



HIV/AIDS among Latinos in New Jersey

Latino new HIV/AIDS diagnoses, data as of December 31, 2016

- ◆ Latino have made up an increasing percentage of annual new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in NJ from 19% (in 1995), 27% (in 2005) to 34% (in 2014), while Latino only represent just 15.2% (in 2005) to 19.3% (in 2014) of NJ population.
- ◆ Annual MSM Latino new HIV diagnoses number increased from 128 in 2005 to 200 in 2014 during recent 10 years. Latino MSMs have accounted for 100% increasing on percentage among Latino all exposure of new HIV infection from 25% (in 2005) to 50% (in 2014).
- ◆ 43.2% of all MSM (# in all race: 463) 2014 diagnosed HIV/AIDS in the state. Latino MSM is the most-affected subpopulation among 2014 new HIV diagnosed.
Latino male population only accounted 19.9% of 2014 all male population.

Among Latinos living with HIV/AIDS in New Jersey who reported on place of birth, 44% were born in the United States. Latino who were born in other countries (31% in Puerto Rico, 4% each in the Dominican Republic and Mexico, 3% each in Cuba and Colombia, and the remaining 11% in other) may have different risk behavior from original risk.

Latinos living with HIV/AIDS in New Jersey account for:

- ◆ One in 173 Latinos is living with HIV/AIDS in New Jersey through 2016, At a rate 3.82 times greater than White non-Hispanic.
- ◆ 27.4 of all living HIV/AIDS cases (24% among women and 29% among men).
- ◆ 25.7% of living cases among injection drug users.
- ◆ 29.9% of living cases among men who *acquired HIV* through sex with men (MSM) and 29.4% among men and 26.2% women who acquired HIV through heterosexual contact.

Hard hit areas in New Jersey for Latino

- ◆ Hudson County has the state's highest proportion of Latino residents (43%) and the highest number (2,135) of Latinos living with HIV/AIDS among New Jersey's 21 counties.
- ◆ Essex County (977 per100,000) has the highest rate of Latino persons living with HIV/AIDS in New Jersey (578 per100,000 Latinos in NJ), followed by Cape May (762), Hudson (736), Atlantic (654), Salem (629) and Camden 621).
- ◆ Of New Jersey cities with more Latinos living with HIV/AIDS: Newark (1,292), Jersey City (923), Paterson (637), Elizabeth (538), Union City (355) and Camden (312) have the largest numbers as 2016. Latinos constituted 78.7% of all persons 2016 living with HIV/AIDS in Union City, 74.7% in Perth Amboy, 74.3% in West New York, 70% in North Bergen, 63% in Passaic, 59.2% in Dover and 56% in Vineland.

Prevention Challenges in Latino Communities

Continued health disparities between economic classes, the challenges related to controlling substance abuse with the epidemic of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are three interrelated issues related to the spread of HIV in communities of color. The public sector alone cannot successfully combat HIV and AIDS in the Latino community. Overcoming the current barriers to HIV prevention and treatment requires that local leaders acknowledge the severity of the continuing epidemic among Latinos. These leaders need to play an even greater role in combating HIV/AIDS in their own communities. Additionally, HIV prevention strategies known to be effective must be available and accessible for MSM populations at risk. The cities with 9 more Latino MSMs 2014 diagnosed HIV are Elizabeth (#:9, 75% of new HIV Latino men), Jersey City (#:14, 70%), Newark (#:18, 64%) and Paterson (#:11, 61%).

Prevention Efforts Must Focus on High-Risk Behaviors among Latino

Adult/Adolescent Women. Among Latino women reported with HIV/AIDS, injection drug use has accounted for 26.8% of the infections, and 65.7% were related to heterosexual exposure categories and 7.4% with unidentified exposure.

Adult/Adolescent Men. Among Latino men reported with HIV/AIDS, MSM has accumulative accounted for the proportion (34.2%) of infections. The second most common exposure for Latino men drug user (IDU), reported by 30.5%, while 4.2% report both injection drug use and sex with other men. Additionally, 21.9% were infected through heterosexual related exposure categories and 9.2% with unidentified risk. Latino IDUs have accounted for a big decreasing percentage (14.2% in 2005 to 3.2% in 2014) among Latino all exposure of new HIV infection.

Data source: Except for cities, rates were on the July 2016 bridged-race estimates for 2014 and 2015. Cities' rates denominators were based on US 2010 census, Hispanic or Latino category (of any race). Mode of exposure data is based on modified risk exposure categories as described in the NJ HIV/AIDS report as of 12/31/2016.

For more information

- ◆ Call or write: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Division of HIV/AIDS Services
PO Box 363
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0363
(609) 984-5874
- ◆ E-mail: aids@doh.nj.us
- ◆ Call the HIV/STD Hotline: 1-800-624-2377
- ◆ Visit our website: www.state.nj.us/health

