

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hispanics make up about 43% of New Mexico's population, roughly equal to that of Whites¹. In 2007, they accounted for 45% of newly reported HIV/AIDS cases (Figure 1).
- Through 2007, 66% of Hispanics were concurrently diagnosed with HIV and AIDS.
- Of the 3,630 people living with HIV/AIDS in New Mexico, 35% are Hispanic. Hispanics have the 3rd highest rate (148 per 100,000 population) of persons living with HIV/AIDS among all racial/ethnic groups.
- In New Mexico, there have been a cumulative total of 1,952 cases of HIV/AIDS among Hispanics, including 664 who have died.

THE HIV EPIDEMIC AMONG HISPANICS

Hispanics comprise about 15% of the total US population, and according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in 2006, 19% of US residents with AIDS were Hispanic.^{2, 3} After African Americans, Hispanics had the second highest rate of HIV diagnoses at 51 per 100,000 men (3 times the rate for non-Hispanic White men) and 15 per 100,000 Hispanic women (5 times the rate for non-Hispanic White women). In 2006, the rate of new HIV infections among Hispanics was three times that of Whites.³ The most common modes of transmission reported among Hispanic men in the US were men who have sex with men (MSM), injection drug use (IDU), and high risk heterosexual sex; Hispanic women primarily reported high risk heterosexual sex and IDU.²

In a recent article, the CDC analyzed trends in HIV among Hispanics and found Hispanics to be disproportionately affected by HIV and that infection varied by

place of birth.³ Hispanics born in Puerto Rico were more likely than US-born or other foreign-born Hispanics to report risk of IDU. More Mexican-born Hispanics tended to be concurrently diagnosed than US-born Hispanics. Data on place of birth appears to be vital in understanding differences among subpopulations of Hispanics, including HIV testing behavior and access to care. The 2000 US Census estimates that of the 35 million Hispanics living in the US, 14 million (40%) were foreign-born.

HIV AMONG HISPANICS IN NEW MEXICO

In New Mexico, Hispanics have made up an increasing proportion of new cases over the last five years (Figure 1). Overall, 66% of infections among Hispanics in New Mexico were concurrently diagnosed with HIV and AIDS, compared to 58% across all racial/ethnic groups. Persons with a concurrent diagnosis often present with more advanced service needs and are more likely to have unknowingly transmitted HIV to others. Seventeen percent of Hispanics living with HIV/AIDS in New Mexico were born in Mexico.

Like other racial/ethnic groups, the mode of exposure most commonly reported among Hispanic men living with HIV/AIDS in New Mexico is MSM (70%); Figure 2 shows how this includes MSM (62%) and MSM who inject drugs (MSM/IDU, 8%). Among Hispanic women living with HIV/AIDS in New Mexico, over half (56%) reported heterosexual sex as their mode of exposure, which is similar to all women statewide (54%). Twenty-two percent of Hispanic women living with HIV/AIDS reported IDU compared to 28% for all women statewide.

PREVENTION

The New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) HIV Prevention Program has highlighted the need for enhanced and expanded HIV prevention efforts that are culturally specific and target the Hispanic community. Programs should be tailored to varying groups across the state, including Hispanics who have lived in northern New Mexico for generations, new immigrants, Mexican nationals, and monolingual Spanish speakers.

New funds for the Hispanic MSM Initiative will support these activities in 2009:

1. Conduct a needs assessment to develop a targeted plan. A brief survey will be used to collect qualitative information from Hispanic MSM.
2. Based on the top 3-5 unmet needs for HIV prevention interventions among Hispanic MSM, pilot prioritized interventions in this population.
3. Continue to develop capacity while identifying and securing needed resources to sustain these efforts.

REFERENCES

1. Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER), University of New Mexico, 2006 estimates. Available at: www.unm.edu/~bber
2. CDC HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet: HIV/AIDS among Hispanics/Latinos. October 2008. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/hispanics/resources/factsheets/hispanic.htm>
3. Espinoza, L., Hall, I., Selik, R., and Hu X. Characteristics of HIV Infection Among Hispanics, United States 2003-2006. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. Vol 49, No. 1, Sept 1, 2008.

Figure 1. Incidence of HIV/AIDS by race/ethnicity, New Mexico, 2002-2007

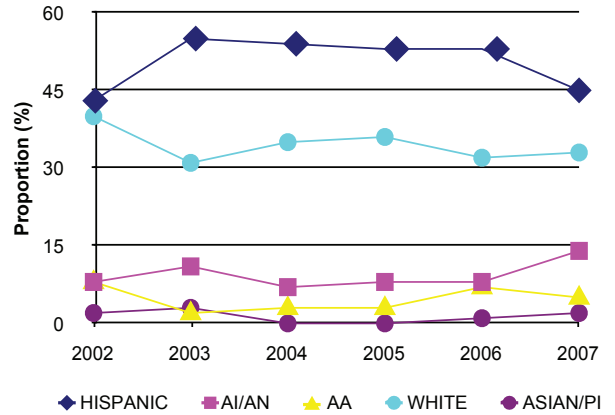
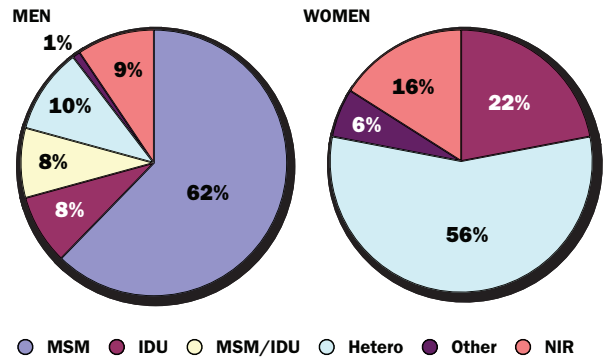


Figure 2. Persons living with HIV/AIDS by mode of exposure, New Mexico, 2007



FOOTNOTES

Race/ethnicity categories: White, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN), African American (AA), Asian/Pacific Islander (Asian/PI).

Mode of exposure categories: Men who have sex with men (MSM), injection drug users (IDU), men who have sex with men and inject drugs (MSM/IDU), high risk heterosexuals (Heterosexual), hemophiliacs, transfusion/transplant recipients, healthcare workers, perinatal, or pediatric (Other).