



Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Data Fact Sheet

Who is currently living with HIV infection?

Fast Facts

- More people with HIV infection in Massachusetts are staying healthy. The median viral load of people living with HIV infection in Massachusetts is less than 20 copies and the median CD4 count is 547.
- However, challenges to achieve health equity in the prevention and care of HIV infection remain:
 - Racial/ethnic disparities persist among persons living with HIV infection, with marked differences by exposure mode, sex at birth, place of birth and geographic region of residence in the state.
 - Male-to-male sex was the most frequently reported exposure mode, accounting for 38% of people living with HIV infection.
 - Black menⁱ living with HIV infection had the largest proportion of cases reported to MDPH with missing exposure mode information (undetermined exposure, 36%).
 - Injection drug use remains the predominant exposure mode among Latinos living with HIV infection.

Overview

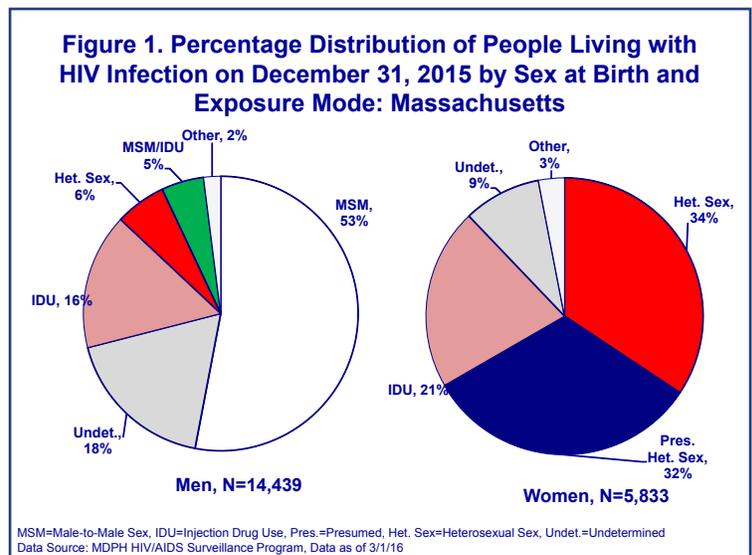
On December 31, 2015 there were 20,272 people diagnosed and living with HIV infection in Massachusetts, and an additional 3,814 residents who were first diagnosed in another state.ⁱⁱ Since the beginning of the epidemic, the total number of people living with HIV infection in Massachusetts, as reported to the MDPH, has increased every year. In the past ten years, prevalence has increased by 26%, while new diagnoses of HIV infection and deaths in persons with HIV infection both fell by 31%.

Among those living with HIV infection in Massachusetts, who were first diagnosed in the state, there is considerable diversity by sex at birth, race/ethnicity, and other demographic characteristics as described in the analyses that follow.

Sex at Birth and Exposure Mode:

- Seventy-one percent of people living with HIV infection in Massachusetts are men and 29% are women.

- Male-to-male sex and injection drug use are the leading exposure modes for HIV infection among all people living with HIV infection (N=20,272), accounting for 38% and 18% of all exposures, respectively.
- While roughly half (53%) of men living with HIV infection were reported with an exposure mode of male-to-male sex and 18% were reported with missing exposure mode information, 34% of women were exposed through sex with men of known risk and/or HIV status (heterosexual), and 32% were exposed through sex with men of unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexualⁱⁱⁱ) (Figure 1).



Sex at Birth and Race/Ethnicity:

- Half of the men living with HIV infection were white (non-Hispanic) (50%), while the largest proportion of women living with HIV infection was black (non-Hispanic) (46%) (Figure 2).

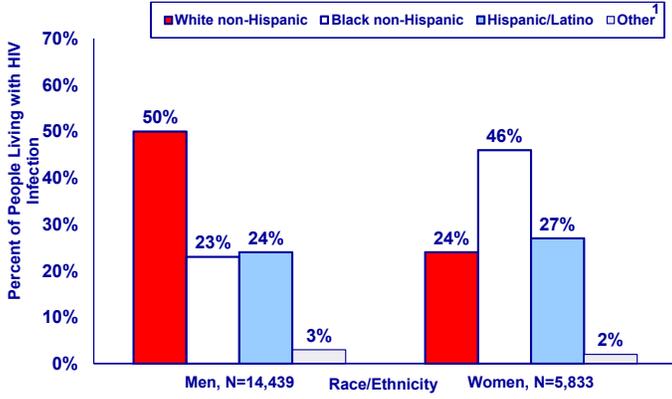




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Figure 2. Percentage Distribution of People Living with HIV Infection on December 31, 2015 by Sex at Birth and Race/Ethnicity: Massachusetts

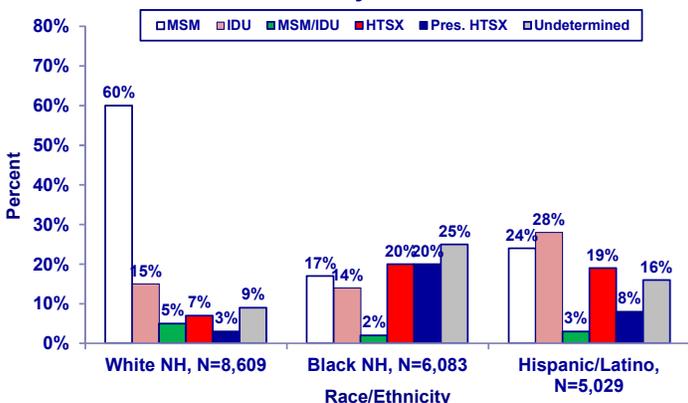


¹ Other include Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 3/1/16

Race/Ethnicity and Exposure Mode:

- Exposure mode varies by race/ethnicity. The predominant exposure mode among white (non-Hispanic) individuals living with HIV infection is male-to-male sex (60%) and among Hispanic/Latino individuals is injection drug use (IDU) (28%), followed by male-to-male sex (25%). Among black (non-Hispanic) individuals the largest proportion is reported without exposure mode information (undetermined, 25%), followed by presumed heterosexual sex (20%) and heterosexual sex (20%) (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Percentage Distribution of People Living with HIV Infection on December 31, 2015 by Exposure Mode and Race/Ethnicity: Massachusetts

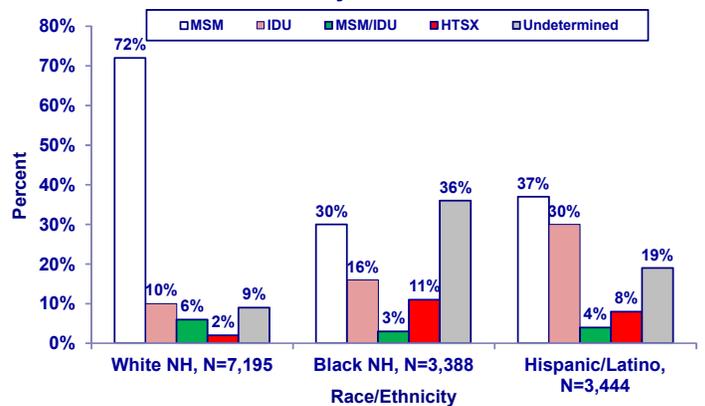


NH= Non-Hispanic, Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 3/1/16

Race/Ethnicity and Exposure Mode by Sex at Birth:

- Among **white (non-Hispanic) men** living with HIV infection, male-to-male sex is the primary exposure mode, accounting for 72% of HIV infections, followed by injection drug use at 10%; 9% were reported without exposure mode information.
- Thirty-six percent of **black (non-Hispanic) men** living with HIV infection were reported without exposure mode information. Among those reported with exposure mode, male-to-male sex is the most frequent, accounting for 30% of all exposures, followed by injection drug use at 16% and heterosexual sex at 11%.
- Among **Hispanic/Latino men** living with HIV infection, injection drug use (37%) and male-to-male sex (30%) are the leading exposure modes; 19% were reported without exposure mode information (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Percentage Distribution of Men Living with HIV Infection on December 31, 2015 by Exposure Mode and Race/Ethnicity: Massachusetts



NH= Non-Hispanic, Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 3/1/16

- While the predominant exposure mode among **white (non-Hispanic) women** living with HIV infection is injection drug use (41%), the predominant mode among **black (non-Hispanic) women** is sex with men of unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual sex, 45%) and among **Hispanic/Latina women** is heterosexual sex with men of known risk and/or HIV status (42%) (Figure 5).



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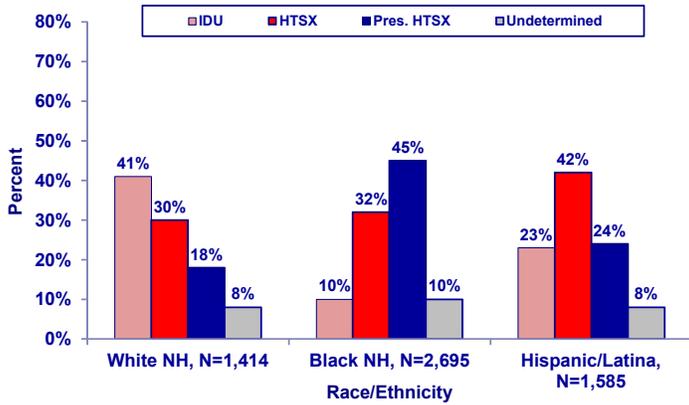




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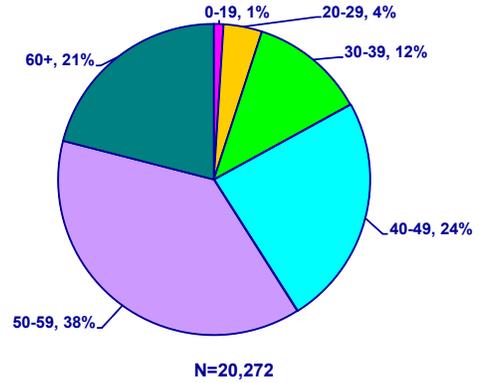
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Figure 5. Percentage Distribution of Women Living with HIV Infection on December 31, 2015 by Exposure Mode and Race/Ethnicity: Massachusetts



NH= Non-Hispanic, Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 3/1/16

Figure 6. Percentage Distribution of People Living with HIV Infection on December 31, 2015 by Age: Massachusetts



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 3/1/16

Place of Birth, Race/Ethnicity and Sex at Birth:

- Sixty-four percent (N=13,043/20,272) of people living with HIV infection were born in the US, 26% (N=5,246/20,272) were born outside the US, and 10% (N=1,983/20,272) were born in Puerto Rico or another US Dependency.
- Among people living with HIV infection who are Asian/Pacific Islander, 78% (N=311/399) were born outside the US, compared to 48% (N=2,895/6,083) of black (non-Hispanic), 28% (N=1,433/5,029) of Hispanic/Latino and 7% (N=577/8,609) of white (non-Hispanic) individuals. An additional 39% (N=1,956/5,029) of Hispanic/Latino individuals living with HIV infection were born in Puerto Rico or another US Dependency.
- Thirty-seven percent of 5,833 women living with HIV infection were born outside the US, and an additional 12% were born in Puerto Rico or another US Dependency, compared to 21% and 9%, respectively, of 14,439 men.

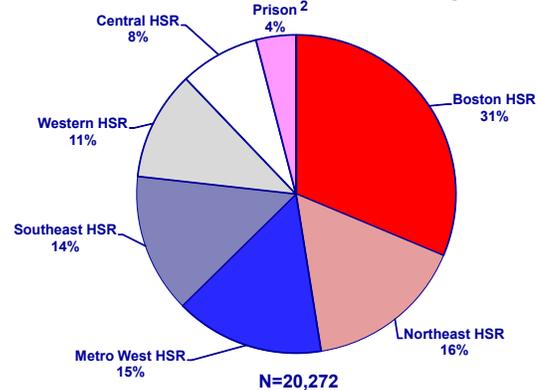
Current Age:

- Fifty-nine percent of people living with HIV infection on December 31, 2015 were aged 50 years or older (Figure 6).

Distribution by Health Service Region (HSR):^{iv}

- See Figures 7 and 8 for the distribution of HIV infection by Health Service Region (HSR) and race/ethnicity.

Figure 7. Percentage Distribution of People Living with HIV Infection on December 31, 2015 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 infection 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 3/1/16



For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix
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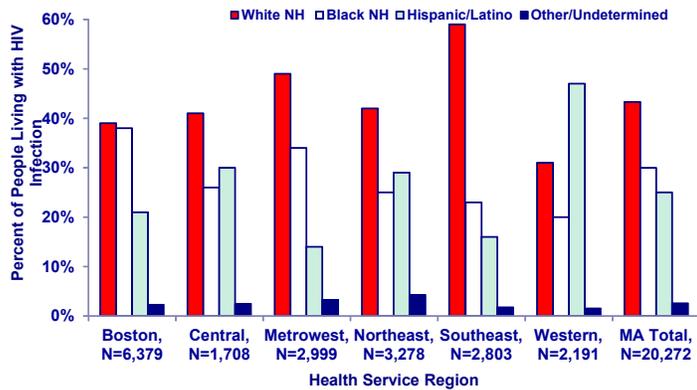




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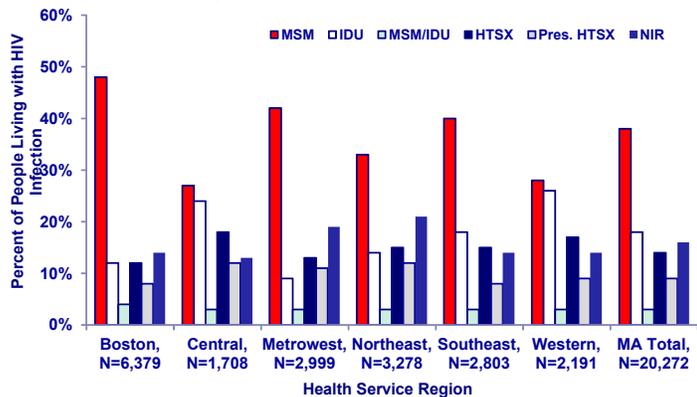
Figure 8. Percentage Distribution of People Living with HIV Infection on December 31, 2015 by Health Service Region¹ and Race/Ethnicity: Massachusetts



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 3/1/16

- The proportion of exposure mode attributed to injection drug use in the Central and Western regions is nearly that of MSM (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Percentage Distribution of People Living with HIV Infection on December 31, 2015 by Health Service Region¹ and Exposure Mode: 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 3/1/16

Data Sources

HIV/AIDS Case Data: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, all data as of 3/1/16

ⁱ 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=24 children living with HIV infection under age 13 as of 1/1/16). Data reflect sex at birth and therefore not gender identity or gender expression of transgender individuals (N=56 transgender individuals living with HIV infection).

ⁱⁱ 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.

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

^{iv} 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/profile2006/app5_hrs_maps.pdf for configuration of health service regions.



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