

# HIV/AIDS among Women



February 2009

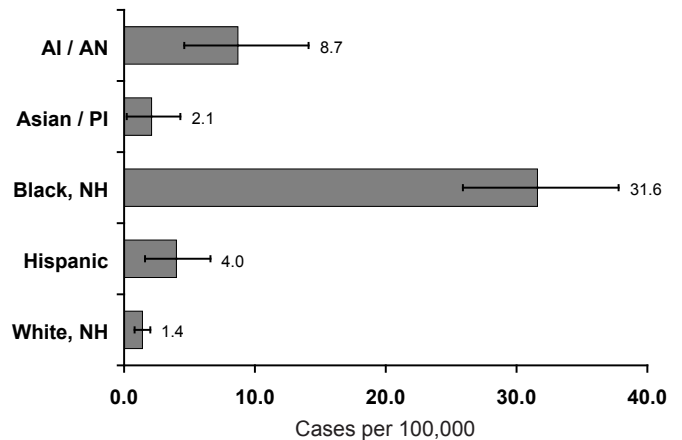
## HIV DIAGNOSES

In Washington, risk for HIV infection among women and female adolescents appears to have remained stable in recent years. From 2003 to 2007, female new HIV diagnoses averaged 89 per year (range: 81-102).\*

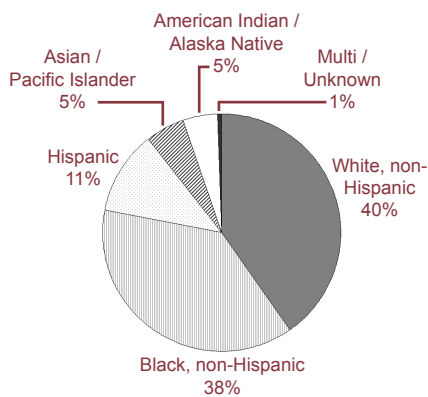
### By Race and Ethnicity

Between 2003-07, most new female HIV cases were either White or Black (78%). Racial/ethnic disparities in HIV risk remain a concern in Washington, where Black female HIV rates are over 20 times higher than those of White females.

Average annual HIV rates among females, by race/ethnicity, Washington state, 2003-2007



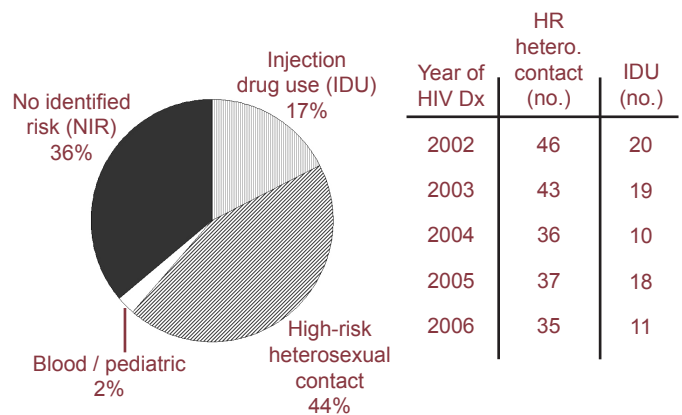
Female new HIV diagnoses, Washington state, 2003-2007  
No. = 447



## By Exposure

Between 2003-07, 44% of female new HIV diagnoses were attributed to high-risk heterosexual contact. Most female cases with no identified risk (36%) are probably also the result of sexual contact with a man who has a history of either injection drug use or male-to-male sex. Black female cases account for over half (51%) of all female cases with no identified risk.

Female new HIV diagnoses by exposure category, Washington state, 2003-2007  
No. = 447



\* The term "new HIV diagnoses" refers to all diagnoses of HIV infection, with or without the presence of AIDS. This could also be thought of as newly detected cases of HIV disease.

Note: These data are not estimates but instead represent actual cases that have been reported to the Washington State Department of Health's HIV/AIDS Reporting System (HARS) as of January 31, 2009.

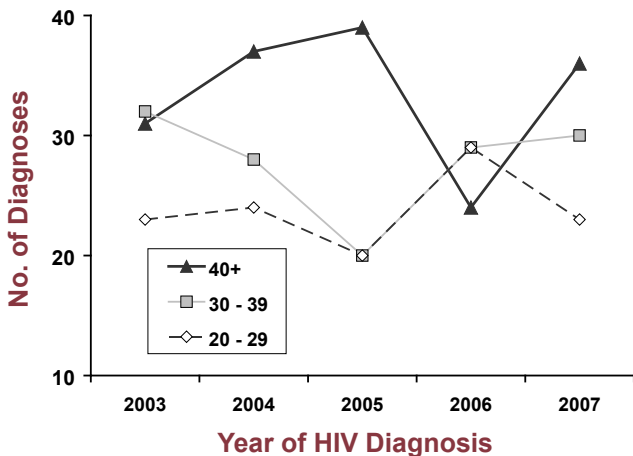
# HIV / AIDS AMONG WOMEN

## HIV DIAGNOSES (continued)

### By Age

In Washington, most female HIV cases are first diagnosed at age 30 or older (68% during 2003-2007). Children and adolescents account for less than 3% of all new female cases.

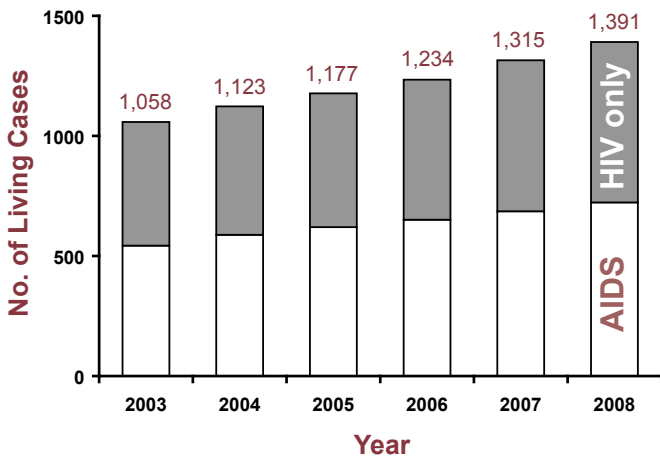
**Female new HIV diagnoses, by age at diagnosis, Washington state, 2003-2007**



## HIV/AIDS PREVALENCE

Due to earlier detection and better treatment options, people with HIV disease are now able to live longer than ever before. In recent years, female HIV prevalence in Washington has increased by an average of 6% per year. As of December 31, 2008, there were 1,391 female cases of HIV disease living in Washington, 52% of whom had AIDS.

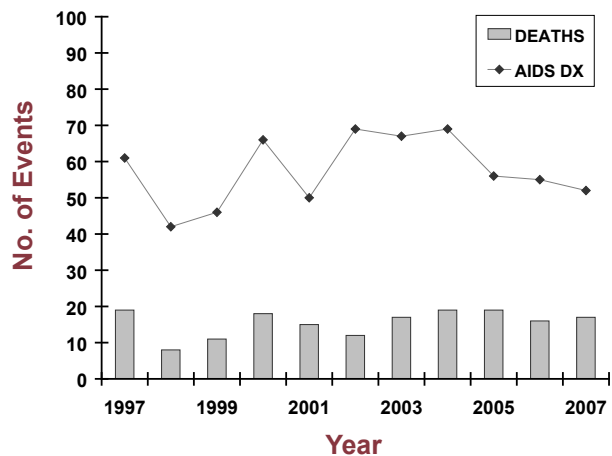
**Female prevalence of HIV disease, 2003-2008**



## AIDS DIAGNOSES & DEATHS

Following big declines observed in the late 1990s, both AIDS incidence and HIV/AIDS mortality<sup>†</sup> have leveled off in recent years. As of December 31, 2007, 1,127 females had been diagnosed with AIDS in Washington, and 359 female deaths had been linked to HIV/AIDS. Between 2003 and 2007, female AIDS diagnoses averaged 57 per year.

**AIDS diagnoses and HIV/AIDS deaths among females, Washington state, 1997-2007**



<sup>†</sup> To measure AIDS mortality, we use 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

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

