

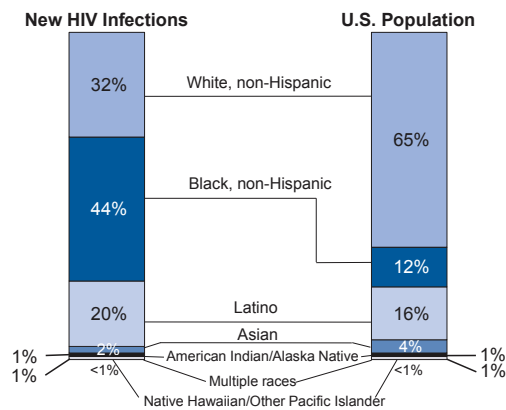
FACT SHEET

Latinos and HIV/AIDS

February 2012

Latinos in the United States continue to be heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS, accounting for higher rates of new HIV infections, AIDS diagnoses, and people living with HIV than their white counterparts.^{1,2,3,4} Moreover, studies have shown that Latinos with HIV/AIDS may face additional barriers to accessing care than whites.^{5,6,7} Today, there are approximately 1.2 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S., including more than 205,000 Latinos.⁴ As the largest and fastest growing ethnic minority group in the U.S., addressing HIV/AIDS in the Latino community takes on increased importance in efforts to improve the nation's health.

Figure 1: New HIV Infections & U.S. Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2009^{2,3,8}



Snapshot of the Epidemic

- Latinos accounted for 20% of new HIV infections in 2009 (Figure 1) and 17% of people living with HIV disease.^{2,3,4} Latinos also accounted for 21% of new AIDS diagnoses in 2009.^{1,9}
- The AIDS diagnosis rate per 100,000 among Latino adults/adolescents was the third highest of any racial/ethnic group in the U.S. in 2009—about 3 times that of whites, but one third that of Blacks (Figure 2).^{1,10} The rate of new HIV infections for Latinos follows a similar pattern.²
- HIV was the 6th leading cause of death for both Latino men and Latinas, ages 25–44, in 2007.¹¹

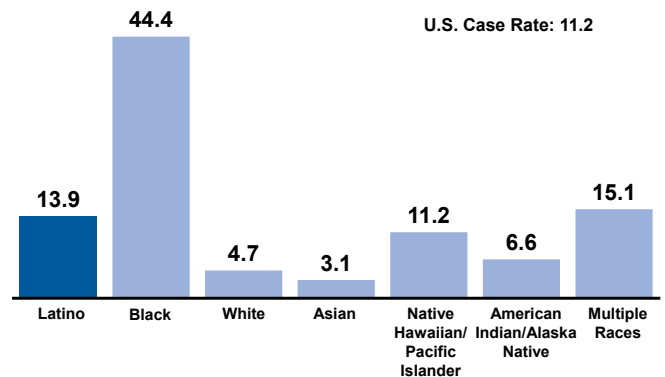
Key Trends and Current Cases

- The number of new infections among Latinos peaked in the late 1980s, has declined since then, and stood at 9,400 in 2009. Throughout the epidemic, the number of new HIV infections among Latinos has been lower than for whites and Blacks.^{2,12}
- Latinos account for a growing share of AIDS diagnoses over the course of the epidemic, rising from 15% in 1985 to 21% in 2009.^{1,13}
- AIDS diagnoses among Latinos decreased between 2006 and 2009; diagnoses also decreased among Blacks and whites.¹
- The number of Latinos living with an AIDS diagnosis has increased over time, in part due to treatment advances but also due to the epidemic's continued impact on Latinos. Estimated AIDS prevalence among Latinos increased by 10% between 2006 and

2008, compared to a 9% increase among Blacks and a 7% increase among whites.¹

- The number of deaths among Latinos with an AIDS diagnosis decreased 6% between 2006 and 2008; deaths among Blacks and whites also decreased.¹

Figure 2: AIDS Diagnosis Rate per 100,000 Population, by Race/Ethnicity, for Adults/Adolescents, 2009^{1,10}



Women and Young People

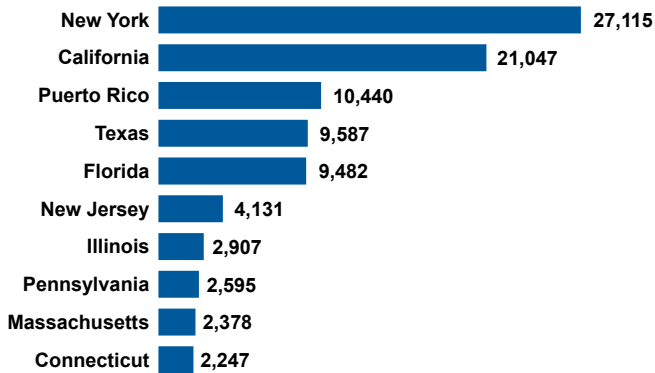
- Among women, Latinas accounted for 18% of new HIV infections and their HIV incidence rate was more than 4 times the rate for white women, but about one third of the rate for Black women, in 2009.²
- In looking at new AIDS diagnoses in 2009 among women, Latinas accounted for 18% of new diagnoses; Black women accounted for 64% and white women accounted for 15%.^{1,9}
- Latinas represented 21% of AIDS diagnoses among all Latinos (men and women combined) in 2009; by comparison, white women represented 14% of diagnoses among whites, and Black women represented 34% of diagnoses among Blacks.¹
- The AIDS diagnosis rate per 100,000 among Latinas (7.9) is 5 times higher than the diagnosis rate for white women (1.5).^{1,10}
- Latino teens, ages 13–19, account for 21% of AIDS diagnoses among teens.¹⁴ Latinos ages 20–24 account for 20% of new AIDS diagnoses reported among young adults, but represent about 15% of U.S. young adults.^{1,14}

Transmission

- HIV transmission patterns among Latino men vary from those of white men. Both groups are most likely to be infected through sex with other men. Heterosexual transmission accounts for a greater share of new infections among Latino men than white men.^{1,2,15}
- Latinas are somewhat more likely to have been infected through heterosexual transmission than white women, although this is the most common transmission route for both groups and for women overall. White women are somewhat more likely to have been infected through injection drug use than Latinas.^{1,2}
- Studies have found high HIV/AIDS prevalence among Latino gay and bisexual men.¹⁶ A study in 5 major U.S. cities found that 17%

of Latino gay and bisexual men in the study were infected with HIV. Prevalence among white gay and bisexual men was 21% and 46% among Black gay and bisexual men, the highest of any group.¹⁷ Knowledge of HIV status among those already infected is also very low.¹⁶ In addition, newly infected Latino gay and bisexual men are younger than their white counterparts, with those ages 13–29 accounting for 45% of new infections among Latino gay and bisexual men in 2009, compared to 28% among whites.²

Figure 3: Number of Latinos Estimated to be Living with an AIDS Diagnosis, Top 10 States/Areas, 2008¹⁸



Geography

Although AIDS diagnoses among Latinos have been reported throughout the country, the impact of the epidemic is not uniformly distributed:

- AIDS diagnosis rates per 100,000 among Latinos are highest in the eastern part of the U.S., particularly in the Northeast.¹⁸
- AIDS prevalence among Latinos is clustered in a handful of states, with 10 states accounting for 88% of Latinos estimated to be living with an AIDS diagnosis in 2008. New York, California, and Puerto Rico top the list (Figure 3). Ten states also account for the majority of new AIDS diagnoses among Latinos (83% in 2009).^{18,19}
- AIDS diagnoses among Latinos vary by place of birth. Latinos born in the U.S. accounted for 37% of estimated AIDS diagnoses among Latinos in 2009, followed by Latinos born in Mexico (18%) and Puerto Rico (14%).^{1,20} HIV transmission patterns among Latinos also vary by place of birth.¹

Access to and Use of the Health Care System

The HIV Cost and Services Utilization Study (HCSUS), the only nationally representative study of people with HIV/AIDS receiving regular or ongoing medical care for HIV infection, found that Latinos fared more poorly on several important measures of access and quality, differences that diminished over time but were not completely eliminated.⁵ In addition, HCSUS found that Latinos were more likely to report postponing medical care due to factors such as lack of transportation.⁶ Latinos were also more likely than whites to delay care after their HIV diagnosis.⁷

Health Insurance

Having health insurance, either public or private, improves access to care. Insurance coverage of those with HIV/AIDS varies by race/ethnicity, as it does for the U.S. population overall.

- The HCSUS study found that Latinos with HIV/AIDS were more likely to be publicly insured or uninsured than their white counterparts, with half relying on Medicaid compared to 32% of whites. Approximately one quarter of Latinos with HIV/AIDS (24%) were uninsured compared to 17% of whites. Latinos were also about half as likely to be privately insured than whites (23% compared to 44%).²¹

- Insurance status also varies at the time of HIV diagnosis. Analysis of data from 25 states between 1994 and 2000 found that Latinos were less likely than whites to have private coverage and more likely to be covered by Medicaid at the time of their HIV diagnosis. A third of Latinos were uninsured at the time of their diagnosis, higher than other groups.²²

HIV Testing

- Among the non-elderly (ages 18–64), Latinos are more likely than whites to report having been tested for HIV in the last 12 months (24% compared to 15%).²³
- Among those who are HIV positive, CDC data indicate that nearly four in 10 Latinos (38%) were tested for HIV late in their illness—that is, diagnosed with AIDS within one year of testing positive (in those states/areas with HIV name reporting); by comparison, 32% of Blacks and whites were tested late.¹

Concern About HIV/AIDS

- A recent survey found that Latinos express concern about HIV/AIDS. While about one in 10 Latinos name it as the most urgent health problem facing the nation, about three in 10 name it as a more urgent problem for their community than it was a few years ago.²³
- Among Latinos, 27% say they are personally very concerned about becoming infected with HIV, a proportion that has declined since the mid-1990's. Latino parents are more concerned about a son or daughter becoming infected with HIV, with four in 10 (41%) reporting they are very concerned.²³

¹ CDC. *HIV Surveillance Report*, Vol. 21; 2011.

² Prejean J et al. "Estimated HIV Incidence in the United States, 2006–2009." *PLoS ONE*, Vol. 6, Issue 8; August 2011.

³ CDC. *Fact Sheet: Estimates of New HIV Infections in the United States, 2006–2009*; August 2011.

⁴ CDC. *MMWR*, Vol. 60, No. 21; 2011.

⁵ Shapiro MF et al. "Variations in the Care of HIV-Infected Adults in the United States." *JAMA*, Vol. 281, No. 24; 1999.

⁶ Cunningham WE et al. "The Impact of Competing Subsistence Needs and Barriers to Access to Medical Care for Persons with Human Immunodeficiency Virus Receiving Care in the United States." *Medical Care*, Vol. 37, No.12; 1999.

⁷ Turner BJ et al. "Delayed Medical Care After Diagnosis in a U.S. Probability Sample of Persons Infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus." *Archives of Internal Medicine*, Vol. 160; 2000.

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. 2009 Population Estimates.

⁹ Calculations based only on diagnoses for which race/ethnicity data were provided.

¹⁰ Includes diagnoses among those 13 years of age and older. Estimates do not include diagnoses from the U.S. dependencies, possessions, and associated nations, and diagnoses of unknown residence.

¹¹ CDC. *Slide Set: HIV Mortality* (through 2007).

¹² Hall HI et al. "Estimation of HIV Incidence in the United States." *JAMA*, Vol. 300, No. 5; August 2008.

¹³ CDC. Special Data Request; 2006.

¹⁴ CDC. *Slide Set: HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults* (through 2009).

¹⁵ CDC. *Slide Set: HIV/AIDS Surveillance by Race/Ethnicity* (through 2009).

¹⁶ CDC. *Fact Sheet: HIV/AIDS Among Men Who Have Sex with Men*; June 2007.

¹⁷ CDC. *MMWR*, Vol. 54, No. 24; 2005.

¹⁸ Kaiser Family Foundation, www.statehealthfacts.org. Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention-Surveillance and Epidemiology, Special Data Request; 2010.

¹⁹ Estimates include U.S. dependencies, possessions, and associated nations, and diagnoses of unknown residence.

²⁰ Calculations based only on diagnoses for which data by place of birth were provided.

²¹ Fleishman JA. Personal Communication, Analysis of HCSUS Data; January 2002.

²² Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of CDC data.

²³ Kaiser Family Foundation. *Survey of Americans on HIV/AIDS*; June 2011.