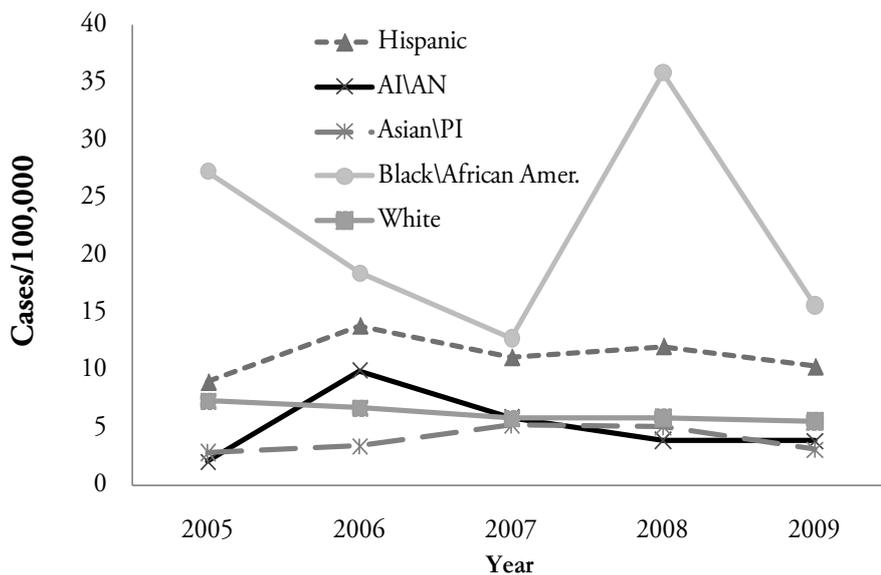


HIV INFECTION AMONG BLACKS AND AFRICAN AMERICANS IN OREGON

Cumulative living cases

Of the 8,467 cases of HIV reported among Oregon residents from 1981–2009, 491 (5.8%) were black or African-American. One hundred forty-six of those have since died. During 2005–2009, about the same proportion (6%, 86/1,327) of all newly reported HIV cases were black or African-American, and the mean annual rate of new HIV diagnoses among blacks or African Americans remains nearly 3.5 times than of whites (22.0 vs. 6.2 per 100,000 residents, Figure 1).

Fig. 1. HIV diagnosis rates by race/ethnicity, 2005–2009



HIV AND AFRICAN AMERICANS FACTS AT A GLANCE:

- Blacks and African-Americans in Oregon are about 3.5 times more likely than whites to acquire HIV infection.
- Approximately 6% of people living with HIV in Oregon are black or African-American.
- Among blacks or African-Americans recently diagnosed with HIV in Oregon, 71% were men.
- During 2005–2009, Black or African-American men were less likely to identify as part of the men who have sex with men transmission category than white men (59% vs. 72%) and more likely to be assigned to high-risk heterosexual transmission category (20% vs. 2%)
- Foreign-born blacks comprise a third of all Oregon black or African-American HIV cases.
- Some foreign-born blacks with HIV were likely infected outside of the US and subsequently immigrated.

Country of birth

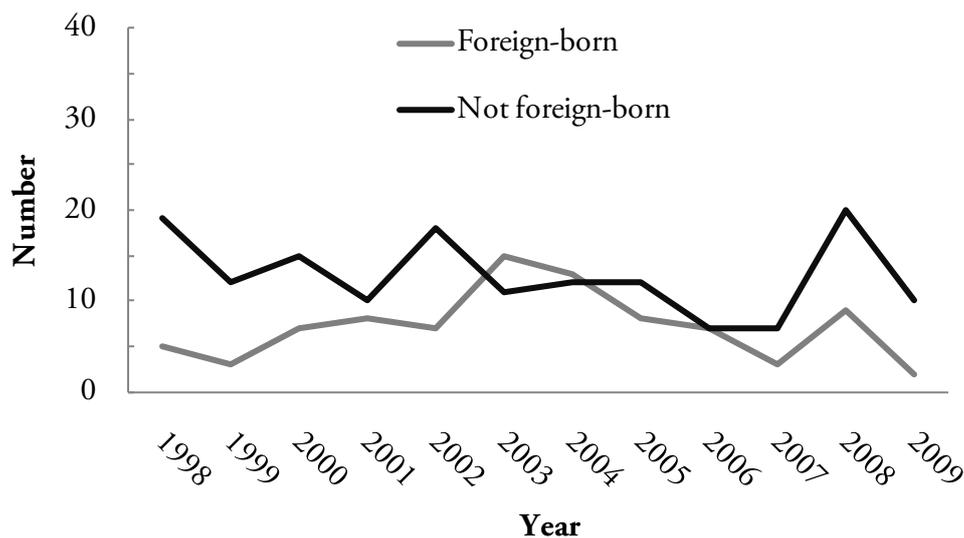
Among Oregon black or African-American HIV cases living at the end of 2009, 26% (91/345) were born in another country, all but two from various African countries. Among blacks or African Americans diagnosed from 2005–2009, 34% (29/86) were foreign-born (20% of males, and 68% of females). The number of foreign-born cases exceeded non-foreign-born cases during 2003 and 2004 (Figure 2). While the location where HIV was acquired is rarely known with certainty, many foreign-born black or African-American cases were in all likelihood not infected in the United States. To the extent that treatment or prevention services such as HIV testing may be broadly targeted towards “blacks or African-Americans” without regard to country of birth, the diversity of risk and cultural experience may limit the effectiveness of such services. For example, foreign-born blacks (40%) are about as likely as whites (39%) to experience delayed diagnosis¹ while US-born

African-Americans (25%) are rather less likely to have an untimely diagnosis.

Race and sex and route of transmission

Table 1 lists assigned transmission categories for HIV cases in Oregon during 2005–2009. Among black or African-American men, while the majority of cases identified as men who have sex with men, black or African-American men were proportionally less likely to identify as part of the men who have sex with men transmission category than white men (59% vs. 72%) and more likely to be assigned to the high-risk heterosexual transmission category (20% vs. 2%) though black or African-American case counts are much lower overall than white case counts. Similarly, although counts are small, proportionally more black or African-American women were reported in the high-risk heterosexual partner category than white or Hispanic women, and relatively fewer black or African-American women were

Fig 2. Black/African American Oregon HIV cases, diagnosed 1998–2009



¹Diagnosis of AIDS within 12 months of first testing HIV-positive.

reported in the injection drug use transmission category. It isn't clear whether these data reflect real differences in prevalent transmission routes by race or ethnicity, or differences in accuracy of risk determination or disclosure varies by race, or both.

Table 1. Likely HIV Transmission Route by Race or Ethnicity, Oregon 2005–2009

Likely transmission route ‡	Race or Ethnicity † (%)		
	Hispanic	Black/ African American	White
Males			
MSM	115 (59)	36 (59)	618 (72)
IDU	5 (3)	2 (3)	54 (6)
MSM or IDU	11 (6)	4 (7)	84 (10)
High risk heterosexual partner	3 (2)	12 (20)	18 (2)
Presumed heterosexual	7 (4)	1 (2)	11(1)
None identified	53 (27)	6 (10)	69 (8)
Other	0	0	0
Total	194	61	854
Females			
IDU	6 (22)	1 (4)	26 (27)
High risk heterosexual partner	18 (64)	19 (76)	50 (53)
Presumed heterosexual	3 (10)	4 (16)	17 (17)
None identified	0	0	2 (2)
Other	1 (4)	0	0
Total	28	25	95

†For this table transmission category (also known sometimes as “risk category”) has been assigned based on a schema used by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that assigns people of Hispanic ethnicity to that category regardless of whether they identify as white or black/African-American race. People of non-Hispanic ethnicity can be assigned to black/African-American, white, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American/Alaska Native or mixed race. Only the Hispanic, black/African-American and White categories are included here.

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

MSM=man who has sex with men; IDU=person who injects drugs; high-risk heterosexual partners=someone who had a partner of opposite sex who was MSM, IDU or person with known HIV infection; presumed heterosexual=someone who denies all other defined risk categories.