HIV and Asians

OF THE 38,739 PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES AND DEPENDENT AREAS WHO RECEIVED AN HIV DIAGNOSIS IN 2017:*  
822 WERE ASIAN MEN  
120 WERE ASIAN WOMEN  
ABOUT 9 IN 10 ASIAN MEN WHO RECEIVED AN HIV DIAGNOSIS WERE GAY OR BISEXUAL†

New HIV Diagnoses Among Asians in the US and Dependent Areas, by Transmission Category and Sex, 2017

Men (N=822)  
Male-to-Male Sexual Contact 91%  
Male-to-Male Sexual Contact/Injection Drug Use 2%  
Injection Drug Use 2%  
Heterosexual Contact 5%  
Other <1%

Women (N=120)  
Heterosexual Contact 94%  
Injection Drug Use 5%  
Male-to-Male Sexual Contact 91%  
Other 1%

HIV Diagnoses From 2010 to 2016:‡

Asians overall: increased 42%

Asian gay and bisexual men: increased 52%†

* American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Republic of Palau, and the US Virgin Islands.
† Includes infections attributed to male-to-male sexual contact and injection drug use (men who reported both risk factors).
‡ In 50 states and District of Columbia.
Around 1.1 million people have HIV in the US.‡ People 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 with HIV who gets and stays virally suppressed or undetectable can stay healthy and has effectively no risk of transmitting HIV to HIV-negative partners through sex.

What places some Asians at higher risk?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge of HIV Status</th>
<th>Limited Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People who don’t know they have HIV can’t get the care they need to stay healthy and may pass HIV to others without knowing it.</td>
<td>There are only a few targeted prevention programs due to limited research.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural Factors</th>
<th>Data Limitations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some Asians may not seek HIV services because of language/immigration issues and stigma or discrimination.</td>
<td>Race/ethnicity misidentification could lead to an underestimation of HIV cases.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How is CDC making a difference?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collecting and analyzing data and monitoring HIV trends.</th>
<th>Supporting community organizations that increase access to HIV testing and care.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conducting prevention research and providing guidance to those working in HIV prevention.</td>
<td>Promoting testing, prevention, and treatment through Let’s Stop HIV Together campaigns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting health departments and community-based organizations by funding HIV prevention work and providing technical assistance.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reduce Your Risk

- Not having sex
- Using condoms
- Not sharing syringes
- Taking medicine to prevent or treat HIV

HIV is a virus that attacks the body’s immune system. It is usually spread by anal or vaginal sex or sharing syringes with a person who has HIV. The only way to know you have HIV is to be tested. Everyone aged 13-64 should be tested at least once, and people at high risk should be tested at least once a year. Ask your doctor, or visit gettested.cdc.gov to find a testing site. Without treatment, HIV can make a person very sick or may even cause death. If you have HIV, start treatment as soon as possible to stay healthy and help protect your partners.

For More Information

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

For every 100 Asians with HIV in 2015:

- 58 received some HIV care
- 46 were retained in care
- 52 were virally suppressed

At the end of 2016, an estimated 16,600 Asians had HIV.‡

8 in 10 knew they had the virus.‡

All content is based on the most recent data available in May 2019.