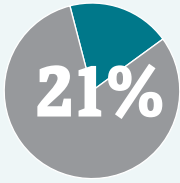
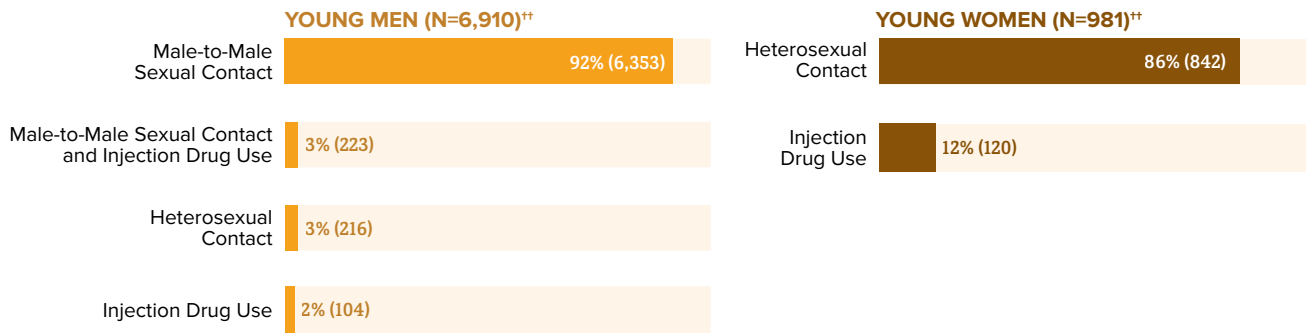


# HIV and Youth



Of the **37,968 NEW HIV DIAGNOSES** in the US and dependent areas\* in 2018, 21% (7,891) were among youth.†

## Most new HIV diagnoses among youth were among young gay and bisexual men.‡ \*\*

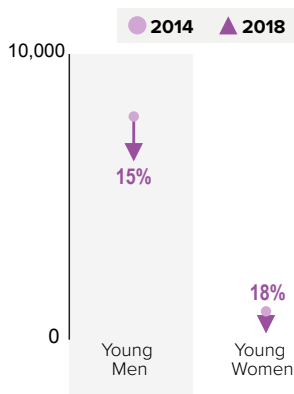


Does not include other and *perinatal* transmission categories; values may not equal the total.

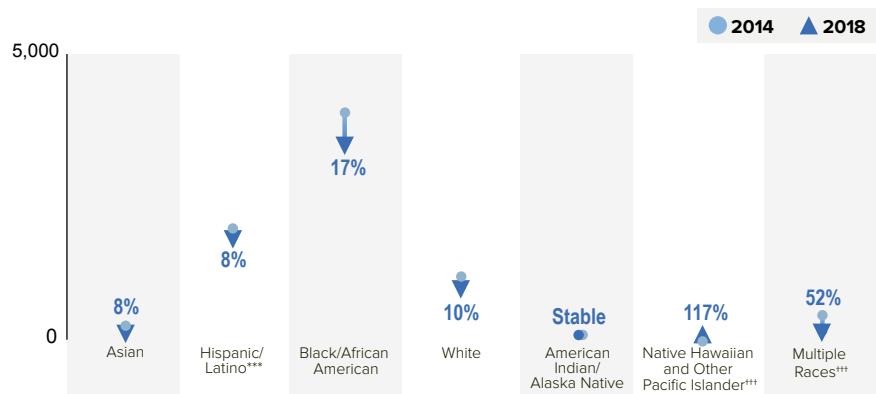
From 2014 to 2018, HIV diagnoses decreased 15% among youth overall. Although trends varied for different groups of youth, HIV diagnoses declined for groups most affected by HIV, including young Black/African American gay and bisexual men.‡‡



### Trends by Sex



### Trends for Young Gay and Bisexual Men by Race/Ethnicity



\* American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Republic of Palau, and the US Virgin Islands.

† People aged 13 to 24 are referred to as youth or young in this fact sheet.

‡ This fact sheet uses the term *gay and bisexual men* to represent gay, bisexual, and other men who reported male-to-male sexual contact.

\*\* Includes infections attributed to male-to-male sexual contact *and* injection drug use (men who reported both risk factors).

‡‡ Based on sex assigned at birth and includes transgender people.

‡‡‡ *Black* refers to people having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. *African American* is a term often used for people of African descent with ancestry in North America.

\*\*\* Hispanic/Latino people can be of any race.

††† Changes in subpopulations with fewer HIV diagnoses can lead to a large percentage increase or decrease.



**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

## Youth who don't know they have HIV cannot get the care and treatment they need to stay healthy.



In 2018, an estimated **1,173,900 PEOPLE** had HIV.<sup>##</sup> Of those, **47,800** were youth.

For every 100 people with HIV

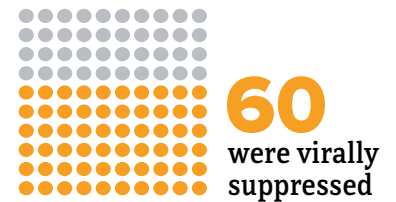
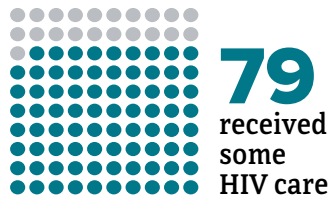


For every 100 youth with HIV



Youth were the least likely to be aware of their infection compared to any other age group. It is important for young people to know their HIV status so they can take medicine to treat HIV if they have the virus. Taking HIV medicine every day can make the viral load undetectable. People who get and keep an undetectable viral load (or remain virally suppressed) can stay healthy for many years and have effectively no risk of transmitting HIV to their sex partners.

Compared to all people with diagnosed HIV, youth have lower viral suppression rates. **For every 100 youth with diagnosed HIV in 2018:**<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>



For comparison, for every **100 people overall** with diagnosed HIV, **76 received some care**, **58 were retained in care**, and **65 were virally suppressed**.

## Several challenges make it difficult for youth to access the tools they need to reduce their risk or get treatment and care if they have HIV.

### Low Rates of HIV Testing



HIV testing rates among high school students are low. People who do not know they have HIV cannot take advantage of HIV care and treatment and may transmit HIV to others without knowing it.

### Social and Economic Challenges



Among people with HIV, young people are more likely than older people to live in households with low income levels, to have been recently homeless, recently incarcerated, or uninsured. These factors pose barriers to achieving viral suppression.

### Low Rates of PrEP Use



Young people are less likely than adults to use medicine to prevent HIV. Barriers include cost, access, perceived stigma, and privacy concerns.

### High Rates of Other STDs



Some of the highest STD rates are among youth aged 20 to 24. Having another STD can greatly increase the chance of getting or transmitting HIV.

## How is CDC making a difference for youth?



Collecting and analyzing data and monitoring HIV trends.



Supporting community organizations that increase access to HIV testing and care.



Conducting prevention research and providing guidance to those working in HIV prevention.



Promoting testing, prevention, and treatment through the *Let's Stop HIV Together* campaign.



Supporting health departments and community-based organizations by funding HIV prevention work and providing technical assistance.



Strengthening successful HIV prevention programs and supporting new efforts funded through the *Ending the HIV Epidemic* initiative.

<sup>##</sup> In 50 states and the District of Columbia.  
<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup> In 41 states and the District of Columbia.

For more information about HIV surveillance data, read the "Technical Notes" in the HIV surveillance reports at [www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/hiv-surveillance.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/hiv-surveillance.html).

For more information visit [www.cdc.gov/hiv](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv)