

Fall Quarterly Report: October 2007

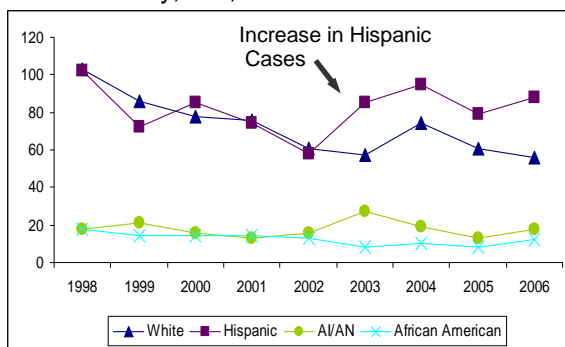
HIV in Hispanics in New Mexico, the United States and Latin America/Caribbean

According to the United States (US) Census Bureau's intercensal estimate for 2006, 44% of New Mexico's (NM) population reported Hispanic ethnicity.¹ NM also has the greatest proportion of Hispanics than any other state in the US.

Hispanics in the US and NM

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released a report on Hispanics living with HIV/AIDS in the US.² According to CDC, Hispanics across the US are disproportionately affected by HIV infection, making up 19% of AIDS cases while accounting for just 14% of the US population. In NM, Hispanics have made up an increasingly larger proportion of new cases over the last five years (see Figure 1).

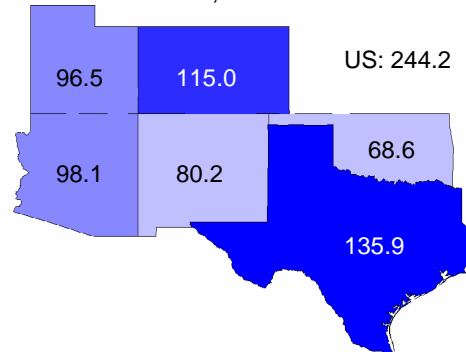
Figure 1. Trend in Incidence of HIV/AIDS by Race/Ethnicity, NM, 1996-2006



Source: HIV & Hepatitis Epidemiology Program

In 2005, NM's AIDS rate for Hispanics (80.2 per 100,000) was well below the national average of 244.2. This rate ranked NM 43rd of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. NM's rate was much lower than those of some of its neighboring states, including Texas, Colorado and Arizona (see Figure 2). Florida, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts had the highest rates in the US.

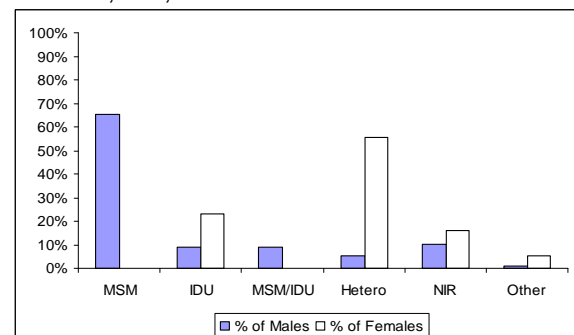
Figure 2. AIDS Prevalence Rates per 100,000, Southwestern States, 2005



Source: Data from CDC², created in EpiInfo.

Men who have sex with men (MSM) are the largest risk group (58%) for Hispanics living with HIV/AIDS in NM. Injection drug use (IDU) and high risk heterosexual sex* both account for 11% of reported risk among all Hispanic cases. An additional 11% of Hispanic cases have no identified risk factor (NIR); this is higher than the state average of 8%. Overall, males make up 89% of Hispanic cases of HIV/AIDS. Reported risk by sex is shown in detail in Figure 3. Female Hispanic cases reported primarily high risk heterosexual sex (56%) and IDU (23%).

Figure 3. Hispanics Living with HIV/AIDS by Risk and Sex, NM, 2007



Source: HIV & Hepatitis Epidemiology Program

*Heterosexual sex with a partner that is a bisexual male, injection drug user or otherwise known to be HIV positive.

Foreign Born Hispanics in the US

This recent report released by CDC further stated that more than half of the Hispanic cases in the US were foreign born.² Most of these cases were born in Mexico (12%), followed by South America (6%) and Puerto Rico (6%). The mode of transmission varied according to country of birth. Hispanics born in Puerto Rico had a greater proportion of infections attributed to IDU (33%) than those born in the US (22%). A greater proportion of Hispanics born in the Dominican Republic (DR) and Central America (45%) reported infection due to high risk heterosexual contact, compared with those born in the US (28%). Hispanics born in South America, Cuba and Mexico reported more infections attributed to MSM than Hispanics born in the US. This could represent a true difference in risk or a difference in the reporting risk due to cultural taboos about sexuality in the DR and Central America. Regardless, this implies that it may be necessary to address the cultural and/or behavioral differences among these populations.

Foreign Born Hispanics in NM

According to the 2000 US census, 8.2% of NM's population is foreign born. Most of these persons were born in Latin America (76.8%). Specifically, 72% of foreign born persons in NM were born in Mexico.³ Sixteen percent of Hispanic HIV/AIDS cases in NM were born outside of the US. Not surprisingly, most were born in Mexico (87%) followed by countries in the Caribbean (see Table 1).

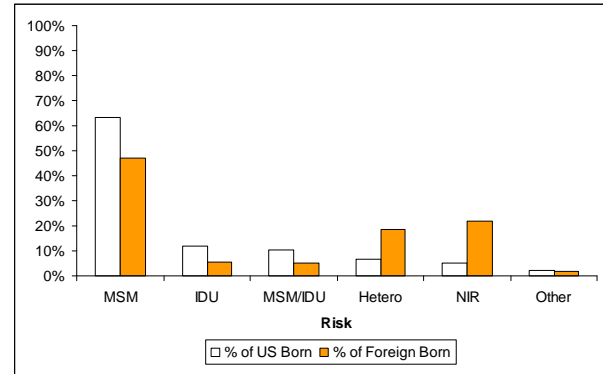
Table 1. Foreign Born Hispanics with HIV/AIDS by Region of Birth, NM, 2007

Region	# of Cases	% of Cases
Mexico	194	87%
Caribbean	15	7%
Central America	9	4%
Other	4	2%
TOTAL	222	100%

Source: Hiv & Hepatitis Epidemiology Program

In NM, female Hispanic cases were more likely to be foreign born (20%) than male Hispanic cases (15%). As shown in Figure 4, a greater proportion of Hispanics born outside of the US reported high risk heterosexual contact (18%) or NIR (22%).

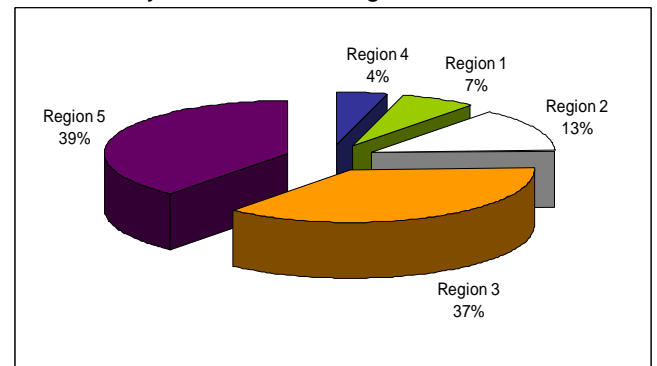
Figure 4. All Hispanic Cases of HIV/AIDS by Risk and Country of Birth, NM, 2007



Source: HIV & Hepatitis Epidemiology Program

Public Health Region 5, the southeastern region of NM that includes three counties which border Mexico, had the greatest proportion of Hispanic cases that were foreign born (39%). Region 3, Bernalillo County, followed closely behind with 37% of its Hispanic HIV/AIDS cases being foreign born. This region also had the largest proportion of HIV/AIDS cases in the state.

Figure 5. All Foreign Born Hispanic Cases of HIV/AIDS by Public Health Region, NM, 2007



Source: HIV & Hepatitis Epidemiology Program

HIV/AIDS in Latin America/Caribbean

Although an estimated 1.7 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in Latin America, rates are relatively low when compared with the rest of the world.⁴ Two-thirds of these cases live in the four largest countries of Brazil, Mexico, Columbia, and Argentina.

One third of HIV/AIDS cases living in Latin America are in Brazil. It has been estimated that nearly half of all cases in Brazil are MSM.⁴ However, infection in women is increasing and the estimated prevalence rate

in sex workers is 6%.⁴ Brazil's prevalence has remained steady at 0.5% which may be due to the country's emphasis on prevention and treatment.⁴ Prevention efforts in Brazil have included sex education and HIV/AIDS prevention in schools, condom use, harm reduction and HIV testing. Between 1998 and 2005, condom use increased by 50%.⁴ The Brazilian government has also saved millions of dollars and improved treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS by manufacturing its own antiretroviral drugs. As a result, between 1996 and 2002 AIDS mortality rates decreased by 50% and AIDS-related hospitalizations decreased by 80%.⁴ However, in 1996 Brazil passed a law enforcing the World Health Organization's patent rules known as the 'Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights' (TRIPS).⁵ TRIPS has restricted the manufacture of any antiretroviral drugs that were patented after 1996, many of which are vital in currently treating HIV/AIDS.⁵

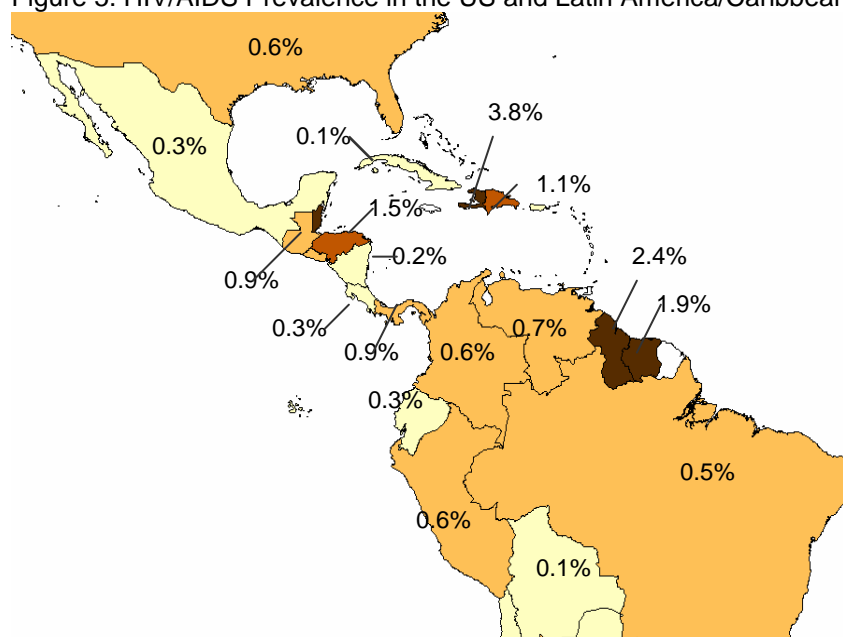
The highest rates of HIV/AIDS in Latin America are in Belize (2.5 per 100,000), Guyana (2.4), Suriname (1.9) and Honduras (1.5).⁴ The national prevalence of the disease in Mexico is estimated to be quite low at 0.3%, or half the US rate of 0.6% (see Figure 5).³

Mexico's epidemic is concentrated primarily among MSM, sex workers and their clients, and IDU.⁴ Prevalence is higher in some of these groups; in 2006, a study found a prevalence of 6% among female sex workers in Ciudad Juárez and Tijuana.⁴ Since 2003, the Mexican government has had a policy of universal access to antiviral drugs. However, many people who need these drugs do not know they are infected and pharmacies often run out of drugs.⁵ Prevention efforts by Mexico's top AIDS agency, CEDSIDA, has included a progressive anti-homophobia campaign aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination against MSM.⁵

Conclusions

Although NM is experiencing an increase in HIV/AIDS among Hispanics, the rate remains low compared to the rest of the US. While HIV prevention in NM continues to focus on Hispanic populations, it should also consider the influence of epidemics outside the US. HIV/AIDS does not stop at borders and therefore it is important to follow and support the fight against this epidemic beyond our state and country borders.

Figure 5. HIV/AIDS Prevalence in the US and Latin America/Caribbean, 2006



References:

1. US Census Bureau Intercensal Report 2006. <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/010048.html>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV/AIDS Among Hispanics - United States, 2001-2005. MMWR 2007; 56: 1052-1057.
3. Migration Information Source: New Mexico Fact Sheet. Available at: <http://www.migrationinformation.org/data>
4. UNAIDS 2006 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic. Available at: http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_CH00FM_en.pdf
5. Cohen, Jon. "HIV/AIDS: Latin America & Caribbean." Science; 313: Special Section 467-489. July 2006.

Source: Data from UNAIDS⁴, created in EpiInfo.

HIV/AIDS IN NEW MEXICO FACT SHEET

Cases reported through November 1, 2007

In previous reports, the HIV & Hepatitis Epidemiology Program summarized only cases diagnosed in New Mexico. Living cases diagnosed in New Mexico are used by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to represent prevalent cases. However, data that include out-of-state diagnoses provide a better reflection of local prevalence patterns and are now also provided in the summary.

	Cases diagnosed in New Mexico					All cases in New Mexico				
	N	Living %	Rate*	Cumulative N	Cumulative %	N	Living %	Rate	Cumulative N	Cumulative %
Type of case										
HIV	918	42%	45.7	991	27%	1288	38%	64.1	1381	26%
AIDS	1284	58%	63.9	2640	73%	2078	62%	103.3	3946	74%
Sex										
Male	1914	87%	193.5	3240	89%	2959	88%	299.2	4781	90%
Female	288	13%	28.2	391	11%	407	12%	39.8	546	10%
Race/Ethnicity										
White	968	44%	111.5	1741	48%	1682	50%	193.8	2800	53%
Hispanic	963	44%	110.3	1477	41%	1216	36%	139.3	1848	35%
Native American	149	7%	74.1	222	6%	236	7%	117.3	348	7%
African American	110	5%	272.5	174	5%	210	6%	520.2	303	6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	12	1%	42.6	17	0%	22	1%	78.1	28	1%
Region at Diagnosis**										
Region 1 (Northwest)	275	12%	65.6	425	12%	314	9%	74.8	486	9%
Region 2 (Northeast)	440	20%	145.2	763	21%	527	16%	173.9	914	17%
Region 3 (Bernalillo Co.)	1004	46%	159.8	1732	48%	1149	34%	182.9	1995	37%
Region 4 (Southeast)	125	6%	49.5	222	6%	156	5%	61.7	273	5%
Region 5 (Southwest)	358	16%	87.9	489	13%	404	12%	99.2	571	11%
Out of state	-	-	-	-	-	816	24%	-	1088	20%
Age at Diagnosis										
< 13	8	0%	2.3	12	0%	15	0%	4.2	22	0%
13-19	55	2%	26.3	58	2%	69	2%	33.0	74	1%
20-29	502	23%	174.6	734	20%	777	23%	270.3	1112	21%
30-39	878	40%	363.1	1496	41%	1393	41%	576.1	2283	43%
40-49	566	26%	191.2	949	26%	844	25%	285.1	1350	25%
50+	193	9%	31.1	382	11%	268	8%	43.2	486	9%
Exposure Risk										
MSM	1307	59%	-	2216	61%	2044	61%	-	3299	62%
IDU	221	10%	-	367	10%	344	10%	-	545	10%
MSM/IDU	193	9%	-	350	10%	349	10%	-	584	11%
Heterosexual	233	11%	-	301	8%	321	10%	-	409	8%
Other	13	1%	-	47	1%	19	1%	-	60	1%
No Identified Risk	222	10%	-	331	9%	267	8%	-	398	7%
Pediatric	13	1%	-	19	1%	22	1%	-	32	1%
TOTALS	2202	100%	109.5	3631	100%	3366	100%	167.4	5327	100%

*Rates per 100,000 based on Bureau of Business and Economic Research data for 2005; **Residence at time of HIV or AIDS diagnosis.

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