

# HIV infection among American Indians and Alaska Natives in Oregon

Of all Oregon HIV/AIDS cases estimated to be living at the end of 2013, 102/6,444 (1.6%) identified as being American Indian or Alaska Native alone or in combination with another race or Hispanic ethnicity. Sixty-three (62%) identified as American Indian or Alaska Native alone and 39 (38%) identified as American Indian or Alaska Native in combination with another race or with Hispanic ethnicity. This total includes cases identified on the original case report as American Indian or Alaska Native or as a result of a 2011 match to the Northwest Tribal Registry.<sup>1</sup>

Among American Indians or Alaska Natives with HIV/AIDS who are living in Oregon at the end of 2013, 74 (73%) were male and 28 were female (27%). Forty-one percent of people estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS and listed as American Indian or Alaska Native reported injection drug use at time of diagnosis compared to 18% of whites.

## Recent trends (2004–2013)

During 2004–2013, 2% (62/2,595) of HIV cases diagnosed in Oregon occurred among people who identified as being American Indian or Alaska Native alone or in combination with another race or Hispanic ethnicity. Twenty-eight (45%) identified as American Indian or Alaska Native alone and 34 (55%) identified as American Indian or Alaska Native in combination with another race (n=24) or with Hispanic ethnicity (n=10) (Figure 1). American Indian or Alaska Native race was reported on 50% (24/48) of newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS case reports that included multiple non-Hispanic races, making it the most frequent single race included for multiple-race cases.

The rate of diagnosis of HIV infection among people who identify as American Indians or Alaska Natives (5.9 HIV cases per 100,000) was comparable to that of whites (6.0 HIV cases per 100,000).

<sup>1</sup> Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. Northwest Tribal Registry Project (2011). Retrieved April 17, 2015, from [www.npaihb.org/epicenter/project/northwest\\_tribal\\_registry\\_project](http://www.npaihb.org/epicenter/project/northwest_tribal_registry_project). Northwest Tribal Registry Project was matched with Oregon reportable disease surveillance system to verify correct racial classification.

## HIV and American Indians/Alaska Natives facts at a glance

- Approximately 2% of people estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Oregon at the end of 2013 identified as American Indian or Alaska Native; of these, 38% identified with at least one other race or with Hispanic ethnicity.
- Forty-one percent of people estimated to be living in Oregon with HIV/AIDS that identified as American Indian or Alaska Native reported injection drug use at time of diagnosis.

Diagnosed with HIV infection in Oregon, 2004–2013:

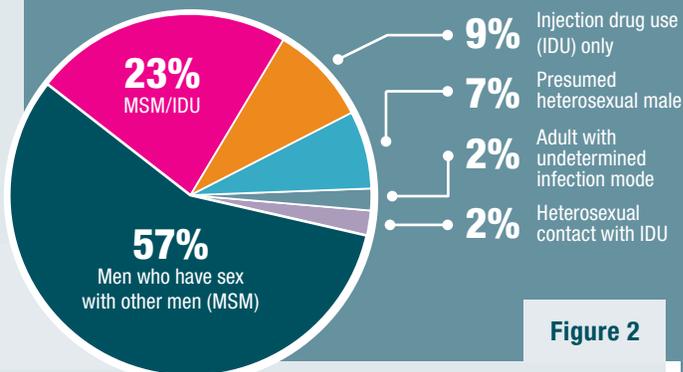
- The rate of new HIV diagnoses among people that identified as non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native was comparable to that of whites.
- People whose only identified race was non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native represented less than 1% of diagnoses during 2004–2013; an additional 34 cases identified as American Indian/Alaska Native in combination with another race or Hispanic ethnicity or identified as American Indian/Alaska Native through the Northwest Tribal Registry Project.
- Females accounted for 29% of recent diagnoses among American Indians/Alaska Natives compared to 10% among whites.
- The risk of mortality within 10 years of diagnosis among American Indians/Alaska Natives was double the risk of mortality among whites.

The average age at diagnosis of people who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native was 34 years compared to 39 years among whites. Delayed diagnosis (as measured by diagnosis of AIDS or progression to AIDS within one year) was comparable between American Indians and Alaska Natives, and whites (40% vs. 39%, respectively). Proportionally, more American Indians and Alaska Natives reported injection drug use (37%) than any other racial groups (white, 17%; Hispanic, 10%; black/African American, 9%; Asian, 7%).

Among recently diagnosed cases of HIV infection, 80% (35/44) of American Indian or Alaska Native male cases reported ever having had sex with another man (Figure 2). Female cases accounted for 29% (18/62) of the recent diagnoses among American Indians or Alaska Natives compared to 10% (189/1839) among white females. Fifty percent (9/18) of recently diagnosed American Indian or Alaska Native females reported injection drug use compared to 27% (51/189) of white females (Figure 3).

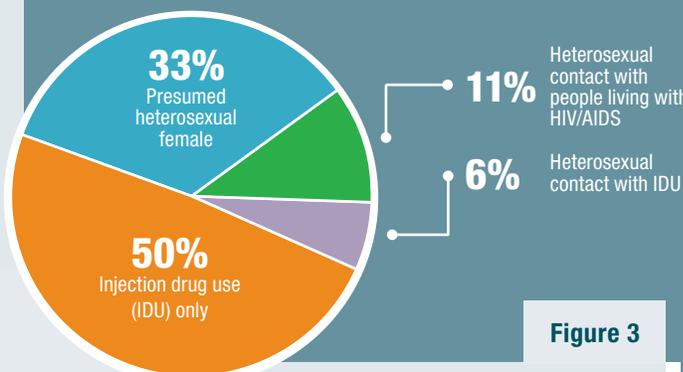
The risk of mortality within 10 years of diagnosis among American Indians/Alaska Natives was nearly double the risk among whites when age at diagnosis is adjusted.

### American Indian or Alaska Native transmission male categories among Oregon cases of HIV infection, 2004–2013



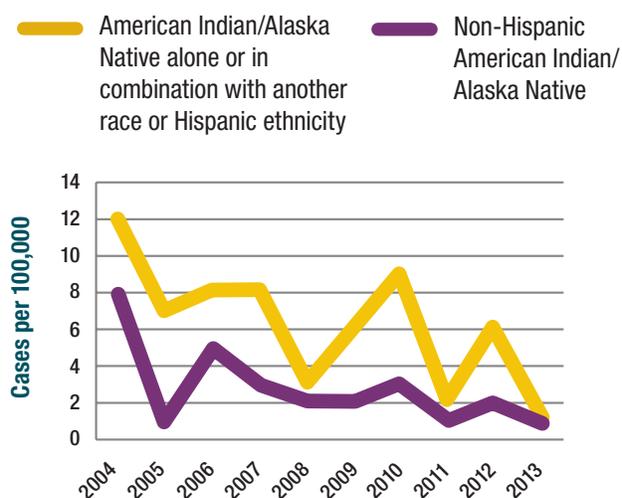
**Figure 2**

### American Indian/Alaska Native transmission female categories among Oregon cases of HIV infection, 2004–2013



**Figure 3**

### HIV diagnosis rates by race/ethnicity 2004–2013



**Figure 1**

#### 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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