

HIV among Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM)

United States

Men who have sex with men (MSM) represent approximately 2% of the US population, yet are the population most severely affected by HIV. In 2009, MSM accounted for 61% of all new HIV infections, and MSM with a history of injection drug use (MSM-IDU) accounted for an additional 3% of new infections. That same year, young MSM accounted for 69% of new HIV infections among persons aged 13–29 and 44% of infections among all MSM. At the end of 2009, an estimated 441,669 (56%) persons living with an HIV diagnosis in the US were MSM or MSM-IDU.

The proportion of HIV and AIDS cases among adult males diagnosed in the U.S. by mode of exposure, 2011

Mode of Exposure	HIV infection		AIDS	
Men Sex with Men (MSM)	30,573	79%	16,694	69%
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	2,220	6%	2,346	10%
MSM/IDU	1,407	4%	1,392	6%
Heterosexual Contact	4,588	12%	3,526	15%
Other Risk	36	0%	131	1%

Among young MSM (aged 13–24 years) diagnosed 2007–2010, the racial/ethnic group with the largest proportion of diagnoses each year were blacks (over 50%), followed by Hispanics/Latinos, whites, persons of multiple races, Asians, American Indians/Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians/other Pacific Islanders. Young black/African American MSM also experienced the largest increase in numbers of diagnoses of HIV infection of all racial/ethnic groups—from 2,925 diagnoses in 2007 to 4,358 diagnoses in 2010.

Why Focus on MSM?

- As a group, gay, bisexual, and other MSM have an increased chance of being exposed to HIV because of the large number of MSM living with HIV. Results of HIV testing conducted in 21 cities indicated that 19% of MSM tested in 2008 were HIV-positive and that HIV prevalence increased with increasing age and decreased with increasing education and income. Men aged 40 years and older were more likely than men aged 18–39 to have HIV.
- Further, many gay and bisexual men with HIV do not know they have HIV, especially MSM of color and young MSM. Of MSM who tested positive for HIV in 2008, 44% did not know they were infected. Among those infected, young MSM aged 18–29 (63%) and racial/ethnic minority MSM (54%) were more likely to be unaware they had HIV. Persons who don't know they have HIV don't get medical care and can unknowingly infect others.

Data sources:

- Florida data: FL Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease, HIV/AIDS Section
- For more Florida data, go to <http://floridaaids.org/>, then trends and statistics, then slide shows to find the slide set on men.
- U.S. data: HIV Surveillance Report, 2011 (most recent available) Vol. 23 (HIV data for all 50 states) <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/index.htm>
- For national facts, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/index.htm> or <http://www.kff.org/hiv/aids/>

Florida

Men who have sex with men (MSM) represent more than two-thirds of the newly reported HIV infection and AIDS cases among adult men (ages 13+) in Florida, followed by heterosexual sex and injection drug use (IDU).

The proportion of HIV and AIDS cases among adult males reported in Florida by mode of exposure, 2013

Mode of Exposure	HIV infection		AIDS	
Men Sex with Men (MSM)	3,512	77%	1,486	64%
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	173	4%	152	7%
MSM/IDU	107	2%	88	4%
Heterosexual Contact	747	16%	603	26%
Other Risk	3	0%	7	0%

Among adult males living with HIV disease in Florida and reported through 2013, MSM (including MSM/IDU) represents the highest risk within each of the racial/ethnic groups. Overall, the highest proportions of MSM or MSM/IDU cases (44%) were white.

People Living with HIV/AIDS among MSM, by Race/Ethnicity, Florida, 2013

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
White, Non-Hispanic	22,752	44%
Black, Non-Hispanic	14,242	28%
Hispanic	13,564	26%
Other	1,056	2%

Of the adult MSM or MSM/IDU living with HIV disease in Florida and reported through December 2013, the majority of the cases (48%) were diagnosed between the ages of 30–49.

People Living with HIV/AIDS among MSM, by Age at Diagnosis, Florida, 2013

Age Group	# of Cases	% of Cases
13–29	5,261	10%
30–49	24,773	48%
50+	21,579	42%

