

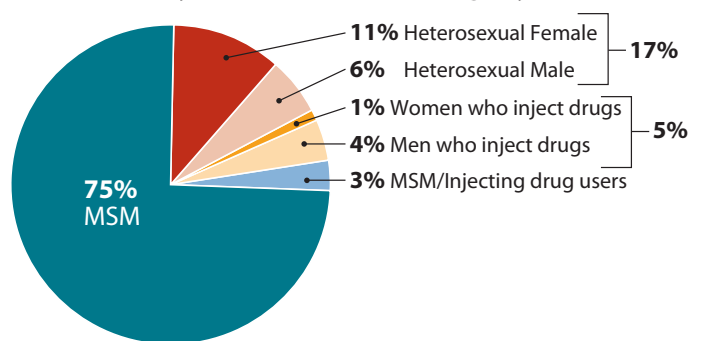
# HIV among Latinos

HIV is a serious health threat to Latino communities, which bear a disproportionate share of the HIV burden in the United States. Factors driving the HIV epidemic in this population are as diverse as Latino communities themselves. Prevention efforts led to promising declines in new diagnoses among Latinos from 2005 to 2010. However, those declines stalled in more recent years, reinforcing the need for expanded access to proven HIV prevention programs for this important population.

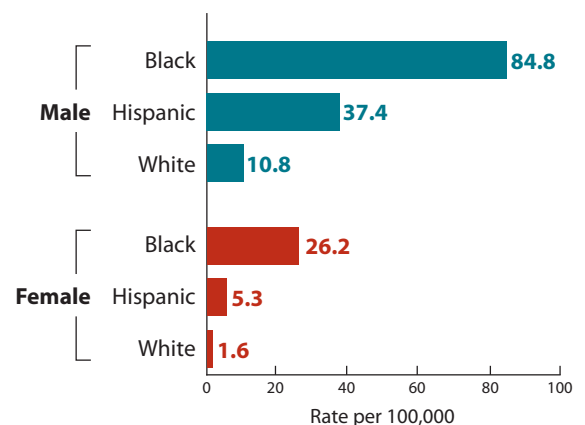
## A Snapshot

- In 2015, approximately 9,290 Latinos received a diagnosis of HIV infection.<sup>1</sup>
- Latinos represent approximately 17 percent of the U.S. population, but account for an estimated 21 percent of people living with HIV (263,900 persons in 2013) and an estimated 24 percent of all persons with newly diagnosed infection.
- Men account for 88 percent of diagnoses among Latinos.
- The HIV diagnosis rate among Latino men is more than three times that among white men.
  - 75 percent of new diagnoses among Latino men occur among men who have sex with men (MSM).<sup>2</sup>
  - While new HIV diagnoses among MSM overall stabilized between 2010 and 2014, diagnoses among Latino MSM increased 13 percent during this period.
- The HIV diagnosis rate among Hispanic women in 2015 was more than three times that of white women.
- If current rates persist, CDC projects that approximately one in 48 Latino men, one in 227 Latino women, and one in four Latino gay and bisexual men will be diagnosed with HIV during their lifetimes.
- There are substantial regional differences in the HIV burden among Latinos across the United States. For example:
  - The HIV diagnosis rate is highest among Latinos in the Northeast.
  - While male-to-male sexual contact is the predominant mode of transmission among all Latinos newly diagnosed with HIV, Latinos in the Northeast are more likely than those in other regions to have been infected by intravenous drug use.
  - Latinos diagnosed with HIV in the South are more likely than those in the Northeast to have been infected through male-to-male sexual contact.
- AIDS continues to claim the lives of too many Latino men and women. Since the beginning of the epidemic, more than 100,000 Latinos with AIDS have died.

HIV Diagnoses among Hispanics, 2015, by Transmission Category



Rate of HIV Diagnoses, 2015, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity



<sup>1</sup> 2015 data are considered preliminary (subject to change) because they are based on only a 6-month reporting delay.

<sup>2</sup> The term men who have sex with men is used in CDC surveillance systems. It indicates the behaviors that transmit HIV infection, rather than how individuals self-identify in terms of their sexuality.



- HIV treatment helps people with HIV live healthy lives and prevents transmission of the virus to partners. However, too few Latinos living with HIV receive the care and treatment they need. CDC estimates that among the roughly 263,900 Latinos living with HIV in 2013, 85 percent were aware of their status. And a recent CDC study suggests that, among Latinos with diagnosed HIV, 54 percent were virally suppressed (i.e., the virus is under control at a level that helps them stay healthy and reduces the risk of transmission).

## Complex Factors Increase Risk

- **High prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and higher rates of HIV:** Data show that the burden of STDs among Latinos is high. Because STDs can place individuals at higher risk for HIV infection, high STD prevalence may contribute to higher HIV incidence among Latino men and women. Additionally, disproportionate rates of HIV among Latinos and the current high prevalence of HIV in Latino communities increase the likelihood that Latinos will encounter an HIV-infected sex or drug-injecting partner, placing them at greater risk.
- **Social and economic factors:** The social and economic realities of some Latinos' lives, including poverty, discrimination and lack of access to healthcare, can increase HIV risk. Language barriers may also affect the quality of care.
- **Stigma:** The stigma associated with HIV and homosexuality may help to spread HIV in Latino communities. In some communities, the cultural value of machismo may create reluctance to acknowledge sensitive, yet risky behaviors, such as male-to-male sexual contact or substance abuse. Fear of disclosing risk behavior or sexual orientation may prevent Latinos from seeking testing, treatment and prevention services, and support from friends and family. As a result, too many Latinos lack critical information about how to prevent infection.
- **Cultural factors:** Latino culture in the United States is diverse. Research shows that Latinos born in different countries have different behavioral risk factors for HIV. For example, data suggest that Hispanics born in Puerto Rico are more likely than other Hispanics to contract HIV as a result of injection drug use or from high-risk heterosexual contact. By contrast, sexual contact with other men is the primary cause of HIV infection among men born in places such as Mexico and the 50 U.S. states.

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