

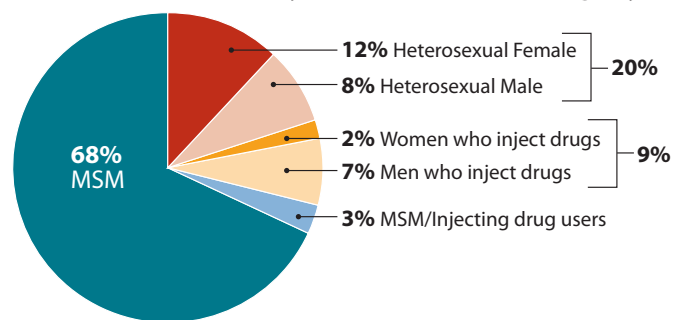
HIV among Latinos

HIV is a serious health threat to Latino communities, which bear a disproportionate share of the HIV burden in the United States. Factors driving the HIV epidemic in this population are as diverse as Latino communities themselves. Prevention efforts led to promising declines in new diagnoses among Latinos from 2005 to 2010. However, those declines stalled in more recent years, reinforcing the need for expanded access to proven HIV prevention programs for this important population.

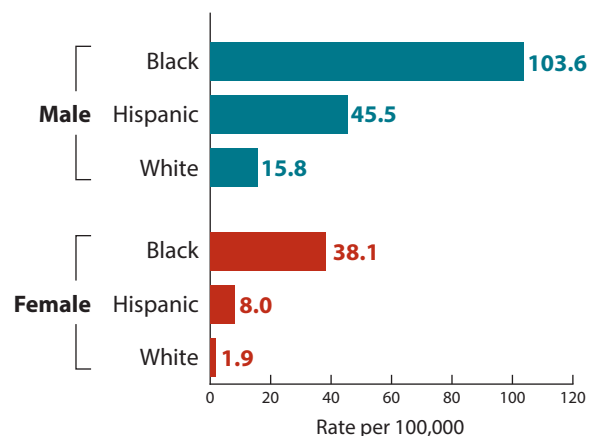
A Snapshot

- Latinos represent approximately 17 percent of the U.S. population, but account for an estimated 21 percent of people living with HIV (263,900 persons in 2013) and an estimated 21 percent of new infections (9,800 in 2010) in the United States each year.
- Men account for 87 percent of new infections among Latinos.
- The rate of new HIV infections among Latino men is almost three times that among white men.
 - Most new infections among Latino men (79 percent) occur among men who have sex with men (MSM).
 - While new HIV diagnoses among MSM overall stabilized between 2010 and 2014, diagnoses among Latino MSM increased 13 percent during this period, part of a troubling 24 percent increase since 2005.
- The rate of new HIV infections among Hispanic women in 2010 was more than four times that of white women.
- If current diagnosis rates persist, approximately one in 48 Latino men, one in 227 Latino women, and one in four Latino gay and bisexual men will be diagnosed with HIV during their lifetimes, according to a CDC projection analysis.
- There are substantial regional differences in the HIV burden among Latinos across the United States. For example:
 - The HIV diagnosis rate is highest among Latinos in the Northeast.
 - While male-to-male sexual contact is the predominant mode of transmission among all Latinos newly diagnosed with HIV, Latinos in the Northeast are more likely than those in other regions to have been infected by intravenous drug use.
 - Latinos diagnosed with HIV in the South are more likely than those in the Northeast to have been infected through male-to-male sexual contact.
- AIDS continues to claim the lives of too many Latino men and women. Since the beginning of the epidemic, more than 100,000 Latinos with AIDS have died.

Estimated New HIV Infections among Hispanics, 2010, by Transmission Category



Estimated Rate of New HIV Infections, 2010, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity



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



- HIV treatment helps people with HIV live healthy lives and prevents transmission of the virus to partners. However, too few Latinos living with HIV receive the care and treatment they need. A recent CDC study found that, among the estimated 251,700 Latinos living with HIV in 2012, 85 percent were diagnosed with HIV, 35 percent were engaged in medical care, 33 percent were prescribed antiretroviral therapy and 27 percent were virally suppressed (i.e., the virus is under control at a level that helps them stay healthy and reduces the risk of transmission).

Complex Factors Increase Risk

- **High prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and higher rates of HIV:** Data show that the burden of STDs among Latinos is high. Because STDs can place individuals at higher risk for HIV infection, high STD prevalence may contribute to higher HIV incidence among Latino men and women. Additionally, disproportionate rates of HIV among Latinos and the current high prevalence of HIV in Latino communities increase the likelihood that Latinos will encounter an HIV-infected sex or drug-injecting partner, placing them at greater risk.
- **Social and economic factors:** The social and economic realities of some Latinos' lives, including poverty, discrimination and lack of access to healthcare, can increase HIV risk. Language barriers may also affect the quality of care.
- **Stigma:** The stigma associated with HIV and homosexuality may help to spread HIV in Latino communities. In some communities, the cultural value of machismo may create reluctance to acknowledge sensitive, yet risky behaviors, such as male-to-male sexual contact or substance abuse. Fear of disclosing risk behavior or sexual orientation may prevent Latinos from seeking testing, treatment and prevention services, and support from friends and family. As a result, too many Latinos lack critical information about how to prevent infection.
- **Cultural factors:** Latino culture in the United States is diverse. Research shows that Latinos born in different countries have different behavioral risk factors for HIV. For example, data suggest that Hispanics born in Puerto Rico are more likely than other Hispanics to contract HIV as a result of injection drug use or from high-risk heterosexual contact. By contrast, sexual contact with other men is the primary cause of HIV infection among men born in places such as Mexico and the 50 U.S. states.

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