HIV Among Asians

OF THE 40,324 PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES WHO RECEIVED AN HIV DIAGNOSIS IN 2016:
970 WERE ADULT AND ADOLESCENT ASIANS
825 WERE ASIAN MEN
145 WERE ASIAN WOMEN

How did Asians who received an HIV diagnosis in 2016 get the virus?

Women (N=145)
- Injection drug use (75) 5%
- Sex with another man (7) 5%
- Sex with a woman (56) 7%
- Other (3) <1%

Men (N=825)
- Injection drug use (170) 2%
- Sex with another man and injection drug use* (9) 1%
- Sex with a woman (56) 7%
- Other (2) 1%
- Sex with a man (136) 94%
- Other (2) 1%

* Had both risk factors

From 2011 to 2015, HIV diagnoses:
- increased 28% among Asians overall
- increased 35% among Asian gay and bisexual men

* The diagnosis numbers include diagnoses in the US and 6 dependent areas. Dependent areas include American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Republic of Palau, and the US Virgin Islands.
** From 2010 to 2015, new HIV infections (incidence) remained stable among Asians. Incidence data includes the number of people who get HIV (both diagnosed and undiagnosed) each year. Diagnosis data includes the number of people receiving an HIV diagnosis each year (regardless of the year they were infected). In general, any difference between an incidence trend and a diagnosis trend can be attributed to HIV testing and diagnosis.
Around 1.1 million people are living with HIV in the US. People living with HIV need to know their HIV status so they can take medicine to treat HIV. Taking HIV medicine as prescribed can make the level of virus in their body very low (called viral suppression) or even undetectable. A person living with HIV who gets and stays virally suppressed or undetectable can stay healthy and has effectively no risk of sexually transmitting HIV to a negative partner.

Why are Asians at higher risk?

- People who don’t know they have HIV cannot get the care they need to stay healthy and may pass the infection to others without knowing it.
- Some Asians may not seek testing, counseling, or treatment because of language and immigration issues, stigma, and fear of discrimination or of bringing shame to their families.
- Limited research about Asian health and HIV infection results in fewer prevention programs and behavioral interventions focusing on this population.
- The reported number of HIV cases among Asians may not reflect true HIV diagnoses because of race/ethnicity misidentification.

How is CDC making a difference?

- Collecting and analyzing data and monitoring HIV trends among Asians.
- Conducting prevention research and providing guidance to those working in HIV prevention.
- Supporting health departments and community organizations by funding HIV prevention work for Asians and providing technical assistance.
- Promoting testing, prevention, and treatment through campaigns like Act Against AIDS.

Visit www.cdc.gov/hiv for more information about CDC’s HIV prevention activities among Asians.

For More Information

Call 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
Visit www.cdc.gov/hiv

All content is based on the most recent data available in May 2018.