



OFFICE OF DISEASE PREVENTION AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

# HIV INFECTION AMONG HISPANICS IN OREGON

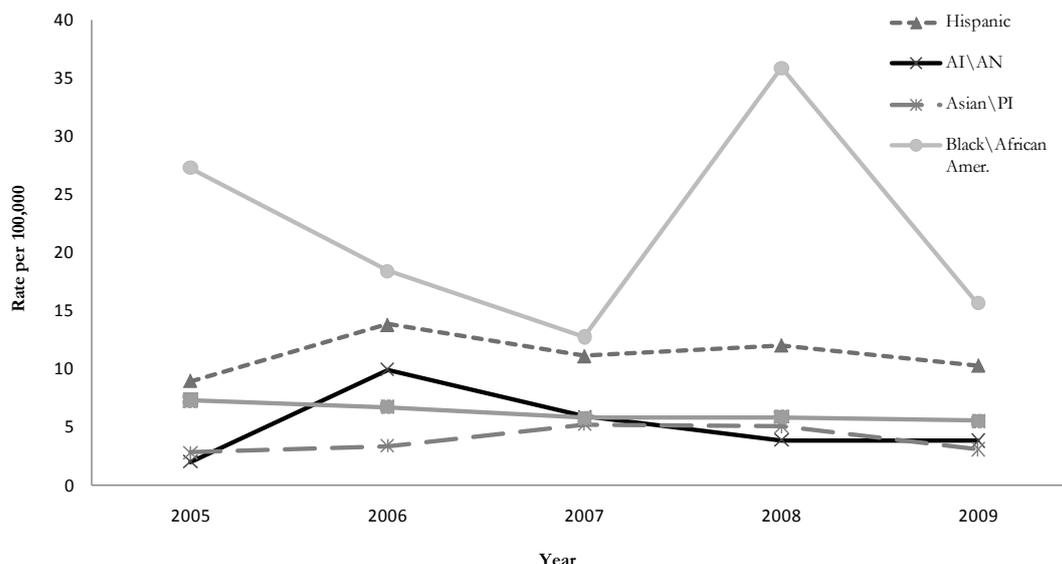
## Introduction

Seven hundred and thirty four of the 8,467 people with reported cases of HIV in Oregon from 1981–2009 were Hispanic. One hundred sixty-seven of these cases have died. During 2005–2009, a substantially greater proportion (17%, 222/1,327) of all newly reported HIV diagnoses were listed as Hispanic. During this same period, the mean rate of new HIV diagnoses was nearly twice as high among Hispanics than whites (11.2 vs. 6.2 per 100,000 residents; Figure 1).

## HIV AND HISPANICS FACTS AT A GLANCE:

- The increasing proportion of newly diagnosed HIV cases are Hispanic. Among all cases diagnosed in Oregon, 9% were Hispanic; during 2005–2009, 17% were Hispanic.
- No likely transmission category was identified for 31% of Hispanic cases diagnosed.
- A majority (62%) 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, 2005–2009



<sup>1</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.

Among Hispanics diagnosed with HIV during 2005–2009, 87% were men and 13% were female; 57% of all cases were men who had both sex with other men (MSM) and history of injection drug use (IDU) or MSM alone. No likely transmission category was reported for 31% (60/194) of Hispanic men with new cases. Sixty-four percent (18/28) of Hispanic women with new cases reported having had a high-risk male sexual partner<sup>1</sup> and another 11% (3/28) were presumed to have acquired their infection via sex with a man.<sup>2</sup> Hispanics were also more likely than whites to progress to AIDS within 12 months of testing positive (48% vs. 39%), an indication of a prolonged period of infection prior to diagnosis.

Lack of identifiable risk factor is more common

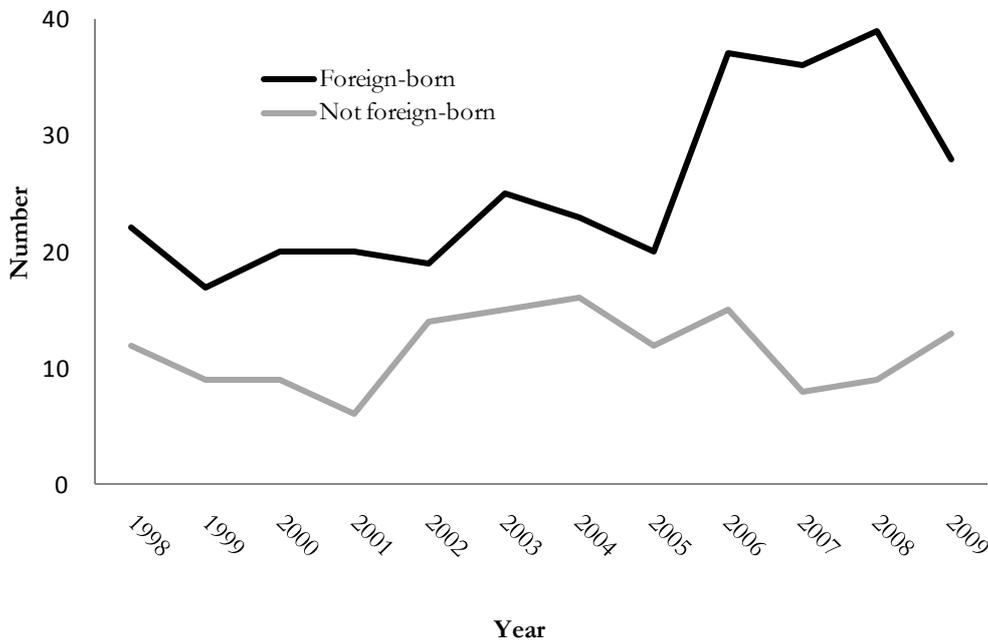
among Hispanics of either sex than other races/ethnicities (see Table 1).

Among Hispanics diagnosed 2005–2009, 72% (160/222) were foreign-born (73% of males, and 68% of females). Among Oregon Hispanic HIV cases believed to be living at the end of 2009, 62% were born in another country, most (83%) in Mexico. Since 1998, new foreign-born Hispanic cases have exceeded U.S.-born Hispanic cases. This ratio has increased markedly since 2005 (Figure 2).

### Interviews with Hispanics

Oregon's Public Health Division recently interviewed 25 of 56 Hispanics with HIV cases

**Fig. 2 Hispanic Oregon HIV Cases, 1998–2009**



<sup>2</sup>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.

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 consistent with case self report in a few cases. Among the 22 cases who identified themselves as being 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.

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

Likely transmission route ‡	Race or Ethnicity † (%)		
	Hispanic	Black/ African American	White
MSM♂	115 (52)	36 (42)	618 (65)
IDU only♂,♀	11 (5)	3 (3)	80 (8)
MSM or IDU♂	11 (5)	4 (5)	84 (9)
Sex with IDU♂,♀	2 (1)	4 (5)	24 (3)
Sex with MSM♀	2 (1)	0	7 (<1)
Sex with transfusion/transplant recipient♀	0	1 (1)	0
Sex with man with HIV/AIDS♀	17 (8)	26 (30)	37 (4)
None identified	53 (24)	6 (7)	71 (7)
Child born to mother with HIV/AIDS♂,♀	1 (<1)	1 (1)	0
Presumed heterosexual♂	7 (3)	1 (1)	11 (1)
Presumed heterosexual♀	3 (1)	4 (5)	17 (2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>949</b>

† 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; Men♂; ♀ Women.

Additional resources:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/newsroom/docs/FastFacts-Latinos-FINAL508COMP.pdf>