

# HIV infection among blacks and African Americans in Oregon

## Background

From 1981 through 2013, 6 percent (567/9,430) of cases of HIV infection were diagnosed among black or African American Oregon residents; approximately 32 percent (182/567) have died. Among blacks and African Americans estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Oregon at the end of 2013, 26 percent (115/449) were born in another country; all but five of those were born in Africa.

## Country of birth

During 2004–2013, 7 percent (180/2,595) of all newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases were black or African American. The mean annual rate of new HIV diagnoses among blacks and African Americans was four times the rate for whites (22.8 vs. 6.0 per 100,000 Oregon residents) (Figure 1).

Among the 180 blacks or African Americans diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Oregon during 2004–2013, approximately one-third (37 percent, 67/180) were born in another country. Of these, 45 percent, or 30/67, were male and 55 percent, or 37/67, were female. The proportion of cases that were foreign-born has fluctuated, as shown in Figure 2. The location where HIV was actually acquired is rarely known with certainty.

## Blacks and African Americans facts at a glance

- Approximately 7 percent of people estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Oregon at the end of 2013 were black or African American.
- Twenty-four percent of blacks or African Americans living with HIV in Oregon were born in Africa.

Diagnosed with HIV infection in Oregon, 2004–2013:

- Blacks and African Americans were four times more likely than whites to be diagnosed with HIV infection.
- Among blacks and African Americans recently diagnosed, 71 percent were men.
- Black and African American men were less likely than white men to report having had sex with other men (63 percent vs. 83 percent).

## HIV diagnosis rates by race/ethnicity

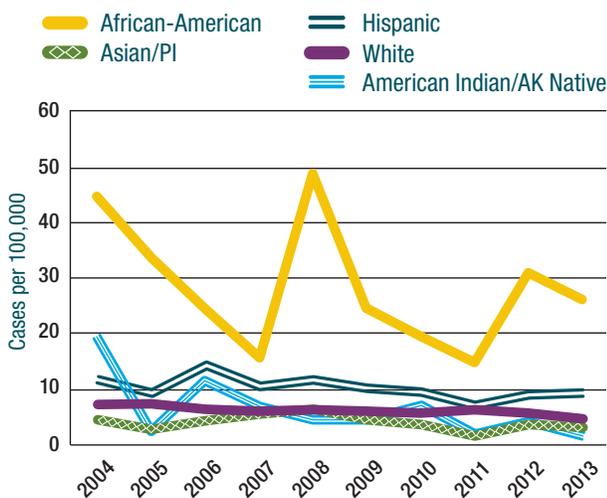


Figure 1

## Black and African American Oregon HIV cases, diagnosed 1998–2013

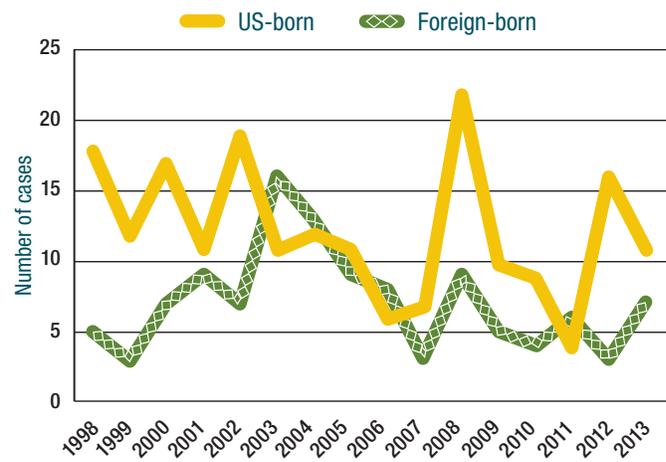


Figure 2

## Likely HIV transmission route by race/ethnicity among males and females, Oregon, 2004–2013

**Table 1** Race or ethnicity<sup>†</sup> (%)

Likely transmission route <sup>†</sup>	Hispanic	Black and African American	White
<b>Males</b>			
MSM	254 (66.5)	70 (54.7)	1213 (73.5)
IDU	12 (3.1)	4 (3.1)	98 (5.9)
MSM and IDU	24 (6.3)	10 (7.8)	163 (9.9)
Hemophilia	0	1 (0.8)	0
Heterosexual contact with IDU	3 (0.8)	2 (1.6)	14 (0.8)
Heterosexual contact with transfusion or transplant recipient	1 (0.3)	0	0
Heterosexual contact with a person living with HIV/AIDS	7 (1.8)	17 (13.3)	18 (1.1)
Undetermined infection mode	74 (19.4)	18 (14.1)	118 (7.2)
Mother had HIV/AIDS	0	2 (1.6)	2 (0.1)
Presumed heterosexual	7 (1.8)	4 (3.1)	24 (1.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>382 (100%)</b>	<b>128 (100%)</b>	<b>1,650 (100%)</b>

### Females

IDU	9 (17.6)	2 (3.8)	51 (27.0)
Heterosexual contact with IDU	3 (5.9)	3 (5.8)	27 (14.3)
Heterosexual contact with MSM	5 (9.8)	0	15 (7.9)
Heterosexual contact with hemophiac	0	1 (1.9)	0
Heterosexual contact with transfusion or transplant recipient	0	1 (1.9)	0
Heterosexual contact with a person living with HIV/AIDS	25 (49.0)	33 (63.5)	58 (30.7)
Undetermined infection mode	1 (2.0)	0	8 (4.2)
Mother had HIV/AIDS	1 (2.0)	2 (3.8)	0
Presumed heterosexual	7 (13.7)	10 (19.2)	30 (15.9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>51 (100%)</b>	<b>52 (100%)</b>	<b>189 (100%)</b>

<sup>†</sup> For this table, transmission category (also known sometimes as “risk category”) has been assigned based on a schema used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Among the 128 black or African American men recently diagnosed with HIV infection, 63 percent (80/128) acknowledged having had sex with other men, which is proportionally fewer than white men who reported sex with other men (83 percent, 1,376/1,650). Fifteen percent (19/128) of recently diagnosed black or African American men reported heterosexual contact compared to 2 percent (32/1,650) of white men (Table 1).

Fifty-two black or African American women were diagnosed with HIV in Oregon during 2004–2013, with 73 percent (38/52) of women assumed infected by high-risk heterosexual exposure<sup>‡</sup> (Table 1). Only two black or African American women (4 percent, 2/52) acknowledged injection drug use alone among the possible transmission categories compared to 27 percent (51/189) of white women and 18 percent (9/51) of Hispanic women. A higher proportion of black or African American women (19 percent or 10/52) were assigned to the “presumed heterosexual female” category than the 16 percent (30/189) of white women in that category.

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



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

### Epidemiologic resources:

Oregon Health Authority, HIV/AIDS epidemiology:  
<http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/CommunicableDisease/DiseaseSurveillanceData/HIVData/Pages/index.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:  
[www.cdc.gov/hiv](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv)

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