



# Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Data Fact Sheet

## Persons Born Outside the U.S.

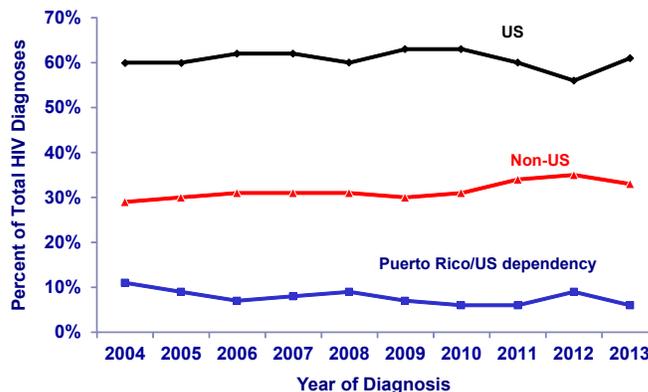
### Fast Facts

- Persons born outside the United States make up a substantial portion of people recently diagnosed with HIV infection and living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts and come from all regions of the world.
- Within the three-year period 2011 to 2013, 34% of reported HIV diagnoses in Massachusetts were among non-US born individuals (N = 714).<sup>i</sup>
- Among women recently diagnosed with HIV infection or living with HIV/AIDS, the largest proportion was those not born in the US (considerably higher than among men).<sup>ii</sup>
- Persons born outside the United States diagnosed with HIV infection or living with HIV/AIDS are predominantly racial/ethnic minorities.
- Thirty-one percent of non-US born persons diagnosed with HIV infection within the years 2011 to 2013 were classified with undetermined risk indicating the need for better data collection regarding these populations.

### Introduction

While only 16% (N=1,060,281) of the Massachusetts population was born outside the United States (US) and US territories<sup>iii</sup>, 25% of people living with HIV/AIDS and 34% of those recently diagnosed with HIV infection are non-US born. The HIV positive immigrant and refugee population of Massachusetts is a very diverse group (91 countries represented).

**Figure 1. Percentage Distribution of People Diagnosed with HIV Infection by Place of Birth and Year of Diagnosis: Massachusetts, 2004–2013**

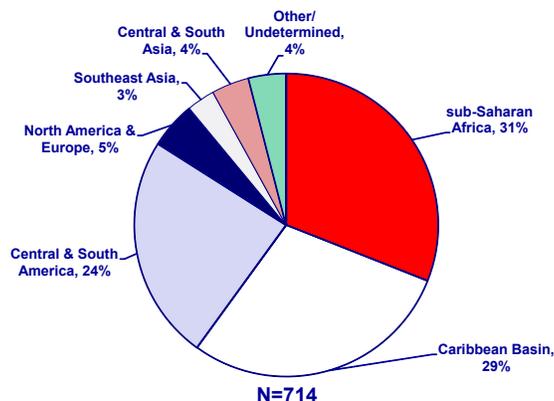


Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program; Data as of 1/1/15

### World Region and Country of Origin:

- Persons born outside the United States and diagnosed with HIV infection in Massachusetts, within the three-year period 2011 to 2013, were primarily from sub-Saharan Africa (31%), the Caribbean Basin (29%), and Central and South America (24%).

**Figure 2. People Born Outside the US and Diagnosed with HIV Infection in Massachusetts Within the Years 2011 to 2013 by World Region of Origin**



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program; Data as of 1/1/15

- Among persons born outside the US and diagnosed with HIV infection, 48% of women were from sub-Saharan Africa compared to 20% of men; 37% of women were from the Caribbean Basin compared to 24% of men; and 8% of women were from Central and South America compared to 34% of men.





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Combined, the following five countries represent the country of birth for 44% of non-US born individuals diagnosed with HIV infection in Massachusetts within the three-year period 2011 to 2013 (N is the number of non-US born individuals diagnosed with HIV infection):

• Haiti	16%	(N=111)
• Dominican Republic	9%	(N=61)
• Brazil	8%	(N=59)
• Uganda	6%	(N=42)
• Cape Verde	5%	(N=38)

### Reported Risk:

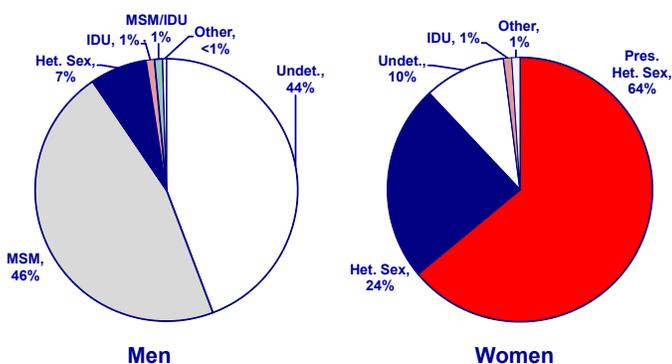
- Thirty-one percent of non-US born persons diagnosed with HIV infection within the years 2011 to 2013 were classified with undetermined risk for HIV infection, 29% as exposed through male-to-male sex (MSM), 24% through presumed heterosexual sex (woman having sex with man of unknown HIV status and risk),<sup>iv</sup> 14% through heterosexual sex, 1% through injection drug use (IDU), and 1% through MSM/IDU.
- The proportion of recent HIV infection diagnoses with undetermined risk is lower among persons born in the US (20%) and Puerto Rico/US dependencies (18%) compared to persons born outside the US (31%). This reflects challenges in ascertaining information about exposure mode in non-US born individuals, including behavioral risk, particularly in men.

- Forty-four percent of recently diagnosed, non-US born men had undetermined HIV infection risk compared 17% of US born men and 20% of men born in Puerto Rico/US dependencies. Ten percent of non-US born women had undetermined HIV infection risk compared to 21% of US born women and 15% of women born in Puerto Rico/US dependencies.
- Among non-US born persons living with HIV/AIDS as of December 31, 2014, the distribution of reported risk is similar to that among non-US born individuals recently diagnosed with HIV infection. Twenty-nine percent were classified with undetermined risk for HIV infection, 23% male-to-male sex, 22% heterosexual sex, 22% were exposed to HIV through presumed heterosexual sex (woman having sex with man of unknown HIV status and risk), 3% injection drug use, and 1% MSM/IDU.

### Race and Ethnicity:

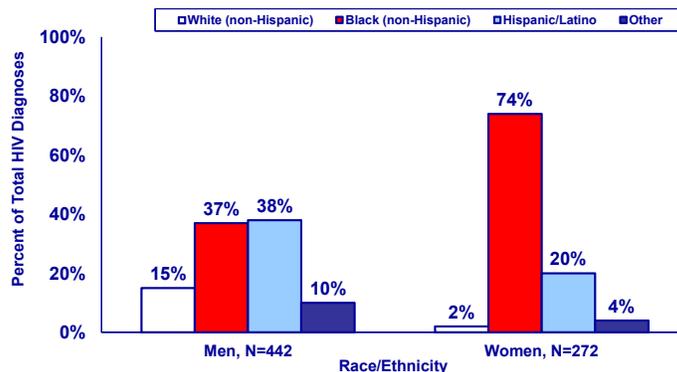
- Among non-US born persons diagnosed with HIV infection within the three-year period 2011 to 2013, 10% were white (non-Hispanic), 51% were black (non-Hispanic), 31% were Hispanic/Latino, and 7% were Asian/Pacific Islander.
- Similarly, among non-US born persons living with HIV/AIDS, 11% are white (non-Hispanic), 56% are black (non-Hispanic), 27% are Hispanic/Latino, and 6% are Asian/Pacific Islander.

**Figure 3. People Born Outside the US and Diagnosed with HIV Infection by Gender and Reported Risk: Massachusetts, 2011–2013**



MSM=Male-to-Male Sex, IDU=Injection Drug Use, Pres.=Presumed, Het. Sex=Heterosexual Sex, Undet.=Undetermined  
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 1/1/15

**Figure 4. Non-US Born People Diagnosed with HIV Infection Within the Years 2011–2013 by Gender and Race/Ethnicity: Massachusetts**



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 1/1/15



For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix  
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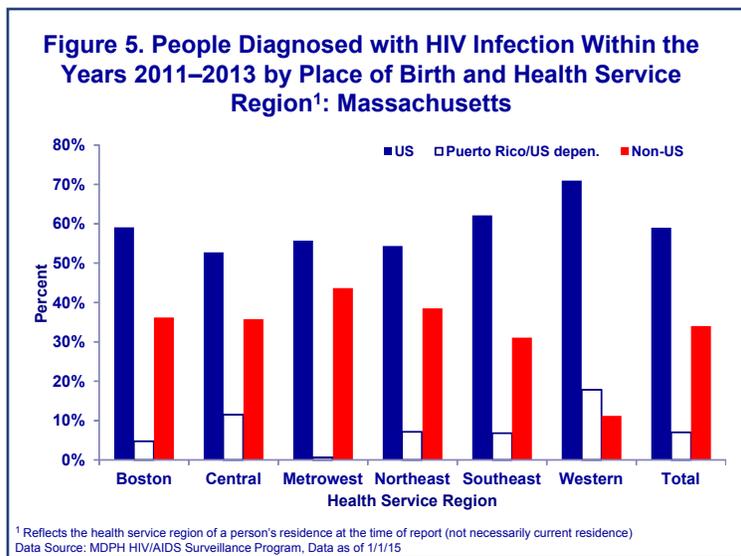
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### Gender:

- Thirty-eight percent of non-US born persons recently diagnosed with HIV infection were women, compared to 19% of those born in the United States and 26% of those born in Puerto Rico and other US dependencies.
- Among non-US born persons living with HIV/AIDS, 41% are women compared to 23% of those born in the United States and 34% of those born in Puerto Rico and other US dependencies.

### Regional Distribution:



- The Metro West and Northeast Health Service Regions (HSR) had the largest proportions (44% and 39%, respectively) of people recently diagnosed with HIV infection who were born outside the United States. In all regions except the Western HSR, persons born outside the United States comprised more than one-quarter of all recent diagnoses. The Metro West (37%), Northeast (32%) and Boston (28%) HSRs had the highest proportions of non-US born persons living with HIV/AIDS as of December 31, 2014.

Among cities and towns with over 20 persons diagnosed with HIV infection from 2011 to 2013, the following have the highest proportions of diagnoses among non-US born persons (N is the number of persons born outside the United States diagnosed with HIV infection):

- Brockton 68% (N=57)
- Waltham 67% (N=20)
- Malden 64% (N=21)
- Everett 63% (N=15)
- Chelsea 62% (N=23)
- Medford 57% (N=12)
- Cambridge 53% (N=20)
- Lynn 51% (N=26)
- Somerville 49% (N=18)
- Framingham 48% (N=11)

### Data Sources

HIV/AIDS Case Data: Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of January 1, 2015

<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> Please note “women” and “men” are used for stylistic reasons to describe female and male populations diagnosed with HIV infection that include a small number of girls and boys (N=23 children living with HIV/AIDS under age 13 as of 1/1/15).

<sup>iii</sup> US dependencies are commonwealths, territories and other entities that are supported and governed by the United States. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, Selected Social Characteristics in the United States, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, DP02, accessed at <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmmk>

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

<sup>v</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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