



## Adolescents and Young Adults

### Fast Facts

- 13% of all recent HIV diagnoses are among persons aged 13-24 years old.
- This proportion of infections among younger individuals is lower than the national average.
- 77% of adolescent and young adult men recently diagnosed with HIV infection were men who have sex with men.

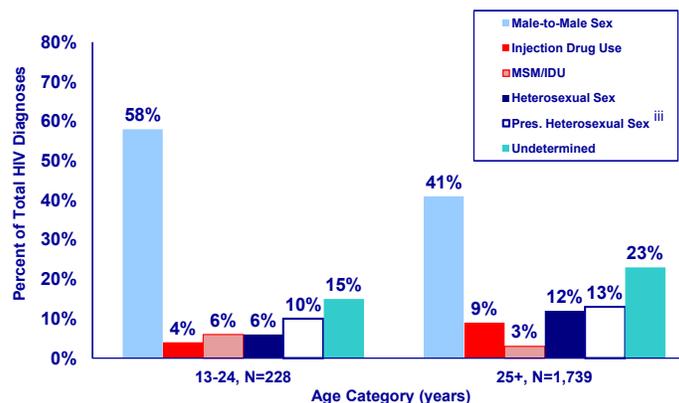
### Introduction

The proportion of HIV infections diagnosed among adolescents and young adults 13–24 years old in Massachusetts increased from 8% in 2003 to 14% in 2012, but still remains below the national average.<sup>i</sup> Thirteen percent (N=263) of people diagnosed and reported with HIV infection in Massachusetts between 2010 and 2012 were 13–24 years old compared to 20% nationally.<sup>ii</sup> From 2003 to 2012, while the overall number of HIV diagnoses in Massachusetts declined by 41%, the number of 13–24 year olds diagnosed with HIV infection increased by 25% from 2003 (N=79) to 2012 (N=99).

Compared to older adults diagnosed with HIV infection, adolescents and young adults differ with respect to reported risk and gender. Male-to-male sex accounts for a greater proportion of recent diagnoses among male adolescents and young adults (77%) than among men 25 years old and older (56%). Women account for 24% of adolescents and young adults recently diagnosed with HIV infection, compared to 27% of people diagnosed at age 25 years and older.

### Reported Risk:

**Figure 1. People Diagnosed with HIV Infection Within the Years 2010 to 2012 by Age at HIV Diagnosis and Reported Risk: Massachusetts**



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 1/1/14

- Among individuals living with HIV/AIDS who were 13-24 years old on December 31, 2013, none were reported with a reported risk of injection drug use; and a smaller proportion were reported with a reported risk of male-to-male sex (22%) than among those 25 years old and older (38%).
- Fifty-five percent (N=208) of the 378 people currently 13–24 years old living with HIV/AIDS were born to HIV-infected mothers and were exposed at or around birth, compared to one percent (N=105) of individuals living with HIV/AIDS age 25 years old and older.
- Of the 208 individuals living with HIV/AIDS who were 13–24 years old on December 31, 2013 and infected at birth:
  - Fifty-one percent are male and 49% are female.
  - Forty-four percent are black (non-Hispanic), 31% are Hispanic/Latino, and 23% are white (non-Hispanic).

### Reported Risk and Gender:

- A higher proportion of adolescent and young men diagnosed with HIV infection within the three-year period 2010 to 2012 were exposed to HIV through male-to-male sex compared to men age 25 years old and older (77% vs. 56%). Conversely, a lower proportion were exposed through injection drug use (0% among 13–24 year olds vs. 8% among 25+ year olds), although 4% were reported to have both male-to-male sex and injection drug use as risks for infection.





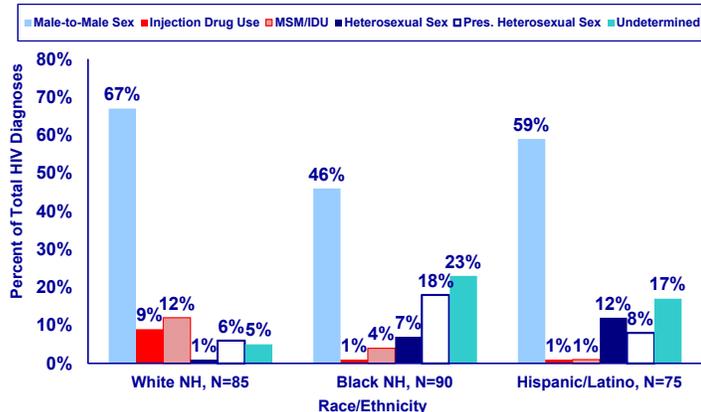
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- A larger proportion of adolescent and young women diagnosed with HIV infection within the three-year period 2010 to 2012 were reported with an undetermined risk compared to women age 25 years old and older (22% vs. 14%).

### Reported Risk and Race/Ethnicity:

**Figure 2. People Diagnosed with HIV Infection Between 13–24 Years of Age, Race/Ethnicity by Reported Risk: Massachusetts, 2010–2012**



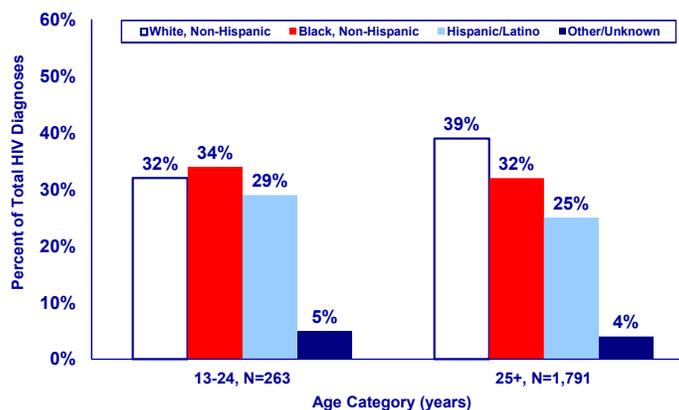
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 1/1/14

- Accounting for 58% of recent HIV infection diagnoses among youth age 13–24 years, male-to-male sex is the predominant reported risk for people of all race/ethnicities in this age group.
- Injection drug use accounted for 9% of recently diagnosed HIV reported risks among white (non-Hispanic) youth age 13-24 years, and 1% among both Hispanic/Latino and black (non-Hispanic) youth.
- The largest proportion of recent HIV diagnoses with undetermined risk was among black (non-Hispanic) youth at 23%, followed by Hispanic/Latino youth at 17%, and white (non-Hispanic) youth at 5%.

### Race and Ethnicity, Age Comparison:

- The racial/ethnic distribution of adolescents and young adults diagnosed with HIV infection within the three-year period 2010 to 2012 is similar to that of people diagnosed at age 25 years or older.

**Figure 3. People Diagnosed with HIV Infection Within the Years 2010 to 2012 by Age at HIV Diagnosis and Race/Ethnicity: Massachusetts**



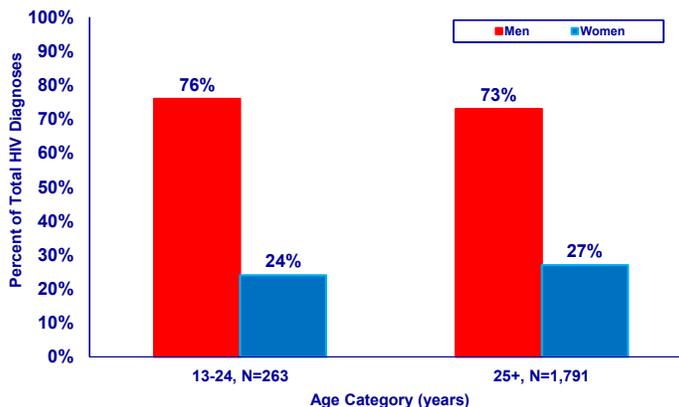
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 1/1/14

- Among youth living with HIV/AIDS who were 13 to 24 years of age on December 31, 2013, 42% were black (non-Hispanic), compared to 30% of people age 25 years or older living with HIV/AIDS, and 31% were Hispanic/Latino, compared to 24% of people age 25 years or older living with HIV/AIDS.

### Gender, Age Comparison:

- Among youth age 13–24 years recently diagnosed with HIV infection, 76% were male, compared to 73% of those diagnosed at age 25 years and older.

**Figure 4. People Diagnosed with HIV Infection Within the Years 2010 to 2012 by Age at HIV Diagnosis and Gender: Massachusetts**



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 1/1/14



For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix  
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- Among individuals living with HIV/AIDS, who were 13–24 years old on December 31, 2013, 41% were young women, compared to 28% of those age 25 years and older.

### Regional Distribution:

- The Western HSR<sup>iv</sup> has the highest percent of adolescents and young adults diagnosed with HIV infection within the three-year period 2010 to 2012 at 17%, followed by the Southeast HSR at 14%.

Among cities with at least 5 people diagnosed with HIV infection at ages 13–24 years within the three-year period 2010 to 2012, the following have the largest proportions of people diagnosed with HIV infection at ages 13–24 years (N=number of HIV infection diagnoses at ages 13–24 years):

• Chicopee	5	36%
• Fall River	6	25%
• Medford	5	23%
• Holyoke	8	21%
• Springfield	18	16%
• Boston	77	14%
• <b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>13%</b>

- Within the three-year period 2010 to 2012, the City of Boston had the largest number of people diagnosed with HIV infection between the ages of 13–24 years (N=77), accounting for 29% of all HIV diagnoses made in this age group in Massachusetts.

### Adolescents at Risk of HIV Infection

**Behavioral Risk Factors:** According to school-based behavioral surveys, adolescents in Massachusetts are engaging in behaviors that may place them at risk for HIV infection.

- There has been little change in the following reported sexual behaviors between 2003 and 2013:
  - condom use at last intercourse (57% in 2003 and 58% in 2013),
  - ever had sexual intercourse (41% in 2003 and 38% in 2013),
  - sexual intercourse before age 13 (5% in 2003 and 3% in 2013),
  - four or more lifetime sexual partners (10% in 2003 and 9% in 2013),

- sexual intercourse in the past three months (30% in 2003 and 28% in 2013),
- alcohol or drug use at last intercourse (25% in 2003 and 24% in 2013),
- ever been or gotten someone pregnant (4% in 2003 and 3% in 2013), and
- ever had sexual contact against their will (10% in 2003 and 9% in 2013).

- In addition to infection risks associated with sharing injection equipment, both injection and non-injection substance use has been documented to drive sexual risk for HIV and hepatitis C infection. Among 2,718 high school-aged respondents to the 2013 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey (MYRBS), 4% reported ever using cocaine, 1% reported ever using heroin and 1% reported ever using a needle to inject drugs.

### Data Sources

HIV/AIDS Case Data: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of January 1, 2014

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Youth Risk Behavior Survey

<sup>i</sup> 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.

<sup>ii</sup> National estimate of 20% refers to the most recently available three-year period: 2009-2011; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV Surveillance Report, 2011; vol. 23. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/>. Published February 2013. Accessed [7/5/14].

<sup>iii</sup> The category of presumed heterosexual is used exclusively for women, to define HIV reported risk in cases when sex with men is the only reported risk factor for HIV infection.

<sup>iv</sup> Reflects the health service region of a person's residence at the time of report (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/eohhs/docs/dph/aids/2006-profiles/app-hrs-maps.pdf> for configuration of health service regions.



For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix  
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