

**Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) among African Americans in New Mexico**

**New HIV Diagnoses**

**U.S. Data**

- African Americans experience a disproportionate burden of HIV compared with persons of other race/ethnicities. In 2011, African Americans in the U.S. accounted for 47% of all new diagnoses of HIV infection, although they account for only 12% to 14% of the U.S. population.<sup>1,2</sup>
- The estimated lifetime risk of becoming infected with HIV in the U.S. is 1 in 16 for African American males, and 1 in 32 for African American females, a far higher risk than for White males (1 in 104) and White females (1 in 526).<sup>3,4</sup>
- Although the number of new HIV diagnoses among African American females in the U.S. declined 21% between 2008 and 2010, African American females are still diagnosed with HIV at 20 times the rate of White women and 5 times that of Hispanic/Latina women.<sup>1</sup>

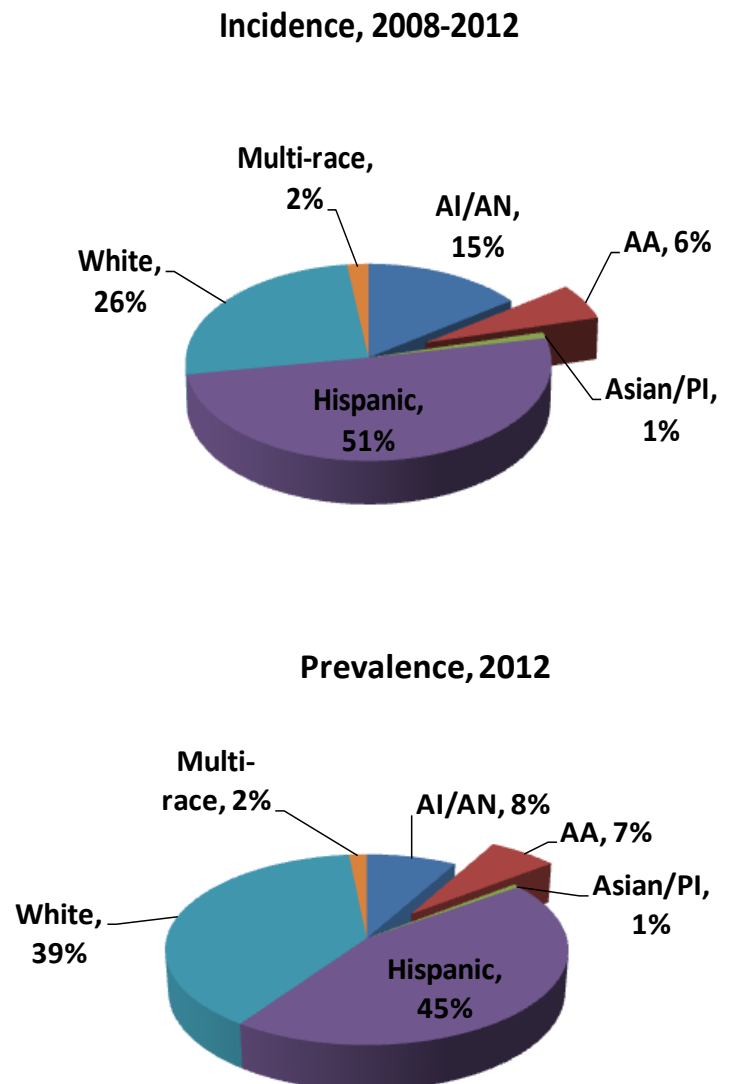
**New Mexico Data**

- African Americans make up less than 2% of New Mexico's population.<sup>5</sup> From 2008 to 2012, African Americans contributed 6% (n=43) of newly diagnosed persons in New Mexico (Figure 1, Incidence).
- Females accounted for 35% of newly diagnosed cases among African Americans, a far higher percentage than for any other race.
- From 2008 to 2012, 42% of newly diagnosed African American cases reported men who have sex with men (MSM) as their most likely transmission category, 14% reported high risk heterosexual sex (HRH), and 12% reported injection drug use (IDU). Nearly one-third (30%) of newly diagnosed cases did not report a transmission category.

**Persons Living With HIV**

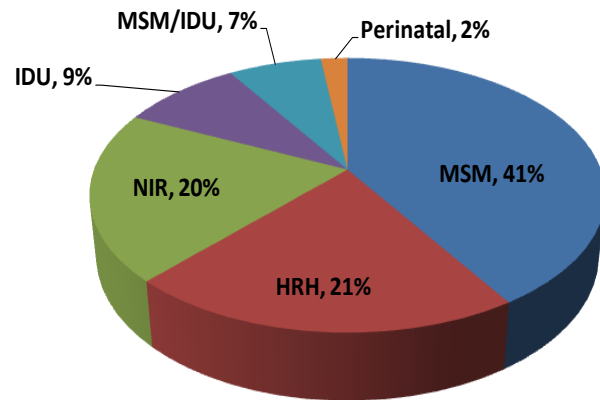
- The prevalence rate of HIV infection for African Americans is nearly three times higher than for any other racial/ethnic group in the U.S.<sup>3</sup> This holds true in New Mexico, where the African American prevalence rate is nearly four times higher than the rate for any other racial/ethnic group.<sup>6</sup>

**Figure 1: HIV Cases, by Race/Ethnicity, New Mexico**



- Of the 2,900 people living with HIV in New Mexico, approximately 7% (n=188) are African American (Figure 1, Prevalence).
- Like other racial/ethnic groups, the transmission category most commonly reported among HIV positive African Americans in New Mexico is MSM (Figure 2).
- One-half of African American women living with HIV in New Mexico reported high risk heterosexual (HRH) sex as their transmission category.
- Approximately 14% HIV positive African Americans living in New Mexico are African-born. This sub-population of African Americans may require culturally specific public health efforts to promote HIV prevention and medical and social care.

**Figure 2: African Americans Living with HIV, by Transmission Category, New Mexico, 2012**



### Prevention and Advocacy

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) High-Impact Prevention approach encourages targeted testing in high-risk populations including MSM and racial/ethnic minorities, as well as focusing on stages of linkage and retention in care for those who are currently living with HIV.

Both the *Testing Makes Us Stronger* (gay and bi-sexual men) and *Take Charge. Take the Test* (women) are testing campaigns specifically designed to reach African American populations.<sup>1</sup>

The New Mexico Department of Health HIV Prevention Program funds organizations that use evidence-based models from CDC. Programs designed for African Americans in New Mexico include:

- **Many Men/Many Voices (3MV)** is an intervention that targets gay and transgender men of color, including men who have sex with men (MSM) who may not identify as gay.
- **VOICES/VOCES** is a single-session model that uses a video to promote condom use and skills. VOCES can also be used with teens or adults in a variety of settings for African American men and women.

### References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet: HIV/AIDS among African Americans. February, 2013. [http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk\\_HIV\\_AAA.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk_HIV_AAA.pdf)
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Updated Slide Set: HIV Surveillance by Race/Ethnicity (through 2011). <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/surveillance/index.html>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet: HIV/AIDS among Women. March, 2013. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/gender/women/facts/index.html>
4. Hall, IH , Q An, AB Hutchinson, and S Sansom (2008) Estimating the Lifetime Risk of a Diagnosis of the HIV Infection in 33 States, 2004-2005. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr.* 49(3):294-297
5. New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health Web Site: <http://ibis.health.state.nm.us/>
6. New Mexico 2012 Surveillance Report: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Among Adults and Adolescents

**HRH (High-risk heterosexual)** Persons who have a history of heterosexual sexual contact with bi-sexual males, injection drug users, or a person with known HIV infection.

**IDU (Injection drug user)** Persons who have a history of injecting illicit or nonprescription drugs.

**MSM (Men who have sex with men)** Men who have a history of sexual contact with men or with both men and women.

**NIR (No identified risk)** Persons who have no reported history of risk of exposure to HIV, as defined by the CDC.