

HIV/AIDS within Black Communities



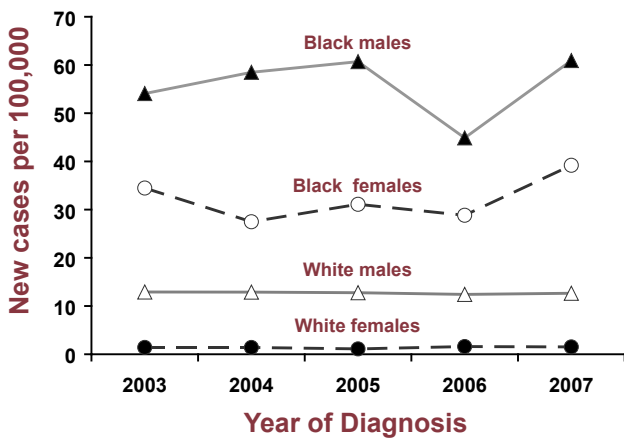
May 2009

Black people remain disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic in Washington State. Although Whites account for the majority of new HIV diagnoses* each year (59 percent in 2007), about one in five new cases are Black. In 2007, the HIV diagnosis rate among Blacks was 51 cases per 100,000 - the highest of any racial or ethnic group, and more than 5-times greater than that of Whites.**

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITY

Black people make up only 4 percent of the general population in Washington, yet they account for 15 percent of all people living with HIV disease. The health disparity is greatest among women. In 2007, the HIV diagnosis rate among Black women was 25-times higher than that of White women.

Rates of New HIV Diagnosis by Race and Sex, Washington State, 2003-2007



FOREIGN-BORN BLACKS

In recent years, about forty percent of all HIV cases among Blacks in Washington have been foreign-born. Most foreign-born cases are from sub-Saharan African countries where HIV prevalence rates are much higher than in the United States.

Foreign-born Blacks have a different HIV risk profile than their native counterparts. Unlike U.S.-born cases, which are predominantly male (76 percent in 2007), roughly half of all foreign-born Black cases are female. Most foreign-born Black cases are believed to be the result of heterosexual sex that occurred in their country of birth. Between 2003 and 2007, fifty percent of Black cases who lived in King County at the time of their HIV diagnosis were foreign-born vs. 26 percent of Black cases living outside King County. However, foreign-born Blacks account for an increasing proportion of all Black cases living outside King County in recent years.

Black HIV Diagnoses by U.S.- vs. Foreign-Born Status and HIV Exposure Category, Washington State, Diagnosed 2003-2007

HIV Exposure Category	U.S.-born cases no. (%)	Foreign-born cases no. (%)
MSM	139 (47%)	15 (7%)
IDU	31 (10%)	6 (3%)
MSM / IDU	12 (4%)	1 (0%)
HR Hetero	46 (16%)	65 (30%)
NIR / Other	68 (23%)	132 (60%)

* 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.

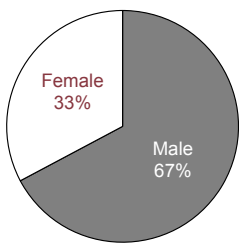
** These data are not estimates but instead represent actual cases that have been reported to the Washington State Department of Health's HIV/AIDS Reporting System (HARS) as of April 30, 2009.

HIV / AIDS WITHIN BLACK COMMUNITIES

HIV DIAGNOSES

Statewide, annual numbers of new HIV diagnoses among Black men and women have been stable in recent years. Between 2003 and 2007, case counts ranged from 84 to 120, with an **average of 103 new cases per year**. During the same time period, 67 percent of newly diagnosed Black cases were male.

Black HIV Diagnoses by Gender
Washington State, 2003-2007
No. = 515

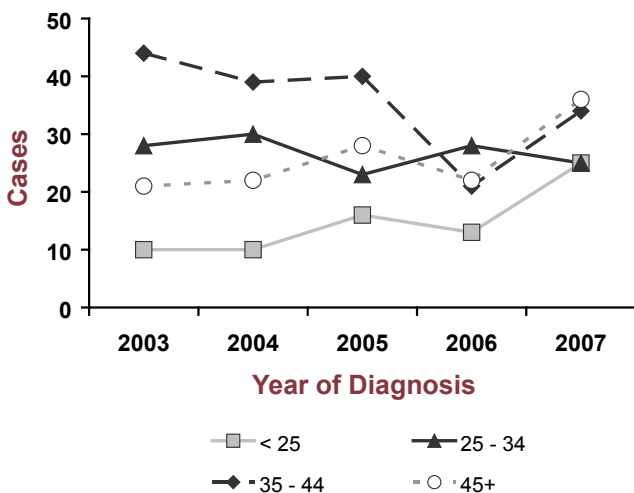


Year of HIV Dx	Male (no.)	Female (no.)
2003	67	36
2004	72	29
2005	74	33
2006	56	28
2007	77	43

By Age

Nearly all Black HIV cases reported in Washington (≥ 98 percent) are adults who are at least 18 years of age at the time of diagnosis. Most Black cases are thirty years of age or older at HIV diagnosis (76 percent in 2003-2007), and a large proportion are over the age of forty (41 percent). Between 2003 and 2007, the median age of new HIV diagnosis among Blacks was thirty-seven.

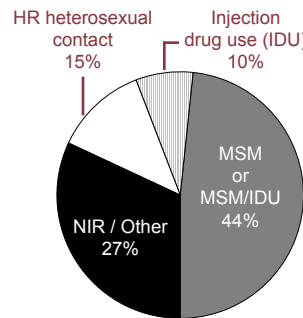
Black HIV Diagnoses by Age at Diagnosis
Washington State, 2003-2007



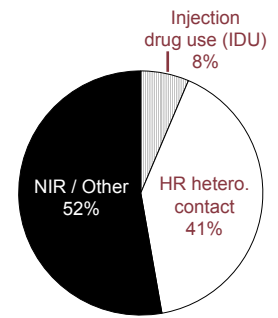
By Exposure

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that many Black men who have sex with men (MSM) identify themselves as being heterosexual rather than homosexual or bisexual. During 2003-2007, male-to-male sexual contact was the most common risk factor (30 percent) reported among Blacks diagnosed with HIV infection in Washington. About 90 percent of the Black cases attributed to MSM behavior were U.S.-born. Roughly one in four Black cases (22 percent) diagnosed during the same time period were attributed to high risk heterosexual contact. The exposure category “high risk heterosexual” does not include all heterosexual cases, but only those reporting a heterosexual partner who is either HIV-positive or is considered at high-risk for HIV infection. A large proportion of Black cases (37 percent) had no identifiable risk factors (NIR), about two-thirds of whom were foreign-born.

Males
No. = 346



Females
No. = 169

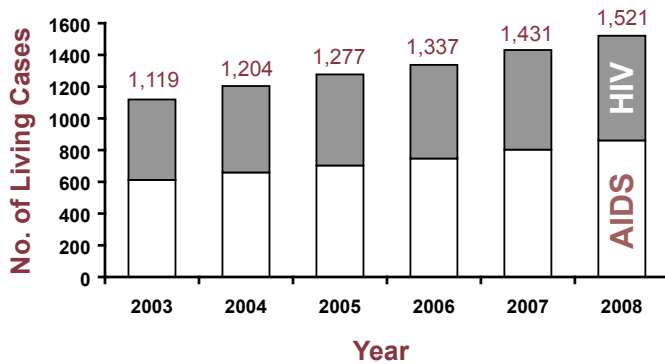


HIV/AIDS PREVALENCE

Prevalent HIV/AIDS cases are those reported to be living with HIV disease at a defined point in time. As of December 31, 2008, there were 1,521 HIV-positive Blacks living in Washington, 57 percent of whom had AIDS. Statewide, Blacks account for about 15 percent of all HIV-positive people (34 percent among HIV-positive women). Since 2003, Black HIV prevalence in Washington has increased by an average rate of 7 percent per year.

HIV / AIDS WITHIN BLACK COMMUNITIES

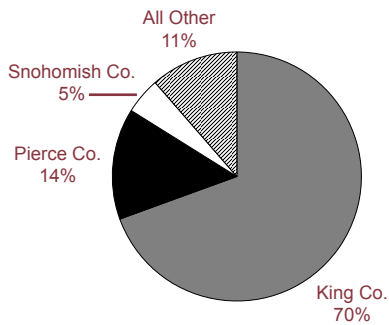
Black People Living with HIV Disease in Washington State, 2003-2008



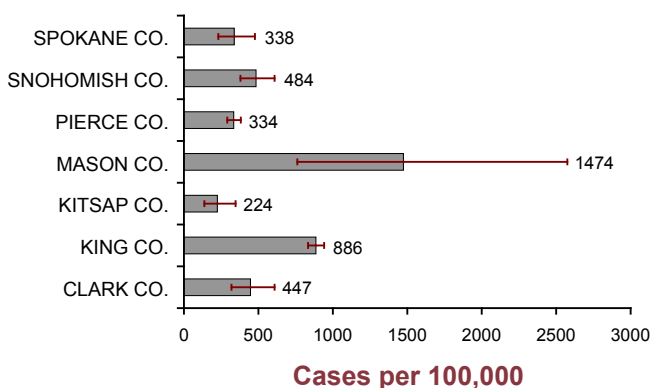
By Geography

In Washington state, most HIV-positive Blacks (84 percent) live in either King or Pierce County. Although the Black HIV prevalence rate is highest in Mason County, the actual number of Black cases reported to be living in Mason County is relatively small (12).

Black People Living with HIV Disease By County, Washington State, 2008



Black HIV Prevalence Rates* By County, Washington State, 2008

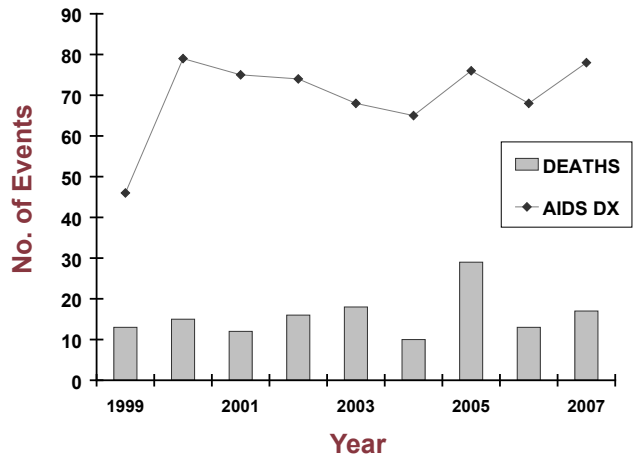


Note: Counties not shown had too few cases to construct a reliable rate

AIDS DIAGNOSES & DEATHS

As of December 31, 2007, 1,425 Black people had been diagnosed with AIDS in Washington. More than 500 Black people have died as a result of HIV or AIDS in Washington since the epidemic began.[†]

Black AIDS Diagnoses and HIV/AIDS Deaths Washington State, 1999-2007



[†] 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...

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