

# HIV/AIDS among Hispanics/Latinos and Injection Drug Use (IDU)



## Background

Since 2009, the number of HIV diagnoses among adults and adolescents attributed to IDU decreased in the United States (US) each year through 2013. From the 47,958 estimated HIV diagnoses among adults and adolescents in the US in 2013, IDU accounted for about 8% of cases among males (including 3% among male to male sexual contact and IDU) and 13% among females, regardless of race/ethnicity.<sup>1</sup> Among Hispanics/Latinos in the US, however, IDU remains an HIV transmission category that continues to impact their population.

## THE FACTS

- Approximately 1 in 10, or **10% (1,081) of HIV diagnoses among Hispanics/Latinos in 2013** were attributed to injection drug use, including 3% (285) of cases among MSM and IDU.<sup>2</sup>
- Of the HIV diagnoses attributed to IDU in the US in 2013, 1 in 4 or 25% (796) were among Hispanics/Latinos, 44% (1,437) were among Blacks/African Americans, and 27% (866) were among Whites.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2013, about **29% (588) of 2,051 males** and **18% (208) of 1,118 females** diagnosed with HIV infection among IDU persons were Hispanic/Latino.<sup>4</sup>
- Differences among regions in the US exist with regard to HIV infection among persons with IDU.
  - Numbers of HIV diagnoses attributed to IDU for Hispanics/Latinos are **highest in the Northeast**, then the South, with the US Dependent Areas, West and Midwest following.<sup>5</sup>
- With regard to HIV infections related to IDU, Hispanics/Latinos accounted for 21.7% among the 13-19 age group, 20.2% among 20-24 age group, **24.8% among 25-34 age group**, and 22% among the IDU infections in the over 45 years age group.<sup>6</sup>
- At the end of 2012, approximately 1,035 deaths occurred among Hispanic/Latino persons diagnosed with HIV infection who injected drugs. This represented **22.8% of all deaths among those with HIV due to IDU.**<sup>7</sup>
- An estimated 37,359 Hispanic/Latino persons are living with diagnosed HIV infection and who inject drugs in the US and 6 dependent areas at the end of 2012.<sup>8</sup>
- Among Hispanics/Latinos in the U.S., contracting HIV through IDU (not including male to male sex and IDU) varies by place of birth. Those **born in the US acquire the virus more often through IDU (37%; 216 cases of 588)** compared to those born in Puerto Rico (25%; 148), Mexico (9%; 52), Central America (3.4%; 20), South America (1.7%; 10) or Cuba (.5%; 3).<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015, May 5). HIV Surveillance – Persons Who Inject Drugs Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/statistics\\_surveillance\\_HIV\\_injection\\_drug\\_users.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/statistics_surveillance_HIV_injection_drug_users.pdf)

<sup>2,9</sup>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](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/g-1/hiv_surveillance_report_vol_25.pdf)

<sup>3,4,5,6,7,8</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015, May 5). HIV Surveillance – Persons Who Inject Drugs Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/statistics\\_surveillance\\_HIV\\_injection\\_drug\\_users.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/statistics_surveillance_HIV_injection_drug_users.pdf)

