



Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Data Fact Sheet

Who is currently living with HIV/AIDS?

Overview

Since the beginning of the epidemic, the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts, as reported to the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, has increased every year. In the past ten years, it has increased by 31%.

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 just over half of males living with HIV/AIDS are white (non-Hispanic) (51%), the largest proportion of females living with HIV/AIDS are black (non-Hispanic) (44%). While roughly half (51%) of males living with HIV/AIDS were exposed to HIV infection through male-to-male sex and 18% had undetermined risk, 35% of females were exposed through sex with males of known risk and/or HIV status (heterosexual), and 30% were exposed through sex with males of unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual). Exposure resulting in HIV infection also varies by race/ethnicity. The predominant reported exposure mode among white (non-Hispanic) individuals living with HIV/AIDS is male-to-male sex (59%) and among Hispanic/Latino individuals is injection drug use (32%). Among black (non-Hispanic) individuals the largest proportion is reported with undetermined exposure mode (23%), followed by heterosexual sex (21%).

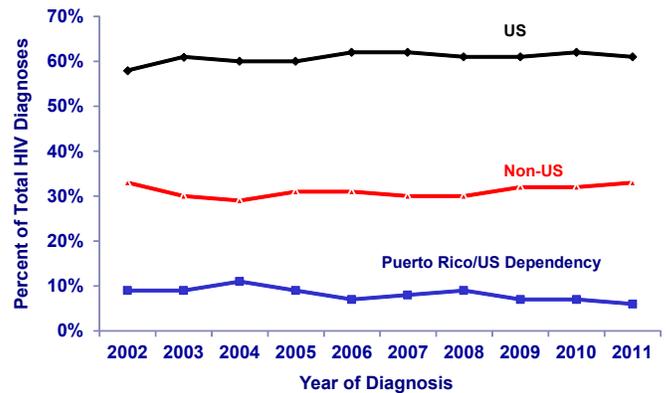
The profile of people living with HIV/AIDS also varies by geography. For example, the Western and Central Health Service Regions (HSR)ⁱⁱ have larger proportions of females living with HIV/AIDS compared to other regions, and a higher proportion of people exposed to HIV through injection drug use. The 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 18,459 people living with HIV/AIDS on December 31, 2012, who were first diagnosed and reported in Massachusetts. An additional 2,615 people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts who were first diagnosed in another state but have received care in Massachusetts at some point during their HIV infection are not included.ⁱⁱⁱ

Gender and Race/Ethnicity:

- Seventy-one percent of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts are male and 29% are female.
- Forty-three percent of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts are white (non-Hispanic), 30% are black (non-Hispanic), 24% are Hispanic/Latino, 2% are Asian/Pacific Islander, and less than 1% are of other/undetermined race/ethnicity. Comparatively, black (non-Hispanic) individuals make up 6%, and Hispanic/Latino individuals 10% of the total Massachusetts population.

Figure 1. Percentage Distribution of People Diagnosed with HIV Infection by Place of Birth and Year of Diagnosis: Massachusetts, 2002–2011



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program; Data as of 1/1/13

- Among males living with HIV/AIDS, 51% are white (non-Hispanic), 24% are black (non-Hispanic) and 23% are Hispanic/Latino.
- Among females living with HIV/AIDS, 26% are white (non-Hispanic), 45% are black (non-Hispanic) and 27% are Hispanic/Latina.

Place of Birth, Race/Ethnicity and Gender:

- Twenty-four percent of people living with HIV/AIDS were born outside the US, 10% were born in Puerto Rico or another US Dependency and 66% were born in the US.





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- Among people living with HIV/AIDS who are Asian/Pacific Islander, 74% were born outside the US, compared to 45% of black (non-Hispanic), 25% of Hispanic/Latino and 6% of white (non-Hispanic) individuals. An additional 42% percent of Hispanic/Latino individuals living with HIV/AIDS were born in Puerto Rico or another US Dependency.
- Thirty-four percent of females living with HIV/AIDS were born outside the US, and an additional 12% were born in Puerto Rico or another US Dependency, compared to 20% and 10%, respectively, of males.

Current Age:

- As of December 31, 2012, 83% of people living with HIV/AIDS were age 40 years or older, 52% were age 50 years or older, and 15% were age 60 years or older.
- As of December 31, 2012, 1% of people living with HIV/AIDS were age 19 years or younger, 5% were in their 20s, 12% were in their 30s, 31% were in their 40s, 36% were in their 50s, and 15% were age 60 years 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 36% and 20% of all exposure modes, respectively.
- Among males, male-to-male sex is the predominant exposure mode (51%), followed by injection drug use (19%). Exposure mode is undetermined for 18% of males living with HIV/AIDS and heterosexual sex accounts for 6%, MSM/IDU 5%, and other modes 2% of exposures.
- Among females, heterosexual sex (with males of known risk and/or HIV status) and sex with males of unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual) account for the most frequently reported exposure modes at 35% and 30%, respectively. Injection drug use accounts for 24%, other modes 3%, and exposure mode is undetermined in 7% of females living with HIV/AIDS.

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 59% of exposures.

- Among **black (non-Hispanic) individuals**, the largest proportion has an undetermined exposure mode (23%), followed by heterosexual sex (21%), presumed heterosexual sex (female reporting sex with male of unknown HIV status and risk, 19%), injection drug use (16%) and male-to-male sex (16%).
- Among **Hispanic/Latino people** living with HIV/AIDS, the predominant risk for HIV infection is injection drug use, which accounts for 32% of exposures.
- Among **Asian/Pacific Islanders** living with HIV/AIDS, the predominant risk for HIV infection is male-to-male sex, accounting for 43% 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 71% of exposures, followed by injection drug use at 11%; for 9% exposure mode is undetermined.
- Exposure mode is undetermined in 35% of **black (non-Hispanic) males** living with HIV/AIDS. Among those with a reported risk, male-to-male sex is most frequently reported, accounting for 28% of all exposures, followed by injection drug use at 20% and heterosexual sex at 12% of reported exposures.
- Among **Hispanic/Latino males** living with HIV/AIDS, injection drug use and male-to-male sex are the leading reported risks for HIV infection, accounting for 35% and 32% of exposures, respectively; for 18% exposure mode is undetermined.
- While the predominant exposure mode among **white (non-Hispanic) females** living with HIV/AIDS is injection drug use (44%), the predominant exposure mode among **black (non-Hispanic) females** is sex with males of unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual sex, 43%) and among **Hispanic/Latina females** is heterosexual sex with males of known risk and/or HIV status (43%).

Distribution by Health Service Region (HSR):

- Although 32% of people living with HIV/AIDS were living in the Boston Health Service Region at the time of diagnosis, just 12% of all Massachusetts residents were living there in 2010.



For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix
 Massachusetts Department of Public Health Office of HIV/AIDS
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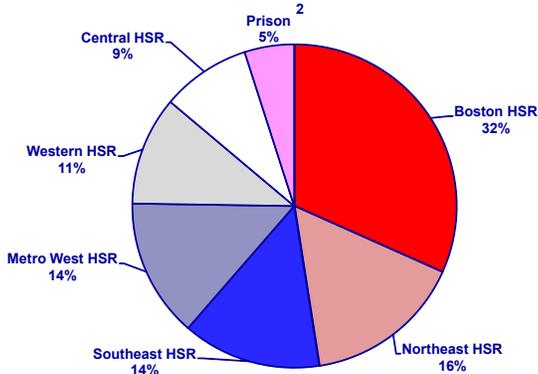




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Figure 2. People Living with HIV/AIDS on December 31, 2012 by Massachusetts Health Service Region¹



¹ Reflects the health service region of a person's residence at the time of report (not necessarily current residence)
² 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 1/1/13

Distribution by Gender and Health Service Region (HSR):

- The Central and Western regions have a higher proportion of females among those living with HIV/AIDS compared with other regions, at 38% and 36%, respectively.
- At 76%, the Boston region has the highest proportion of males among those living with HIV/AIDS.

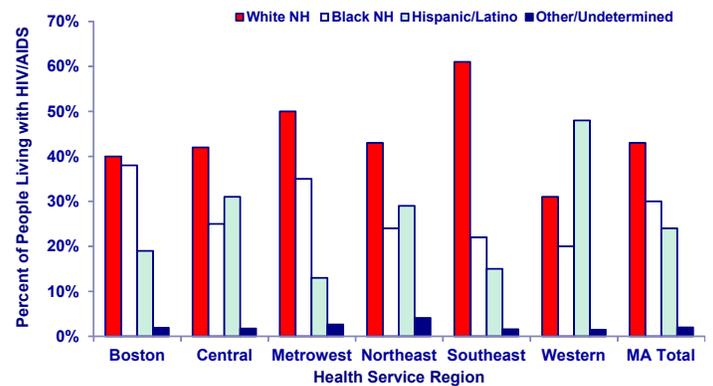
Distribution by Race/Ethnicity and Health Service Region (HSR):

- 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 (35%).
- White (non-Hispanic) individuals account for the largest proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS by race/ethnicity in the Boston, Central, Metro West, Northeast and Southeast HSRs.
- The Western HSR has the highest proportion (48%) of Hispanic/Latino individuals among those living with HIV/AIDS, followed by the Central HSR (31%).

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 (48%), Metro West (40%), Southeast (39%), and Northeast (31%) regions.

Figure 3. People Living with HIV/AIDS on December 31, 2012 by Health Service Region¹ and Race/Ethnicity: Massachusetts



¹ Reflects the health service region of a person's residence at the time of report (not necessarily current residence)
 NH= Non-Hispanic; Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 1/1/13

- Injection drug use is the exposure mode reported for the largest proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS in the Western (28%) and Central (28%) regions.

Data Sources

HIV/AIDS Case Data: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, all data as of 1/1/13

MDPH Massachusetts Race Allocated Census 2010 Estimates (MRACE 2010), Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Health Information, Statistics, Research, and Evaluation, Research and Epidemiology Program. November 2011. MDPH Estimates of Census 2010 SF1, Massachusetts Data.

ⁱ The category of presumed heterosexual is used exclusively for females, to define HIV exposure mode in cases when sex with males is the only reported risk factor for HIV infection.

ⁱⁱ Reflects the health service region of a person's residence at the time of diagnosis (not necessarily current residence). 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.

ⁱⁱⁱ Effective January 1, 2011, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, HIV/AIDS fact sheets, epidemiologic reports, and other data presentations have been updated to remove all HIV/AIDS cases that were first diagnosed in another state before being reported in Massachusetts.



For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix
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