



OFFICE OF DISEASE PREVENTION AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

HIV INFECTION AMONG HISPANICS IN OREGON

BACKGROUND

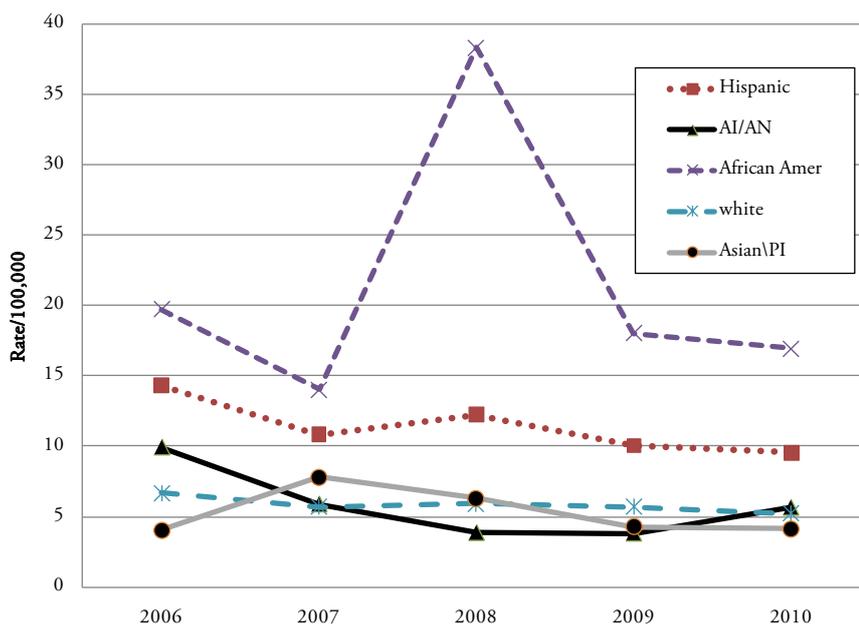
Seven hundred eighty-five of the 8,753 people (9%) with reported cases* of HIV in Oregon from 1981–2010 were Hispanic. One hundred seventy-five Oregon cases have since died. During this same period, the mean rate of new HIV diagnoses was nearly twice as high among Hispanics than whites (11.4 vs. 5.8 per 100,000 residents, Figure 1).

Among Hispanics diagnosed with HIV during 2006–2010, 88 percent were men and 12 percent were female; 71 percent of all cases were men who had sex with other men (MSM) with or without a concurrent history of injection drug use (IDU). No transmission category was reported for 20 percent (41/205) of recently diagnosed Hispanic men.

HIV AND HISPANICS FACTS AT A GLANCE:

- Among all HIV cases living in Oregon, 12 percent are Hispanic.
- During 2006–2010, 18 percent of reported HIV cases were Hispanic.
- No transmission category was identified for 20 percent of recently diagnosed Hispanic men.
- A majority (60%) of Hispanic cases were born outside the U.S., predominantly in Mexico.
- Many foreign-born Hispanics with HIV have concerns about legal status or deportation.

Fig. 1 HIV diagnosis rates by race/ethnicity, 2006-2010



*For this report, a “case” is defined as an Oregon resident diagnosed with HIV/AIDS before being diagnosed in another state. Only those cases reported to the Oregon Health Authority HIV Program were included. People living with HIV in Oregon not counted in this report include those who resided in another state when they were diagnosed and approximately 1,043 who are infected but have yet to be tested (MMWR Vol60, No21:689-693).

Seventy-nine percent (19/24) of Hispanic women diagnosed 2006–2010 reported having had a high-risk male sexual partner** and another 13 percent (3/24) were presumed to have acquired their infection via sex with a man.† Hispanics were also more likely than whites to progress to AIDS within 12 months of testing positive (46% vs. 40%), an indication of a prolonged period of infection prior to diagnosis.

Lack of an identifiable risk factor is more common among Hispanic males than other races/ethnicities (see Table 1).

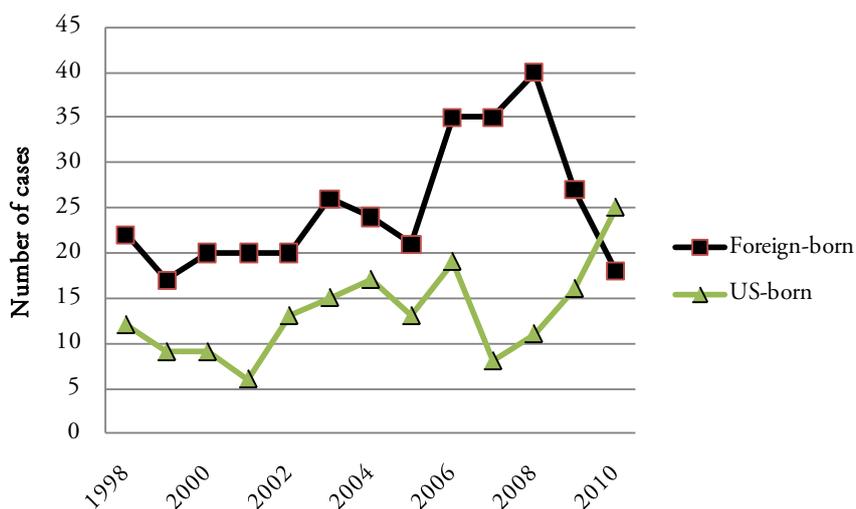
Among Hispanics diagnosed 2006–2010, 66 percent (155/234) were foreign-born (87% of males, and 13% of females). Among Oregon Hispanic HIV cases believed to be living at the end of 2010, 60 percent were born in another country, most (83%) in Mexico. From 1998 to 2008, new foreign-born Hispanic cases exceeded U.S.-born Hispanic cases (Figure 2). However, the number of foreign-born cases in Oregon decreased in 2009 and 2010.

INTERVIEWS WITH HISPANICS

Oregon’s Public Health Division recently interviewed 25 of 56 Hispanics with HIV cases reported from October 1, 2009–March 31, 2010. Three (12%) did not consider themselves to be Hispanic, indicating that Hispanic ethnicity as collected from a medical record is not always consistent with self report. Among the 22 cases who identified as Hispanic, 5 were born in the U.S., 12 were born in Mexico, and the remainder were born in Central America or the Caribbean. Travel between countries was uncommon: 10 of 17 interviewed, foreign-born cases said they never return to their home country.

Half of the Hispanic cases interviewed (11/22) were diagnosed in a local health department and almost a third (7/22) were diagnosed in an urgent care/hospital setting. Only a third of respondents said they had tested prior to their diagnosis. Most of the foreign-born cases (14/17) said that they have concerns about their legal status, and 10 expressed concerns about deportation because of the lack of available health care in their country of origin.

Fig. 2 Hispanic Oregon HIV Cases, 1998-2010



**High-risk male partners of women include men who also have sex with men, use injection drugs or are known to be HIV-infected.

†Includes cases that denied injection drug use and reported having had sex with men, but denied having a male partner whom they knew to also have sex with men, to use injection drugs, or to be HIV-infected.

Table 1. Likely HIV Transmission Route by Race or Ethnicity, Oregon 2006-2010

Likely transmission route [§]	Race or Ethnicity [‡] (%)		
	Hispanic	Black/ African American	White
Males			
MSM	136 (66)	35 (58)	582 (73)
IDU	7 (3)	3 (5)	52 (7)
MSM and IDU	9 (4)	3 (5)	78 (10)
High risk heterosexual partner	4 (2)	9 (15)	16 (2)
Presumed heterosexual	8 (4)	2 (3)	12 (2)
Not reported	41 (20)	8 (13)	59 (7)
Total	205	60	799
Females			
IDU	5 (17)	2 (8)	23 (24)
High risk heterosexual partner	19 (66)	18 (69)	49 (51)
Presumed heterosexual	3 (10)	5 (19)	20 (21)
Mother had HIV/AIDS	1 (3)	1 (4)	0
Not reported	1 (3)	0	4 (4)
Total	29	26	96

[‡]Schema prioritizes Hispanic identity over white or black/African-American race, i.e., a theoretical person who identifies as black or African-American and Hispanic would be classified here as Hispanic.

[§]Based on a hierarchical algorithm applied to case history. A case can only be assigned to a single category.