**Massachusetts HIV Epidemiologic Profile:**  **Data as of 1/1/2023**

**Population Report: People Born Outside the United States,**

**Accessible MS Word Version, optimized for screen reader use**

*Please note that while the content of this report is the same as the pdf version, the format and pagination have been modified significantly to optimize use with screen readers to ensure access for blind or visually impaired audiences.*

**Suggested citation:**

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences. Massachusetts HIV Epidemiologic Profile: Data as of 1/1/2023, Population Report: People Born Outside the United States, <https://www.mass.gov/lists/hivaids-epidemiologic-profiles> Published March 2024. Accessed [date].

**Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences**  
**Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

**Jamaica Plain Campus/State Public Health Laboratory**

305 South Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**Questions about this report**

Tel: (617) 983-6560

**To reach the Reporting and Partner Services Line**

Tel: (617) 983-6999

**To speak to the on-call epidemiologist**

Tel: (617) 983-6800

**Questions about infectious disease reporting**

Tel: (617) 983-6801

**HIV Data Dashboard**

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/hiv-data-dashboard>

**Requests for additional data**

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/infectious-disease-data-reports-and-requests>

**Slide sets for HIV Epidemiologic Profile Reports**

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/hivaids-epidemiologic-profiles>

*People born outside the United States make up 17.5% (N=1,224,488/6,984,723) of the total Massachusetts population.[[1]](#footnote-1) Non-US born persons[[2]](#footnote-2) living with HIV infection in Massachusetts are a very diverse group with at least 146 reported countries of birth represented.*

**HIV INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE AMONG PEOPLE BORN OUTSIDE THE US**

N =580, 41% of 1,419 new HIV diagnoses from 2019–2021[[3]](#footnote-3) were among non-US born individuals

N = 7,070, 30% of 23,393 persons living with HIV infection in MA as of 12/31/2021 were non-US born individuals

**WORLD REGION OF BIRTH**

**FIGURE 1**. HIV diagnoses among people born outside the United States by sex assigned at birth and world region of birth, Massachusetts 2019–2021

The figure is a bar chart displaying the percentage distribution of individuals assigned male at birth (N=361), individuals assigned female at birth (N=219), and all individuals (N=580) born outside the US by world region of birth (sub-Saharan Africa, Caribbean, Central and South America, Southeast Asia, Central and South Asia, and Other/Unspecified).


**KEY FACT**

* People born outside the United States and diagnosed with HIV infection in Massachusetts from 2019 to 2021[[4]](#footnote-4) were primarily from Central and South America (33%), the Caribbean (33%), and Sub-Saharan Africa (27%).
* There were differences in the distribution of individuals assigned male at birth (AMAB) and individuals assigned female at birth (AFAB) recently diagnosed with HIV infection by world region of birth. The largest proportion of individuals AFAB was from Sub-Saharan Africa (43%), while the largest proportion of individuals AMAB was from Central and South America (43%).

**EXPOSURE MODE**

**FIGURE 2**. HIV diagnoses among people born outside the United States by sex assigned at birth and exposure mode, Massachusetts 2019–2021

FIGURE 2. HIV diagnoses among people born outside the United States by sex assigned at birth and exposure mode: Massachusetts, 2019–2021
The figure is a bar chart displaying the percentage distribution of individuals assigned male at (N=361), individuals assigned female at birth (N=219), and all individuals (N=580) born outside the US by exposure mode (Male-to-Male Sex, Injection Drug Use, Male-to-Male Sex/Injection Drug Use, Heterosexual Sex, Other, Presumed Heterosexual Sex, and No Identified Risk).


Figure 2 Note: MSM=Male-to-Male Sex; IDU=Injection Drug Use; HTSX=Heterosexual Sex; Pres. HTSX=presumed heterosexual exposure, includes individuals assigned female at birth with a negative history of injection drug use who report having sex with an individual that identifies as male of unknown HIV status and risk; NIR=No Identified Risk

**KEY FACTS**

* Thirty-nine percent of the 580 non-US born individuals recently diagnosed with HIV infection (2019–2021)[[5]](#footnote-5) did not have exposure mode information reported that met CDC-defined categories, indicating challenges in assigning primary exposure modes for this population.
* Among people born outside the US and diagnosed with HIV infection from 2019 to 2021, MSM (34%) was the most frequently reported exposure mode, although a higher percentage were reported with no identified risk (NIR, 39%).
* Among individuals AMAB born outside the US and recently diagnosed with HIV infection, MSM (54%) was the predominant exposure mode. Presumed heterosexual sex (39%) was the predominant reported exposure mode among individuals AFAB, although a similar percentage were reported with NIR (38%).

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

**KEY FACT**

* Non-US born individuals recently diagnosed with HIV infection or living with HIV infection were predominantly black (non-Hispanic) or Hispanic/Latino.
* Forty-six percent of the 580 non-US born people diagnosed with HIV infection from 2019 to 2021 were black (non-Hispanic), 35% were Hispanic/Latino, 10% were white (non-Hispanic), 4% were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 4% were of other or unknown race/ethnicity.
* Among 7,070 non-US born people living with HIV infection on 12/31/21, 52% were black (non-Hispanic), 30% were Hispanic/Latino, 11% were white (non-Hispanic), 6% were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% were of other or unknown race/ethnicity.

**FIGURE 3.** HIV diagnoses among people born outside the US by sex assigned at birth and race/ethnicity, Massachusetts 2019–2021

FIGURE 3. HIV diagnoses among people born outside the US by sex assigned at birth and race/ethnicity: Massachusetts, 2019–2021
The figure is a bar chart displaying the percentage distribution of individuals assigned male at birth (N=361), individuals assigned female at birth (N=219), and all individuals (N=580) born outside the US by race/ethnicity (White (non-Hispanic), Black (non-Hispanic), Hispanic/Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, Other/Unknown).


Figure 3 Note: \*\*Other includes more than one race/ethnicity, unknown, and other race/ethnicities (Native American/Alaska Native), API=Asian/Pacific Islander, NH=Non-Hispanic, AMAB=Assigned Male at Birth, AFAB=Assigned Female at Birth

* Among individuals AMAB born outside the US and newly diagnosed with HIV infection in Massachusetts from 2019 to 2021,[[6]](#footnote-6) 46% were Hispanic/Latino and 32% were black (non-Hispanic).
* The majority (69%) of individuals AFAB born outside the US and newly diagnosed with HIV infection in Massachusetts from 2019 to 2021 were black (non-Hispanic).

**SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH**

**FIGURE 4.** HIV diagnoses by sex assigned at birth and place of birth,Massachusetts 2019–2021

FIGURE 4. HIV diagnoses by sex assigned at birth and place of birth: Massachusetts, 2019–2021
The figure is a stacked bar chart displaying the percentage distribution by sex assigned at birth (female, male) for three groups: US born individuals (N=794), individuals born in Puerto Rico (N=45), and non-US born individuals (N=580).


* Thirty-eight percent of non-US born individuals diagnosed with HIV infection from 2019 to 2021[[7]](#footnote-7) were AFAB, compared to 21% of US born individuals and 20% of individuals born in Puerto Rico.
* Similarly, 40% of non-US born persons living with HIV on 12/31/2021 were AFAB, compared to 22% of US born individuals and 35% of people born in Puerto Rico/US Dependencies. *Data not displayed.*

**TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS AND PLACE OF BIRTH**

* Fifty-seven percent (N=8/14) of individuals diagnosed with HIV infection from 2019 to 2021 and reported to be transgender were born in the United States and 33% (N=6/14) were born outside the US or in Puerto Rico.
* Sixty-five percent (N=89/138) of persons living with HIV infection on 12/31/2021 and reported to be transgender were born in the United States, 23% (N=31/138) were born outside the US, and 13% (N=18/138) were born in Puerto Rico or another US dependency.

**AREA OF RESIDENCE**

**FIGURE 5.** HIV infection diagnoses by Health Service Region[[8]](#footnote-8) and place of birth, Massachusetts 2019–2021[[9]](#footnote-9)

FIGURE 5. HIV infection diagnoses by Health Service Region and place of birth: Massachusetts, 2019–2021
The figure is a bar chart displaying the percentage distribution by place of birth (US, Puerto Rico/US Dependency, Non-US) for Massachusetts Total (N=1,419) and six Health Service Regions: Boston (N=389), Central (N=145), Metrowest (N=219), Northeast, (N=292), Southeast (N=232), and Western (N=115).


Figure 5 Note: ii Total includes individuals diagnosed in a correctional facility.

\* Values less than five are suppressed for populations less than 50,000 or for populations of unknown size. Additional values may be suppressed to protect privacy

* The Northeast (58%) and Metrowest (49%) Health Service Regions had the largest proportions of individuals recently diagnosed with HIV infection who were born outside the United States.

**TABLE 1.** Massachusetts cities/towns[[10]](#footnote-10) with the highest percentage of HIV diagnoses among non-US born individuals, 2019–2021

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **HIV Diagnoses Among Non-US Born (N)** | **HIV Diagnoses Among Non-US Born as Percent of Total HIV Diagnoses (%)** |
| **Massachusetts Total** | 580 | 41% |
| **Top Cities/Towns** |  |  |
| Everett | 26 | 87% |
| Malden | 24 | 83% |
| Revere | 17 | 65% |
| Framingham | 13 | 62% |
| Lawrence | 24 | 57% |
| Lowell | 21 | 54% |
| Lynn | 23 | 54% |
| Brockton | 31 | 52% |
| Cambridge | 12 | 48% |
| Worcester | 39 | 48% |
| **All Other Cities/Towns[[11]](#footnote-11)** | 350 | 34% |

* Among cities and towns with at least 20 reported HIV diagnoses from 2019 to 2021,[[12]](#footnote-12) Everett and Malden had the highest percentages of HIV diagnoses among people born outside the United States. Over 80% of new HIV diagnoses in each of these cities were among non-US born individuals.

**TABLE 2.** Countries of birth with the highest percentage of HIV diagnoses among non-US born individuals, 2019–2021[[13]](#footnote-13)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **HIV Diagnoses by Country of Birth (N)** | **HIV Diagnoses by Country of Birth as Percent of Total Non-US born HIV Diagnoses (%)** |
| **Top Countries** |  |  |
| Brazil | 96 | 17% |
| Haiti | 94 | 16% |
| Dominican Republic | 70 | 12% |
| Uganda | 32 | 6% |
| Cape Verde | 30 | 5% |
| Colombia | 23 | 4% |
| Ghana | 23 | 4% |
| Jamaica | 19 | 3% |
| Kenya | 19 | 3% |
| El Salvador | 12 | 2% |
| **Massachusetts Total Non-US Born** | 580 | 100% |

* Brazil, Haiti and the Dominican Republic accounted for the highest percentages of HIV diagnoses from 2019 to 2021 among people born outside the United States. Combined, these three countries represent the country of birth for 45% of non-US born individuals diagnosed with HIV infection in this time period.

HIV Surveillance Data Source: MDPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, data are current as of 1/1/2023 and may be subject to change

1. Data Source: US Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table BO5002, accessed at [https://data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov/) on 6/20/2023 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Individuals born outside the US (non-US born) excludes individuals born in the United States, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Please consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on infectious disease screening, treatment, and surveillance in the interpretation of 2020 and 2021 data. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Please consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on infectious disease screening, treatment, and surveillance in the interpretation of 2020 and 2021 data [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Please consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on infectious disease screening, treatment, and surveillance in the interpretation of 2020 and 2021 data [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Please consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on infectious disease screening, treatment, and surveillance in the interpretation of 2020 and 2021 data [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Please consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on infectious disease screening, treatment, and surveillance in the interpretation of 2020 and 2021 data [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. HSR is based on residence at HIV infection diagnosis. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Please consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on infectious disease screening, treatment, and surveillance in the interpretation of 2020 and 2021 data [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. City/town is based on residence at HIV infection diagnosis. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. All Other Cities/Towns includes individuals diagnosed in a correctional facility. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Please consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on infectious disease screening, treatment, and surveillance in the interpretation of 2020 and 2021 data [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Please consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on infectious disease screening, treatment, and surveillance in the interpretation of 2020 and 2021 data [↑](#footnote-ref-13)