

HIV/AIDS among Hispanics/Latinos



Background

Hispanics/Latinos in the United States (US) are disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS. They represent 17% of the US population,¹ but accounted for approximately 23% of HIV infections among adults and adolescents in 2013. Factors such as lack of health insurance, language barriers, lack of familiarity with the US healthcare system and stigma often limit the health care access of Hispanics/Latinos in the US, thereby limiting opportunities for HIV/AIDS screening and treatment.^{2, 3} Given that Hispanics/Latinos are the largest and fastest growing minority group in the US, addressing HIV/AIDS in their community is important to the nation's health.^{4, 5}

THE FACTS⁶

HIV

- At the end of 2012, **202,890 Hispanics/Latinos** of any race were living with diagnosed HIV infection in the US and 6 dependent areas including Puerto Rico.
- In 2013, there were 10,876 estimated cases of HIV diagnosed among Hispanics/Latinos in the US.
- Approximately 85% (9,266) were male while 15% (1,610) were female among the adults and adolescent Hispanics/Latinos diagnosed with HIV in 2013.
- Diagnosed HIV cases among Hispanics/Latinos in the US by place of birth are predominately from the US (40%; 4,385), then Mexico (14%; 4,385), Puerto Rico (10%; 1,058), Central America (6%; 670), and South America (4%; 472).
- In the US, the leading transmission category for HIV diagnosis among adult and adolescent Hispanics/Latinos in 2013 was **male-to-male sexual contact, accounting for 72%** (7,812) including male-to-male sexual contact and injection drug use (3%; 285).
 - The second highest transmission category was attributed to heterosexual contact among adult and adolescent Hispanic/Latino males and females (21%; 2,238).
- The rate (per 100,000) of HIV infections among Hispanic/Latino males (41.8) was **three times greater for Hispanic/Latino males** than for, non-Hispanic white males (13.8) and almost four times greater for Hispanic/Latino females (7.0) than for non-Hispanic white females (1.8) in 2013.⁷
- Differences among regions in the US exist.
 - For example, the HIV diagnosis rate (per 100,000) for Hispanics/Latinos is **highest in the Northeast (40.8)**, with the South (27.2), Midwest (19.3), and West (17.8) following.
- An analysis in 2014 found that many Hispanics/Latinos **diagnosed with HIV are not receiving needed care**:
 - About 80% are linked to care;
 - A little more than half (54%) are retained in care;
 - Only 44% were prescribed anti-retroviral therapy;
 - Just about 37% had achieved "viral suppression" – a very low level of HIV in the blood that can help a person stay healthy, live longer and reduce the chance of passing HIV on to others.⁸

AIDS

- Since the beginning of the epidemic, approximately 125,051 Latinos died from AIDS.
- In 2013, there were an estimated **5,773 cases of AIDS diagnosed among Hispanics/Latinos in the US**, contributing to an estimated 250,671 cumulative AIDS cases diagnosed since the beginning of the epidemic.
- Hispanics/Latinos are at significantly greater risk for delayed diagnosis of HIV and AIDS than non-Hispanic whites, with Hispanic Latino males and foreign-born Hispanics/Latinos at the greatest risk.⁹
 - A study done in 2006 found that late or delayed diagnosis of HIV infection is epidemiologically significant and likely to be a major contributor to the ongoing domestic epidemic.¹⁰
 - Early diagnosis of HIV infection with treatment is linked to better health outcomes and reduced transmission of HIV to other partners.^{11, 12, 13}

¹United States Census Bureau. (2015, June 8). USA QuickFacts. Retrieved from <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/00000.html>

²Latino Commission on AIDS. (2008). Shaping the New Response: HIV/AIDS & Latinos in the Deep South. Retrieved from <http://www.latinoids.org/downloads/deepsouthreport.pdf>

³Chen, N.E., Gallant, J.E., & Page, K.R. (2012). A systematic review of HIV/AIDS survival and delayed diagnosis among Hispanics in the United States. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, 14(1), 65-81. doi:10.1007/s10903-011-9497-y.

⁴United States Census Bureau. (2015, June 8). USA QuickFacts. Retrieved from <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/00000.html>

⁵Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015, May 5). Minority Health: Hispanic or Latino Populations. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/minorityhealth/populations/REMP/hispanic.html>

⁶Note: Unless otherwise noted, all statistics represent data from the CDC's HIV Surveillance Report of the United States and its six dependent areas from the year 2013, the year in which the most recent data is available. Citation information follows below.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015, February). HIV Surveillance Report, 2013; vol.25. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/g-1/hiv_surveillance_report_vol_25.pdf

⁷Centers for Disease Control (2013). HIV/AIDS Surveillance by Race/Ethnicity. Retrieved from: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/slideSets/index.html>

⁸Gant, Z., Bradley, H., Hu, X., Skarbinski, J., Hall, H. I., & Lansky, A. (2014). Hispanics or Latinos Living with Diagnosed HIV: Progress Along the Continuum of HIV Care—United States, 2010. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*, 63, 40.

⁹Chen, N.E., Gallant, J.E., & Page, K.R. (2012). A systematic review of HIV/AIDS survival and delayed diagnosis among Hispanics in the United States. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, 14(1), 65-81. doi:10.1007/s10903-011-9497-y.

¹⁰Marks, G., Crepaz, N., & Janssen, R. S. (2006). Estimating sexual transmission of HIV from persons aware and unaware that they are infected with the virus in the USA. *Aids*, 20(10), 1447-1450.

¹¹Holmberg, S., Palella, F., Lichensteing, K. & Havlir, D. (2004). The case for earlier treatment of HIV infection. *Clinical Infectious Disease*, 39 (11), 1699-1704. doi: 10.1086/425743

¹²Monitoring, I. (2015). Initiation of antiretroviral therapy in early asymptomatic HIV infection.

Cohen J. (2010). Treatment as Prevention. *Science*, 327, 1196-1197.