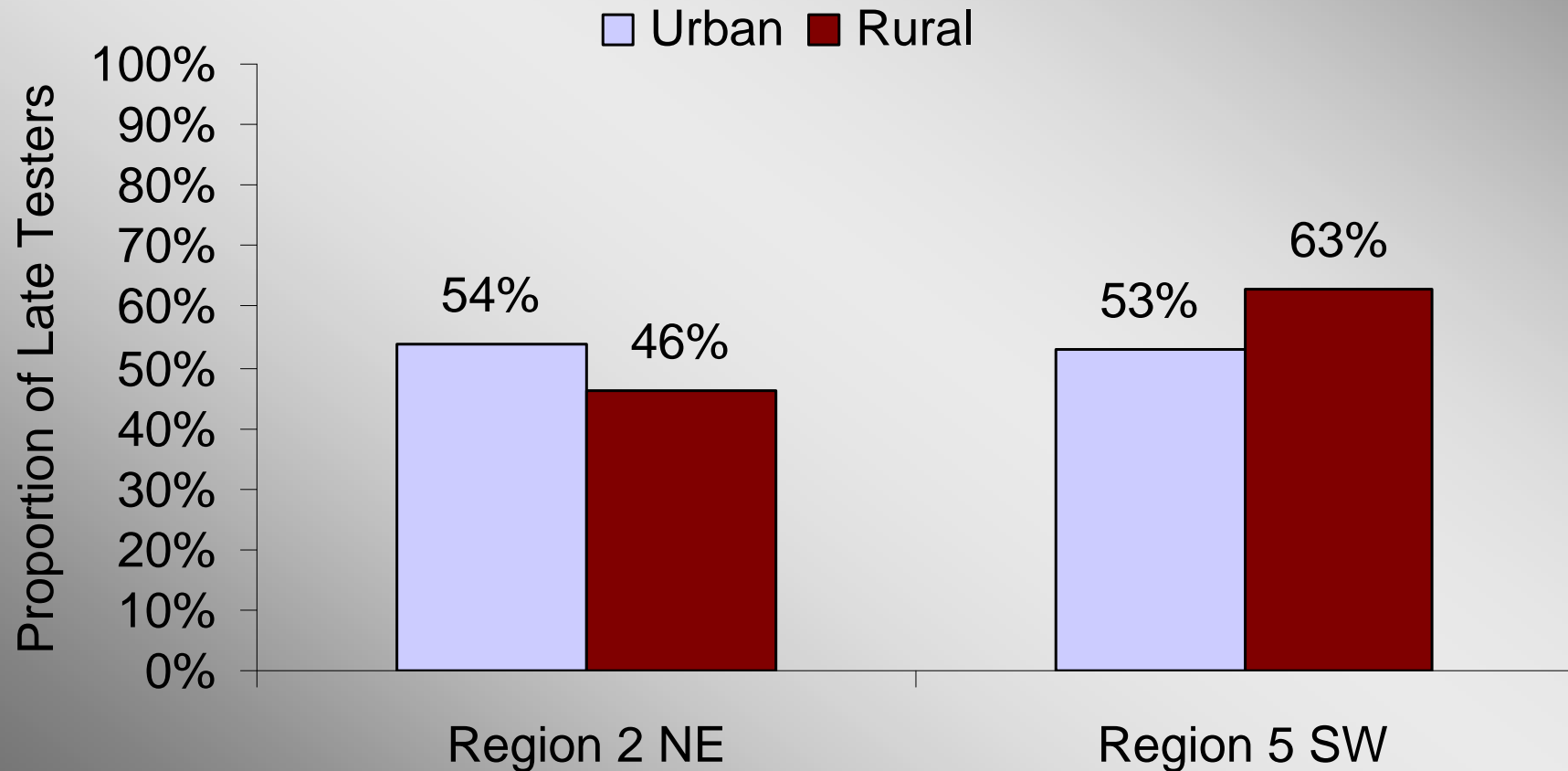


N = 380

Late Testers by Region

Rural vs. Urban NM, 1998-2005

(rural < 50,000)



N = 207

Conclusions

- ❖ Persons in rural areas less likely to be infected with HIV/AIDS
- ❖ Persons in rural areas have a higher proportion of AIDS cases vs. HIV
- ❖ Persons in rural areas have a higher proportion of late testers
- ❖ Are we missing people in rural areas?

Conclusions:

- ❖ Native Americans more likely to test late if living in rural areas
- ❖ Risk- small numbers with IDU & MSM/IDU
 - ❖ MSM/NIR > Proportion of late testers in rural areas
 - ❖ Heterosexual > Proportion of late testers in urban areas
- ❖ What are the issues related to late testing?

BRFSS, 2004

- ❖ Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
- ❖ Telephone survey
- ❖ Included questions on HIV awareness, testing behavior and risk

BRFSS: Persons in Rural or Frontier Areas

- ❖ Less likely to have ever been tested for HIV
- ❖ Less likely to be aware of medical treatment available for HIV

Limitations of Analysis:

- ❖ Definitions of rural
- ❖ Small numbers of cases, especially in rural areas
- ❖ AIDS cases represent older data

Monica Olkowski
HIV Surveillance Coordinator
HIV & Hepatitis Epidemiology Program
New Mexico Department of Health

Monica.Olkowski@state.nm.us

(505) 827-0074