



Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Data Fact Sheet

Who is currently living with HIV/AIDS?

Overview

Since the beginning of the epidemic, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts has increased every year. In the past ten years, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS reported to the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program increased by 42%.

Among those currently known to be living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts, there is considerable diversity by gender, race/ethnicity and other demographic characteristics. For example, while over half of males living with HIV/AIDS are white non-Hispanic (51%), the largest proportion of females living with HIV/AIDS is black non-Hispanic (42%). While nearly half (49%) of males living with HIV/AIDS were exposed to HIV infection through male-to-male sex, 27% of females were exposed through injection drug use and 34% were exposed through heterosexual sex (with partners with known risk and HIV status). Exposure resulting in HIV infection also varies by race/ethnicity. The majority of white (non-Hispanic) individuals living with HIV/AIDS were reported to have been exposed to HIV infection through male-to-male sex, Hispanic individuals through injection drug use and black (non-Hispanic) individuals through heterosexual sex with partners of unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual).

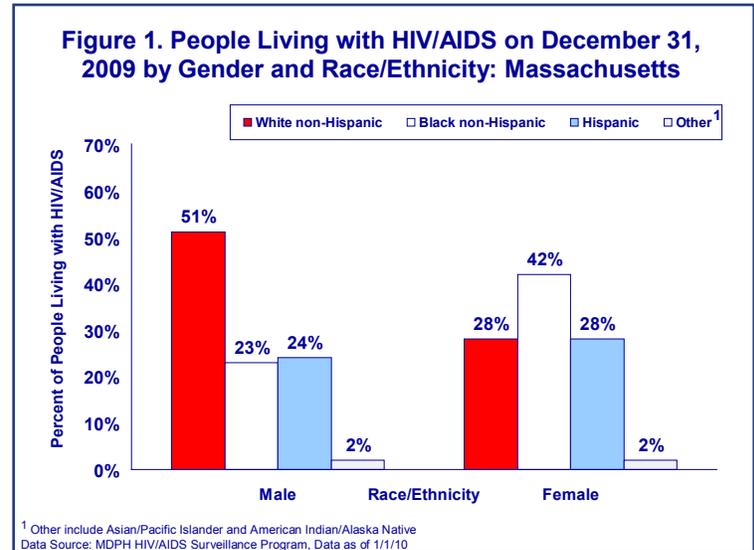
The profile of people living with HIV/AIDS also varies by geography. For example, the Western and Central Health Service Regions (HSR)¹ have larger proportions of females living with HIV/AIDS compared to other regions and a higher proportion of people exposed to HIV through injection drug use. The Boston, Metro West and Southeast regions have higher proportions of males exposed to HIV through male-to-male sex.

The following provides a summary of people known to be living with HIV/AIDS on December 31, 2009 and describes this population in more depth.

Gender and Race/Ethnicity:

- Seventy-one percent of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts are male and 29% are female.

- Forty-four percent of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts are white (non-Hispanic), 29% are black (non-Hispanic), 25% are Hispanic, 1% are Asian/Pacific Islander, and less than 1% are American Indian/Alaska Native. To illustrate racial and ethnic disparities, Black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic individuals each make up 6% of the total Massachusetts population.



- Among **males** living with HIV/AIDS, 51% are white (non-Hispanic), 23% are black (non-Hispanic) and 24% are Hispanic.
- Among **females** living with HIV/AIDS, 28% are white (non-Hispanic), 42% are black (non-Hispanic) and 28% are Hispanic.

Place of Birth, Race/Ethnicity and Gender:

- Twenty-one percent of people living with HIV/AIDS were born outside the US, 12% were born in Puerto Rico or another US Dependency and 67% were born in the US.
- Among people living with HIV/AIDS who are Asian/Pacific Islander, 78% were born outside the US, compared to 42% of black (non-Hispanic), 21% of Hispanic and 5% of white (non-Hispanic) individuals.
- Thirty percent of females living with HIV/AIDS were born outside the US, compared to 17% of males.





Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Data Fact Sheet

Who is currently living with HIV/AIDS?

Current Age:

- As of December 31, 2009, 79% of people living with HIV/AIDS were 40 years old or older.

Gender and Exposure Mode:

- Male-to-male sex and injection drug use are the leading reported exposure risks for HIV infection among all people living with HIV/AIDS, accounting for 35% and 24% of all exposures, respectively.
- For **males**, male-to-male sex is the predominant exposure mode (49%), followed by injection drug use (23%).
- For **females**, heterosexual sex (with partners with known risk and/or HIV status) and presumed heterosexual sex with partners of unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual) account for the most frequently reported exposure modes at 34% and 29%, respectively.

Race/Ethnicity and Exposure Mode:

- Among **white (non-Hispanic)** people living with HIV/AIDS, male-to-male sex is the most frequently reported exposure mode, accounting for 57%.
- Presumed heterosexual sex with partners with unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual) is the leading risk for HIV infection among **black (non-Hispanic) people** living with HIV/AIDS (32%).
- Among **Hispanic** people living with HIV/AIDS, the predominant risk for HIV infection is injection drug use, which accounts for 37% of exposures.
- Among **Asian/Pacific Islanders** living with HIV/AIDS, the predominant risk for HIV infection is male-to-male sex, accounting for 37% of exposures.

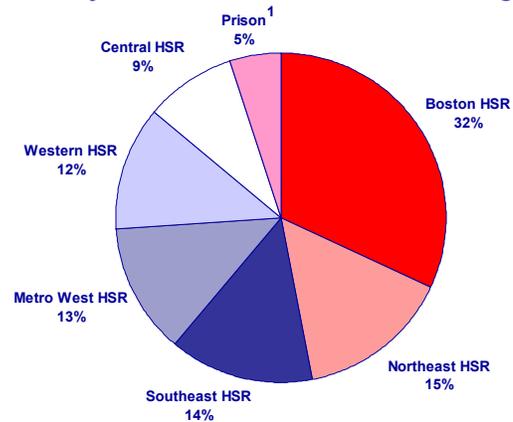
Race/Ethnicity and Exposure Mode by Gender:

- Among **white (non-Hispanic) males** living with HIV/AIDS, male-to-male sex is the primary reported risk for HIV infection, accounting for 69% of exposures.
- Among **black (non-Hispanic) males** living with HIV/AIDS, exposure mode is more evenly distributed, with male-to-male sex accounting for 26% of exposures, injection drug use 24%, and heterosexual sex with partners with unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual sex) comprising 23%.

- Among **Hispanic males** living with HIV/AIDS, injection drug use is the leading reported risk for HIV infection, accounting for 42% of exposures.
- While the predominant exposure mode among **white (non-Hispanic) females** living with HIV/AIDS is injection drug use (46%), the predominant exposure mode among **black (non-Hispanic) females** is heterosexual sex with partners of unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual sex, 44%) and among **Hispanic females** is heterosexual sex with partners with known risk and HIV status (43%).

Distribution by Health Service Region (HSR):

Figure 2. People Living with HIV/AIDS on December 31, 2009 by Massachusetts Health Service Region



¹ Prisons include persons who were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS while in a correctional facility. While prisons are not a region, the prison population is presented separately in this analysis because of its unique service planning needs. Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 1/1/10

- Although 32% of people living with HIV/AIDS were living in the Boston Health Service Region at the time of report, just 12% of all Massachusetts residents were living there in 2000, according to the US Census.

Distribution by Gender and Health Service Region (HSR):

- The Central and Western regions have a higher proportion of females among all those living with HIV/AIDS compared with other regions (38% and 37%, respectively).
- At 77%, the Boston region has the highest proportion of males among all those living with HIV/AIDS.



For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix
 Massachusetts Department of Public Health Office of HIV/AIDS
 250 Washington St. 3rd Floor Boston, MA 02108
 617-624-5300 FAX 617-624-5399 www.mass.gov/dph/aids





Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Data Fact Sheet

Who is currently living with HIV/AIDS?

Distribution by Race/Ethnicity and Health Service Region (HSR):

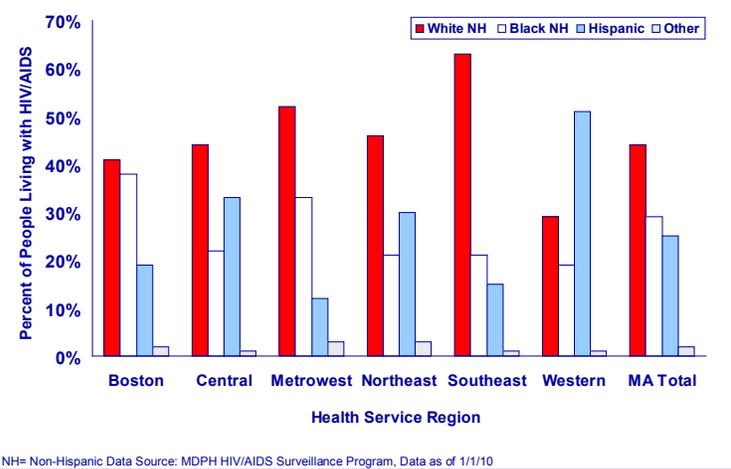
- The Boston HSR has the highest proportion (38%) of **black (non-Hispanic) individuals** among those living with HIV/AIDS, followed by the Metro West HSR (33%).
- **White (non-Hispanic) individuals** account for the largest proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS across race/ethnicity in all regions except the Western HSR, where Hispanic individuals are the largest group.
- The Western HSR has the highest proportion (51%) of **Hispanic individuals** among those living with HIV/AIDS, followed by the Central HSR (33%).

Data Sources

All HIV/AIDS Case Data: Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 1/1/10

¹ HSRs are regions defined geographically to facilitate targeted health service planning. See Epidemiologic Profile General Appendices, Health Service Region Maps, available at http://www.mass.gov/dph/aids/research/profile2005/app5_hrs_maps.pdf for configuration of health service regions. Reflects the health service region of a person's residence at the time of report (not necessarily current residence).

Figure 3. People Living with HIV/AIDS on December 31, 2009 by Health Service Region and Race/Ethnicity: Massachusetts



Distribution by Exposure mode and Health Service Region (HSR):

- Male-to-male sex is the exposure mode reported for the largest proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS in the Boston (47%), Metro West (39%), Southeast (38%), and Northeast (31%) regions.
- Injection drug use is the exposure mode reported for the largest proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS in the Central (33%) and Western (33%) regions.



For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix
Massachusetts Department of Public Health Office of HIV/AIDS
250 Washington St. 3rd Floor Boston, MA 02108
617-624-5300 FAX 617-624-5399 www.mass.gov/dph/aids

