



HIV/AIDS Among Gay and Bisexual Men in New Jersey

Prevention & Treatment Needs for Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)

Despite significant declines in HIV infection since the early years of the epidemic, men who have sex with men (MSM) at the national level continue to be the population at highest risk for HIV and many sexually transmitted diseases (STD'S). The HIV epidemic, which began primarily among white gay men, is now dramatically affecting African American and Hispanic/Latino MSM. Although there have been significant reduction in high-risk behaviors among MSM, motivating individuals to maintain long-term behavior change is required. In addition, recent outbreaks of STD's, including syphilis, have occurred among MSM in urban areas, signifying the presence of unsafe behaviors that make this population vulnerable to continued STD and HIV transmission. Prevention efforts must be expanded to reach MSM of all races, and these efforts must be sustained over time. In 2010, MSM account for nearly half (48%) of the more than one million people living with HIV in the US. 57% of new HIV infections in United States occurred among MSM. MSM is the only risk group in the U.S. in which HIV infection has been steadily increasing since 1990s.

As of 12/31/2016, there are 20,520 MSM (17,974 MSM, 2,546 MSM&IDU) had reached accumulative diagnosis of HIV/AIDS in NJ. MSM is the only risk group in New Jersey in which MSM percentage in men's HIV infection has been steadily increasing from 1995 (30.6%) to 2014 (55%) for 20 years, but CDC estimates that MSM account for just 4 percent of the U.S. male population aged 13 and older.

Prevention Efforts Must Focus on MSM High-Risk Behaviors

- ◆ Men in the MSM exposure (MSM & MSM/IDU) categories now account for 37% of the adult/adolescent cumulative as of 2016 HIV/AIDS diagnoses in NJ, compared with Injection Drug Use category IDU (34%) and heterosexual exposure categories (21%) and other/unknown risk categories (9%) among men.
- ◆ Men of color, particularly African Americans, have been especially hit hard and represent the majority (61%) of all infections among MSM (37% African American, 24% Hispanic). Many MSM with HIV/AIDS are residing in poor areas, with low income and face limited access to health care system and experience disparities in receipt of care and treatment.

MSM 2016 Categories with HIV/AIDS in New Jersey account for:

- ◆ 28% of all people living through 2016 with HIV/AIDS in the state, MSM (not include MSM&IDU) accounts more than one in every four persons living with HIV/AIDS.
- ◆ 45% (n=11,222) of living HIV/AIDS cases among men (4% i.e. n=878 are MSM and IDU). More men living with HIV/AIDS were exposed MSM than through other modes of exposure.
- ◆ MSM or MSM&IDU men account for 50% of HIV/AIDS cases reported in 2016 among men.

Current Trends (Data as of December 31, 2016)

- ◆ The number of MSM living with HIV/AIDS has increased steadily in New Jersey over the past 5 years. By contrast, the number of men who reported injection drug use (IDU) has leveled off largely due to a decrease in new reports. The numbers of HIV infection attribute to IDU have decreased about 80% in the recent 10 years. The MSM among the risk categories is the only exposure where the numbers do not decrease in recent 10 years. The percentages of MSM in the HIV infection risk categories are increasing between 2005 and 2014. MSM continue to bear the greatest burden of HIV infection which is back to the burden in the beginning of the epidemic.
- ◆ Among races/ethnicity, Africans continue to be disproportionately affected, especially young black MSM, are at a particularly high risk for HIV infection. Median age of MSM diagnosed HIV/AIDS in 2014 is 29 which down from 36 in 2005 (Median age of Black MSM diagnosed HIV/AIDS in 2014 is 25 which down from 30 in 2005, while median age of White diagnosed HIV/AIDS in 2014 is 38 which down from 41 in 2005).

MSM Hard hit areas in New Jersey

- ◆ Essex County has the State's highest number (2,142) of MSM living with HIV/AIDS among New Jersey's 21 counties, followed by Hudson County (2,047), Union County (764) and Camden County (743).
- ◆ Hunterdon County has the highest proportion of MSM (65.4%) among adult/adolescent men living with HIV/AIDS, followed by Camden County (56.7%), Cap-May County (55.7%), Hudson County (55.7%), Gloucester (55.6%), Burlington County (54%), Bergen County (53%) and Monmouth County (52.6%). Although Essex County has the State's highest number (2,142) of MSM living with HIV/AIDS among New Jersey's 21 counties, but Essex County has the lowest proportion of MSM (36.6%) among adult/adolescent men living with HIV/AIDS.
- ◆ City of Newark (1,208 MSM cases), Jersey City (1,171), Trenton (326), Paterson (315), East Orange (301), Elizabeth (287), Camden (209) and Atlantic City (216) have the highest number of MSM living with HIV/AIDS in the state through 2016.
- ◆ Cities with 50 more MSM persons living with HIV/AIDS and with MSM percentage 55 or more over living adult male cases are Weehawken (MSM#:53, 69.7%), Hoboken (105, 65.2%), Cherry Hill (54, 64.3%), West New York (156, 61.7%), Winslow (60, 60%), Pennsauken (50,58.11%), North Bergen (133,57.6%), Asbury Park (190, 57.2%), Jersey City (1171, 56.6%) and Union City (189, 55.1%). Six of these 10 cities are in Hudson County and 3 in Camden County.

For more information

- ◆ Call or write: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
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- E-mail: aids@doh.nj.us Call the HIV/STD Hotline: 1-800-624-2377
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