

## About the Gaps

Respondents were asked a series of questions about the number of days or time in which they experienced a particular hardship (e.g. the number of days in the last month the respondent was hungry or unable to get food). The respondents were able to answer "None," "1 to 2," "3 to 4," "5 to 6," or "7 or more." See Table 72 for the complete responses. To aid analysis, each of these items was condensed into a dichotomous variable (i.e. two possible responses, none or 1 or more). In consultation with ISDH staff percentages of respondents expected to fall in the "None" and "1 or more" categories were determined. Table 72 contains the questions and expected percentages.

**Table 74: Expected Percentages for Gap Questions, Indiana 2005**

Question	Expected %	
	None	1 or more
8. How many days in the last month were you hungry and unable to get food?	90	10
9. How many times in the last month did you miss work, school, or a doctor's appointment due to illness?	50	50
10. How many times in the last month did you miss work, school, or a doctor's appointment due to lack of transportation?	80	20
11. How many times in the last year were you prevented from getting your medications due to lack of transportation?	90	10
12. How many times in the last year were you prevented from getting your medications due to lack of insurance?	80	20
13. How many times in the last year were you prevented from getting your medications due to lack of money to pay for the co-payments or deductibles?	80	20
14. How many times in the last year have you been notified of possible eviction from your home or disconnection from your utilities?	50	50
15. How many times in the last year have you had trouble accessing dental care?	50	50
16. How many times in the last year have you had trouble accessing vision care?	50	50
17. How many times in the last year have you had trouble accessing specialty medical care (such as cardiology, endocrinology, or gynecology)?	50	50
18. How many times in the last year have you gone to the Emergency Room?	80	20
19. How many times in the last year have you felt that services were withheld from you due to discrimination against your HIV status?	90	10

The actual responses are summarized in Table 73.

**Table 75: Actual Responses to Gaps Questions in Survey, Indiana 2005**

Question	Number of Respondents (%)				
	None	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 6	7 or more
8. Days hungry	344 (66.2)	85 (16.3)	38 (7.3)	24 (4.6)	29 (5.3)
9. Missed work (illness)	310 (59.6)	116 (22.3)	51 (9.8)	10 (1.9)	33 (6.3)
10. Missed work (transportation)	405 (77.9)	70 (13.5)	28 (5.4)	8 (1.5)	9 (1.7)
11. Unable to take medications (transportation)	444 (85.4)	48 (9.2)	13 (2.5)	4 (.8)	11 (2.1)
12. Unable to take medications (lack of insurance)	411 (79.0)	51 (9.8)	25 (4.8)	9 (1.7)	24 (4.6)
13. Unable to take medications (no money)	360 (69.2)	70 (13.5)	40 (7.7)	16 (3.1)	34 (6.5)
14. Eviction / Utility disconnect	335 (64.4)	98 (18.8)	46 (8.8)	19 (3.7)	22 (4.2)
15. Trouble accessing dental care	293 (56.3)	118 (22.7)	42 (8.1)	13 (2.5)	54 (10.4)
16. Trouble accessing vision care	341 (65.6)	102 (19.6)	32 (6.2)	8 (1.5)	37 (7.1)
17. Trouble accessing specialty medical care	427 (82.1)	52 (10.0)	19 (3.7)	8 (1.5)	14 (2.7)
18. Times in the emergency room	255 (49.0)	161 (31.0)	68 (13.1)	20 (3.8)	16 (3.1)
19. Services withheld because of discrimination	392 (75.4)	88 (16.9)	22 (4.2)	5 (1.0)	13 (2.5)

**Table 76: Comparisons between estimated Answers and given answers, Indiana 2005**

Question	Predicted Percentage "None" / "1 or More"	Frequency (%)		Outcome
		None	1 or more	
8. Days hungry	90 / 10	344 (66.2)	176 (33.8)	Worse
9. Missed work (illness)	50 / 50	310 (59.6)	210 (40.4)	Better
10. Missed work (transportation)	80 / 20	405 (77.9)	115 (22.1)	Same <sup>a</sup>
11. Unable to take medications (transportation)	90 / 10	444 (85.4)	76 (14.6)	Worse
12. Unable to take medications (lack of insurance)	80 / 20	411 (79.0)	109 (21.0)	Same <sup>a</sup>
13. Unable to take medications (no money)	80 / 20	360 (69.2)	160 (30.8)	Worse
14. Eviction / Utility disconnect	50 / 50	335 (64.4)	185 (35.6)	Better
15. Trouble accessing dental care	50 / 50	293 (56.3)	227 (43.7)	Better
16. Trouble accessing vision care	50 / 50	341 (65.6)	179 (34.4)	Better
17. Trouble accessing specialty medical care	50 / 50	427 (82.1)	93 (17.9)	Better
18. Times in the emergency room	80 / 20	255 (49.0)	265 (51.0)	Worse
19. Services withheld because of discrimination	90 / 10	392 (75.4)	128 (24.6)	Worse

<sup>a</sup> Those that are marked "Same" did not reach statistical significance; that is, the probability that the actual value is different than the prediction is higher than standard tolerance (5% error), so it is more likely that the actual value is the same as the predicted values, despite appearing numerically different.

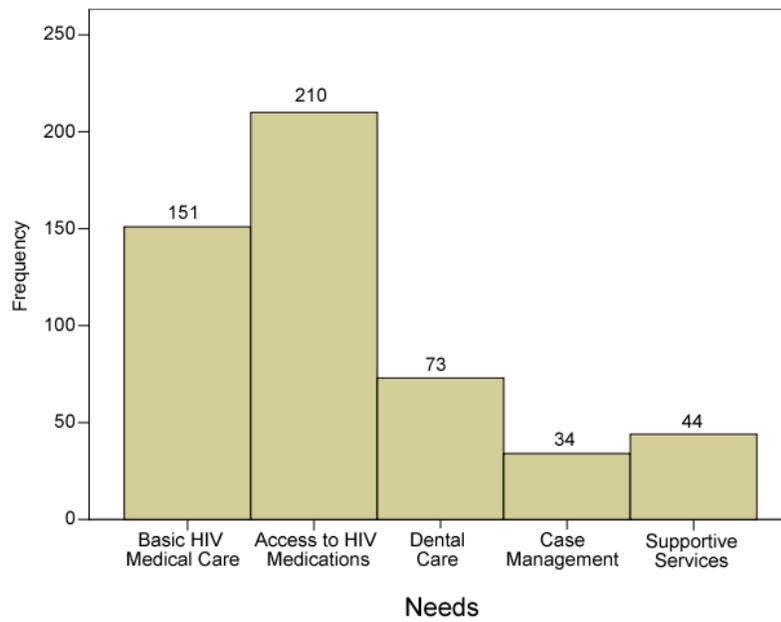
For each question, it was analyzed if the actual percentage breakdown is statistically the same as the predicted percentages in Table 72. In cases where the actual percentages were not statistically the same as the prediction, an assessment was made as to whether the survey responses were "better" or "worse" than expected. As these items are negative events or hardships, a "better" outcome would be one where a higher percentage of respondents than expected indicated that they have never experienced the particular hardship (i.e. those that are in the "None" category). This technique is called a chi-square goodness-of-fit test. This statistical test gives the probability that a data set fits a particular prediction (i.e. the predicted percentages in Table 72). A limitation of this technique is that it relies upon predicted percentages that were suggested by a discussion with ISDH staff, not empirically derived data. Therefore, the outcome is only meant to be judged upon the specific prediction made for the question.

More respondents have experienced hunger or were unable to procure food in the prior month than expected. Fewer people missed work, school, or appointments due to illness than expected and the same amount, as expected, missed work, school, and appointments due to lack of transportation. However, more respondents were prevented from taking medications due to lack of transportation. The same amount of respondents as expected was prevented from taking medications due to lack of insurance. More than expected were prevented from taking medications due to lack of money for co-payments or deductibles. Slightly more than expected never experienced a possible eviction or utility disconnection.

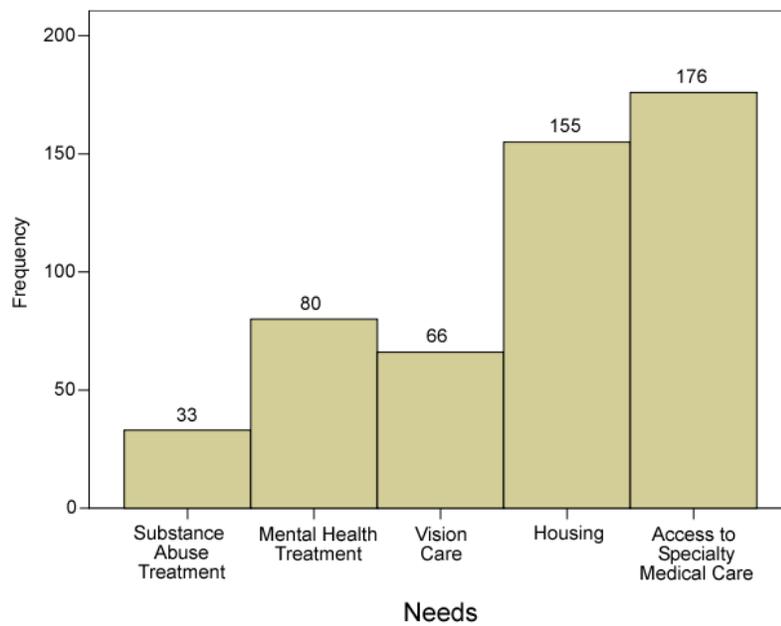
More respondents than expected never experienced trouble accessing dental, vision, and specialty medical care. Specialty medical care, in particular, showed a better result than expected; 82% of respondents did not have difficulty accessing specialty care such as cardiology, endocrinology, or gynecology. More respondents than expected had used an emergency room at least once in the past year. It is unclear whether respondents experienced an actual medical emergency that necessitated going to an ER or going to an ER was due to a lack of other available medical care. Additionally, the question does not capture whether the ER visit was due to HIV or an unrelated cause, such as an accident. Unfortunately, almost 25% of respondents had felt that services were withheld from them because of discrimination against their HIV status. This is much higher than the expected 10%.

Most respondents (437 or 84%) felt that their care coordinators are knowledgeable about services available in their community; 31 (6%) felt that their care coordinator are not knowledgeable about services and 41 (7.1%) had no opinion on the matter. Respondents indicated which of the top five needs ISDH identified for people living with HIV was most important to them. Most respondents indicated that "Access to HIV Medications" and "Basic HIV Medical Care" were most important. See Figure 78 to see the complete breakdown. Respondents also indicated other needs that are important to them; "Access to Specialty Services" and "Housing" were indicated as most important. See Figure 78 to for complete results.

**Figure 78: Most important Needs to Respondents of the Survey, Indiana 2005**



**Figure 79: Other Needs that are important to Respondents, Indiana 2005**



Respondents to the survey had barriers to taking their medications in the form of lack of transportation, insurance, and funds to cover co-payments. This is consistent with more respondents citing "Access to HIV Medications" as their top need than any other. Though respondents cited "Access to Specialty Medical Care" most often as another important need, over 80% of respondents never experienced trouble accessing such care.

Respondents cited dental care as a top need, which is consistent with the almost 44% that had experienced trouble accessing dental services at least once; 10% of respondents had experienced 7 or more instances of trouble accessing dental care. Many of the needs suggested by this survey need to be explored in more depth before general conclusions can be drawn about gaps in Indiana HIV care.