

# A Glance at Washington's HIV/AIDS Epidemic

February 2009

## NEW HIV DIAGNOSES

Statewide, the course of the HIV epidemic has been stable in recent years. Between 2003 and 2007, the Department of Health observed about 570 new HIV diagnoses \* per year. On average, this is equivalent to 9.3 new cases per 100,000 residents per year.\*\*

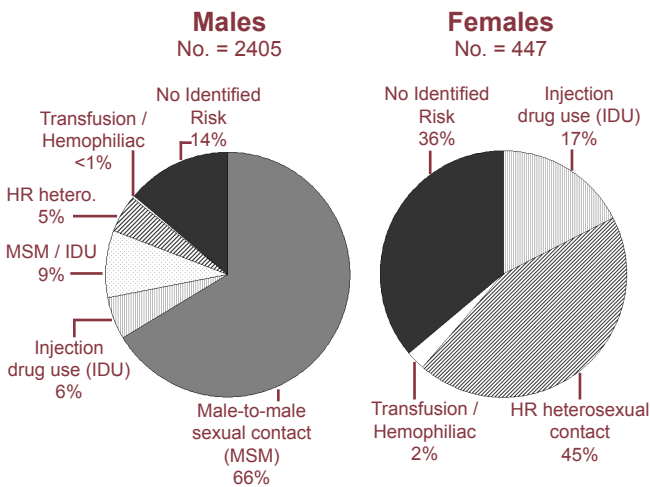
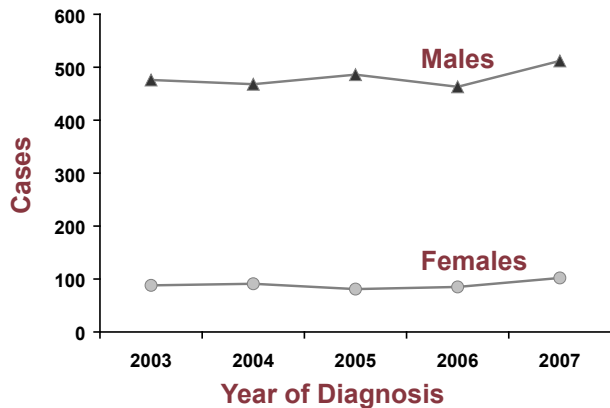
## By Exposure

Between 2003 and 2007, at least 75 percent of newly diagnosed male cases were men who have sex with men (MSM). Nearly half (45 percent) of new female cases were attributed to high-risk heterosexual contact.\*\*\* Since 2001, there have been three confirmed cases of perinatal (mother-to-child) HIV transmission in Washington.

## By Gender

Eighty-four percent of all HIV cases diagnosed between 2003 and 2007 were male. Among new HIV diagnoses, the ratio of male to female cases has remained fairly constant over the past decade.

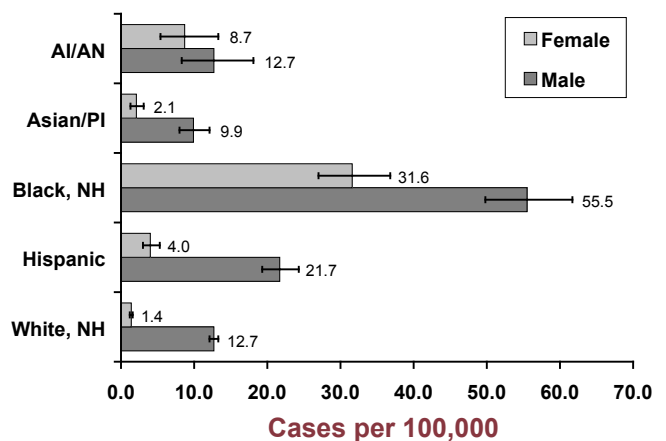
New HIV Diagnoses by Gender Washington State, 2003-2007



## By Race and Ethnicity

Most new HIV diagnoses in Washington are White (63 percent in 2003-2007). While Blacks account for only four percent of the state's population, they comprise nearly one in five new HIV cases.

HIV Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Gender Washington State, 2003-2007



\* The term "new HIV diagnoses" refers to all newly diagnosed cases of HIV disease, with or without AIDS.

\*\* These data are not estimates. They describe actual cases that have been reported to the Washington State Department of Health's HIV/AIDS Reporting System (HARS) as of January 31, 2009.

\*\*\* High-risk heterosexual contact = contact with a person known to have or to be at high risk for HIV infection.

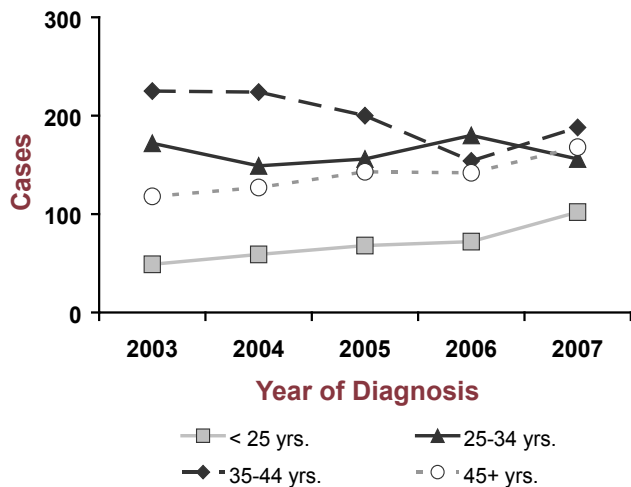
# A GLANCE AT WASHINGTON'S HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC

## HIV DIAGNOSES (continued)

### By Age

More than half (59 percent) of all new HIV diagnoses during 2003-2007 occurred among adults ages thirty-five and older. However, the proportion of new cases diagnosed below the age of twenty-five (12 percent in 2003-2007) has increased in recent years.

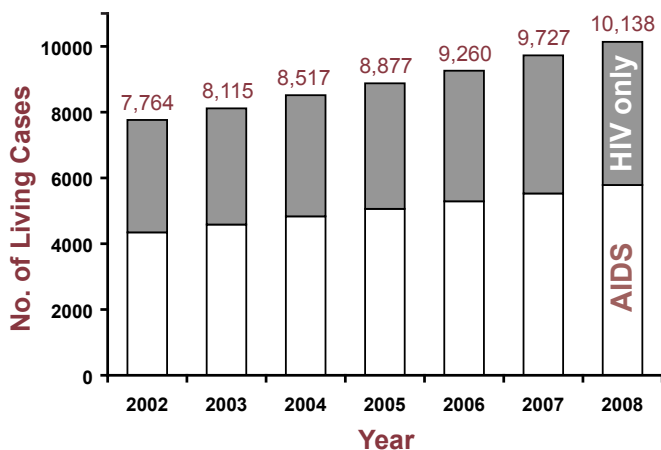
**New HIV Diagnoses by Age at Diagnosis  
Washington State, 2003-2007**



## HIV/AIDS PREVALENCE

Better treatments have led to steady increases in the number of people who are surviving with HIV/AIDS. As of December 31, 2008, there were 10,138 persons living with HIV disease in Washington state, 57 percent of whom had AIDS.

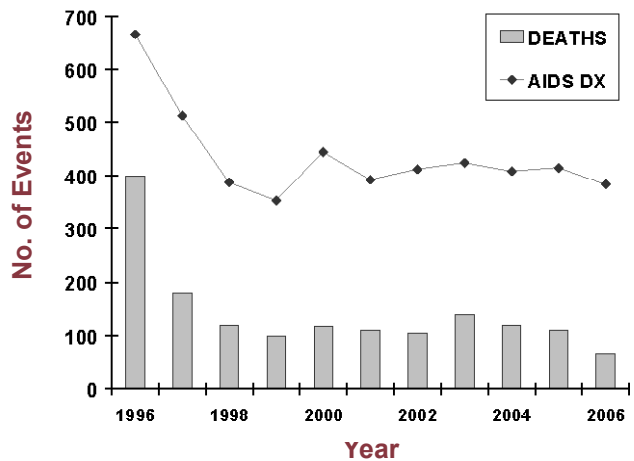
**People Living with HIV Disease  
Washington State, 2002-2008**



## AIDS DIAGNOSES & DEATHS

Following dramatic declines observed in the late 1990s, both AIDS diagnoses and HIV/AIDS deaths have leveled off in recent years. As of December 2007, 12,099 people had been diagnosed with AIDS in Washington. HIV disease has been a contributing factor in deaths of more than 5,400 people in Washington since the epidemic began.<sup>†</sup>

**AIDS Diagnoses and HIV/AIDS Deaths  
Washington State, 1997-2007**



<sup>†</sup> To measure HIV/AIDS mortality, we used death certificate information to select only cases in which HIV or AIDS was determined by a physician to have been a contributing factor in the patient's death.

## For more information...

### Washington State

### Department of Health

Office of Infectious Disease and Reproductive Health  
P.O. Box 47838

Olympia, WA 98504

360-236-3455

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/hiv.htm>

