



THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN CHICAGO



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Since the first reported AIDS cases in 1981, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates 934,862 individuals have been diagnosed with AIDS in the United States through 2004. The AIDS epidemic initially affected non-Hispanic (NH) white men who have sex with men (MSM) but has since spread to women, children, and persons of color. CDC estimates there are 462,792 people living with HIV/AIDS. However, this is an underestimate because it does not include 20 states and jurisdictions in the USA. Of these, 65% were persons of color (48% NH Black, 17% Hispanic). NH Blacks and Hispanics represent 12% and 14% of the US population respectively, but accounted for 50% and 21% respectively, of the 42,331 newly diagnosed AIDS cases in the U.S. in 2004.

Large urban areas have been disproportionately affected by the AIDS epidemic, and Chicago is not exception. Chicago ranks 6th among metropolitan areas with population over 500,000. While Chicago is 23% of Illinois's population, nearly 67% of the state's AIDS cases are from Chicago. As of 2004, Illinois ranked 6th overall in cumulative reported AIDS cases.

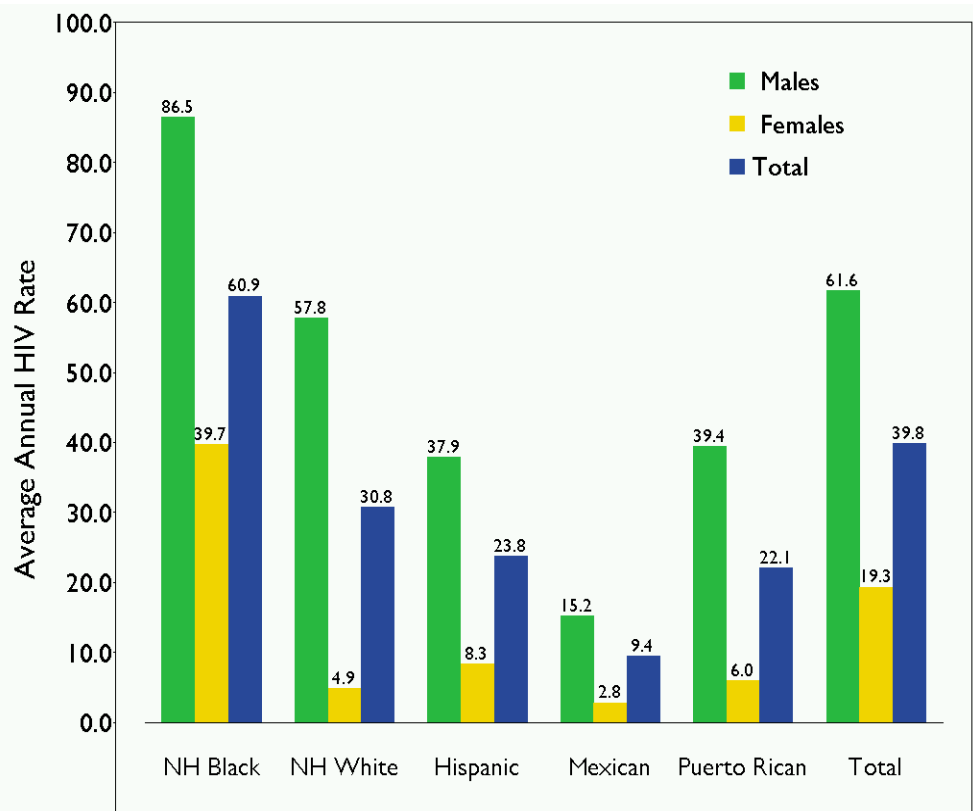
HIV and AIDS in Chicago: An Overview

- A total of 21,867 individuals have been diagnosed with AIDS in Chicago through the end of 2004; 11,851 of which have died and 10,015 are currently living with AIDS. Including the 8,957 people living with HIV, there are a total of 18,972 individuals living with HIV (not AIDS) and AIDS in Chicago.
- On average, more than 1,200 HIV cases and 1000 AIDS cases are diagnosed every year in Chicago. Approximately 450 individuals die each year, and the number of people living with HIV and AIDS increases by 1,750 each year. Some racial and ethnic minorities have been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. NH Blacks represent the majority of both new HIV and AIDS diagnoses.
- NH Blacks are 36% of Chicago's population, yet they account for 55% of people living with HIV/AIDS in Chicago. Similarly, Puerto Ricans account for 15% of the Hispanic population in Chicago, but account for 29% of HIV and AIDS diagnoses in Hispanics between 2003-2004.
- Many people living with HIV may be unaware of their HIV status and therefore delay the process of getting into care. Between 25-30% of those diagnosed with HIV are diagnosed with AIDS within 12 months.

CURRENT HIV TRENDS

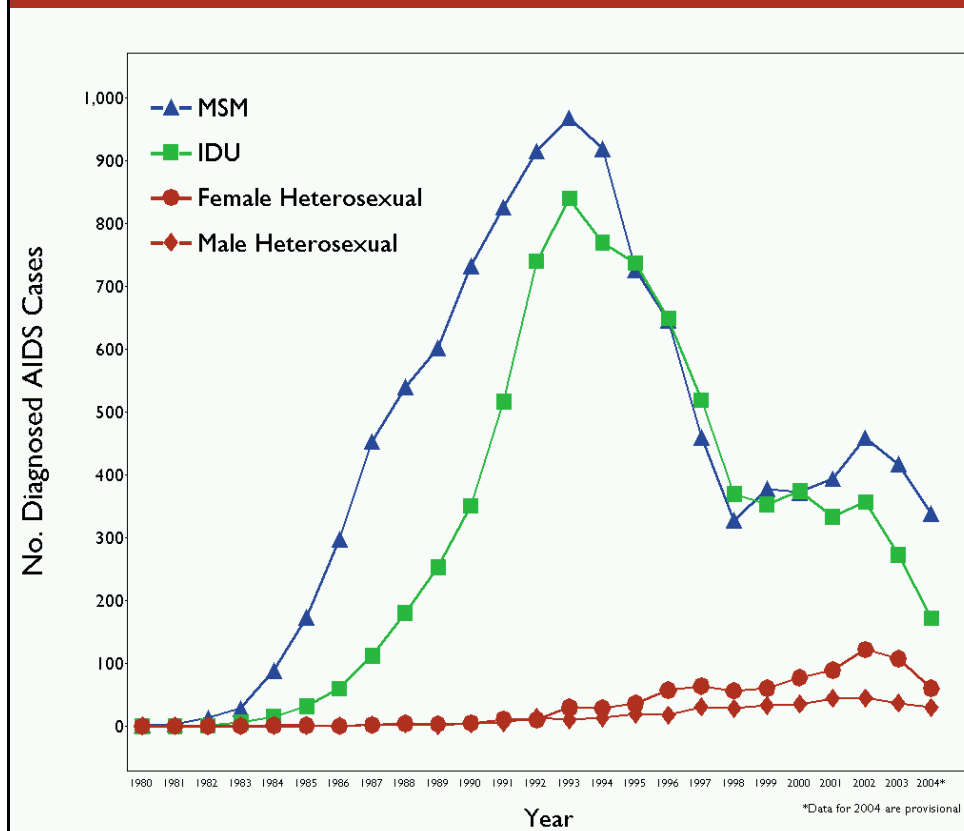
- The average annual HIV (not AIDS) case care (i.e., diagnosed with HIV between 2003-2004) in Chicago is approximately 39.8 per 100,000 (Figure 1). However, there are notable differences by sex and race/ethnicity.
- The average annual HIV rate in males is more than three times higher than the rate in females.
- The average annual HIV rate in NH Black males was 1.5 times the rate in NH White males and 2.6 times higher than the rate in Hispanic males.
- The average annual HIV rate in NH Black females was 8 times higher than the rate in NH White women and nearly 5 times higher than the rate in Hispanic females.
- Between 2002-2003, 2,307 HIV cases were diagnosed in adolescents and adults (aged 13 and older) in Chicago; 75% were male and 25% were female. MSM accounted for 46% of all recently diagnosed HIV cases.
- For the first time since HIV surveillance began in 1999, heterosexual contact is poised to become the second leading mode of transmission, replacing injection drug use.

Figure 1. Average Annual HIV Rates by Selected Race/Ethnicity Groups, Chicago, 2003-2004 (as of 9/30/2005)



- Many more men than women are diagnosed with AIDS in Chicago every year, but the gender gap is narrowing. The proportion of female AIDS diagnoses nearly doubled from 13% in 1991 to 24% between 2003-2004. NH Black women experienced the largest increase, from 16% of all NH Blacks AIDS cases in 1991 to 32% between 2003-2004.

Figure 2. Diagnosed AIDS Cases by Mode of transmission and Year of Diagnosis, Chicago, 1980-2002 (as of 9/30/2005).



Heterosexual Contact

- Nearly 150 heterosexually-acquired HIV cases are diagnosed each year, accounting for 13% of all recent HIV diagnoses.
- Heterosexual transmission has increased dramatically over the past 10 years. Between 1993-1994 and 2003-2004, the proportion of AIDS cases as a result of heterosexual contact has increased from 7% to 17%. In 2003-2004 there were 294 heterosexually-acquired HIV cases and 266 AIDS cases.
- Men and women of color have experienced the largest increase in AIDS cases as a result of heterosexual transmission. Of all AIDS cases diagnosed between 1980-2004 as a result of heterosexual contact, 89% were in NH Blacks and Hispanics.
- NH Black women account for approximately 78% of all recently diagnosed HIV (not AIDS) and AIDS cases resulting from heterosexual transmission in women.
- One out of every three HIV (not AIDS) diagnoses in women aged 13-24 is a NH Black woman who acquired HIV through heterosexual contact.

IDU-Associated Transmission

- Every year, close to 250 HIV cases and 300 AIDS cases are a result of IDU-associated transmission (that is, acquired through injection drug use, having sex with an injection drug user (IDU), born from a mother who injected drugs or had sex with an IDU).
- IDU-associated transmission peaked in 1993 and declined significantly into the late 1990s. The number of IDU-associated AIDS cases decreased 58% from 1993 to 1999. IDU-associated transmission was steady at about 350 cases per year from 1999-2002, and has declined 24% from 2002 to 2003.
- Currently, IDU-associated transmission is responsible for 16% of HIV infections and 26% of AIDS cases diagnosed in 2003-2004. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of all AIDS diagnoses between 1980-2004 were a result of IDU-associated transmission. Of those with IDU-associated transmission, 71% were male and 29% were female. However, among all men diagnosed with AIDS between 1980-2003, IDU accounts for 31% of transmission, whereas in women, IDU accounts for 65% of transmission.
- Approximately two-thirds of all recently diagnosed, IDU-associated HIV/AIDS cases were 40 or older. Between 70-75% of all recently diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases that were IDU-associated were NH Black.