

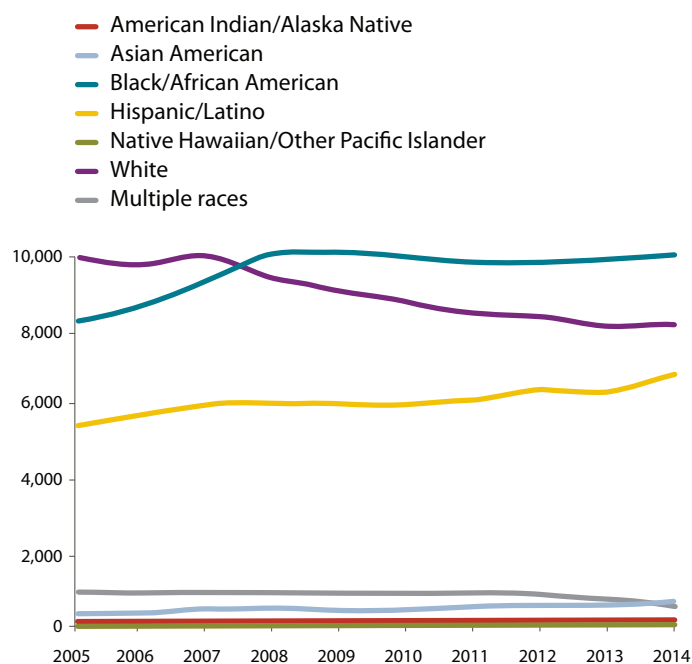
HIV among Gay and Bisexual Men

Gay and bisexual men – referred to in CDC surveillance systems as men who have sex with men (MSM)¹ – continue to be the risk group most severely affected by HIV in the United States. Despite a 20 percent overall decline in the number of diagnoses across all populations between 2005 and 2014, the number of newly diagnosed HIV infections among MSM increased six percent, with an even steeper increase among the youngest MSM, according to a recent analysis conducted by CDC. However, a closer look at more recent data (2010 to 2014) indicates encouraging progress, with new diagnoses stabilizing for both MSM overall and young MSM. To continue this progress, there is an urgent need to expand access to proven HIV prevention programs for gay and bisexual men.

A Snapshot

- Overall, MSM – including those who also reported injecting drugs as a risk behavior – account for:
 - 61 percent (estimated 753,800 persons in 2013) of the estimated 1.2 million people living with HIV in the United States.
 - Approximately two-thirds of all new HIV infections each year (66 percent, or an estimated 31,400 infections in 2010).
- While CDC estimates that four percent of men in the United States are MSM, the rate of new HIV diagnoses among them is more than 44 times that of other men (rate ranges from 522 to 989 per 100,000 MSM compared to 12 per 100,000 other men).
- A 2005-2014 CDC analysis of trends in HIV diagnoses found that:
 - HIV diagnoses increased six percent among MSM from 2005 to 2014.
 - The steepest increases occurred among young black and Latino MSM aged 13-24, who both saw increases of about 87 percent over the decade (from 2,094 to 3,923 and from 866 to 1,617, respectively). Diagnoses among young white MSM increased 56 percent (from 756 to 1,179).
 - From 2010 to 2014, diagnoses stabilized (a less than one percent increase) among MSM overall, as well as among young black and young white MSM. Diagnoses among Latino MSM, however, continued to increase.
 - By 2014, black MSM represented the largest number of new HIV diagnoses among MSM (10,080), followed by white MSM (8,207) and Latino MSM (6,829).

Figure 1. HIV Diagnoses among MSM by Race/Ethnicity, 2005-2014



¹ The term men who have sex with men is used in CDC surveillance systems because it indicates the behaviors that transmit HIV infection, rather than how individuals self-identify in terms of their sexuality.



- Young, black MSM – the most severely affected subpopulation of MSM – accounted for more new infections in the United States (4,800 in 2010) than any other subgroup by race/ethnicity, age and sex.
- A CDC projection analysis estimates that one in six MSM overall are at risk of being diagnosed with HIV in their lifetime if current diagnoses rates persist -- and that black MSM (one in two) and Latino MSM (one in four) could be particularly impacted.
- Nationally, CDC estimates that 85 percent of MSM living with HIV in 2013 were aware of their status.
- Only 39 percent of MSM living with HIV were engaged in medical care in 2012.
- Data suggest young MSM and African-American MSM are the least likely to know they are infected and to receive care and treatment.
- AIDS continues to claim the lives of too many MSM. Since the beginning of the epidemic, more than 360,000 MSM with AIDS have died.

Complex Factors Increase Risk

- **High prevalence of HIV:** The existing high prevalence of HIV among gay and bisexual men means MSM face a greater risk of being exposed to infection with each sexual encounter, especially as they get older. For young black MSM, partnering with older black men (among whom HIV prevalence is high) may also lead to increased risk.
- **Lack of knowledge of HIV status:** Studies show that people who know they are infected take steps to protect their partners. Yet many MSM are unaware of their status and may unknowingly transmit the virus to others. Additionally, some MSM may make false assumptions or have inaccurate information about their partner's HIV status. It is critical to ensure that sexually active MSM get tested for HIV at least annually, or more frequently as needed.
- **Social discrimination and cultural issues:** For some MSM – especially gay and bisexual men of color – social and economic factors, including homophobia, stigma, and lack of access to health care may increase risk behaviors or be a barrier to receiving HIV prevention services.
- **Substance abuse:** Some MSM use alcohol and illegal drugs, contributing to increased risk for HIV infection and other STDs. Substance use can increase the risk for HIV transmission through risky sexual behaviors while under the influence and through sharing needles or other injection equipment.

If you are a member of the news media and need more information, please visit www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom or contact the News Media Line at CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention 404-639-8895 or NCHHSTPMediaTeam@cdc.gov.