



[www.cityofchicago.org/health](http://www.cityofchicago.org/health)

Hispanics comprise 14% of the U.S. population, but they account for 19% of the 934,862 adolescent/adult (aged 13 and older) AIDS cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the end of 2004. More than 50% of Hispanic males living with HIV/AIDS in the US acquired HIV through male-to-male sexual contact and 26% acquired it through injection drug use. Among Hispanic females living with HIV/AIDS, 68% acquired infection through heterosexual contact and 30% acquired infection through IDU.

The Hispanic population is comprised of subpopulations with distinct characteristics. The subpopulations can both share and differ in their risks and access to care. It is important to explore these characteristics in order to understand fully the HIV/

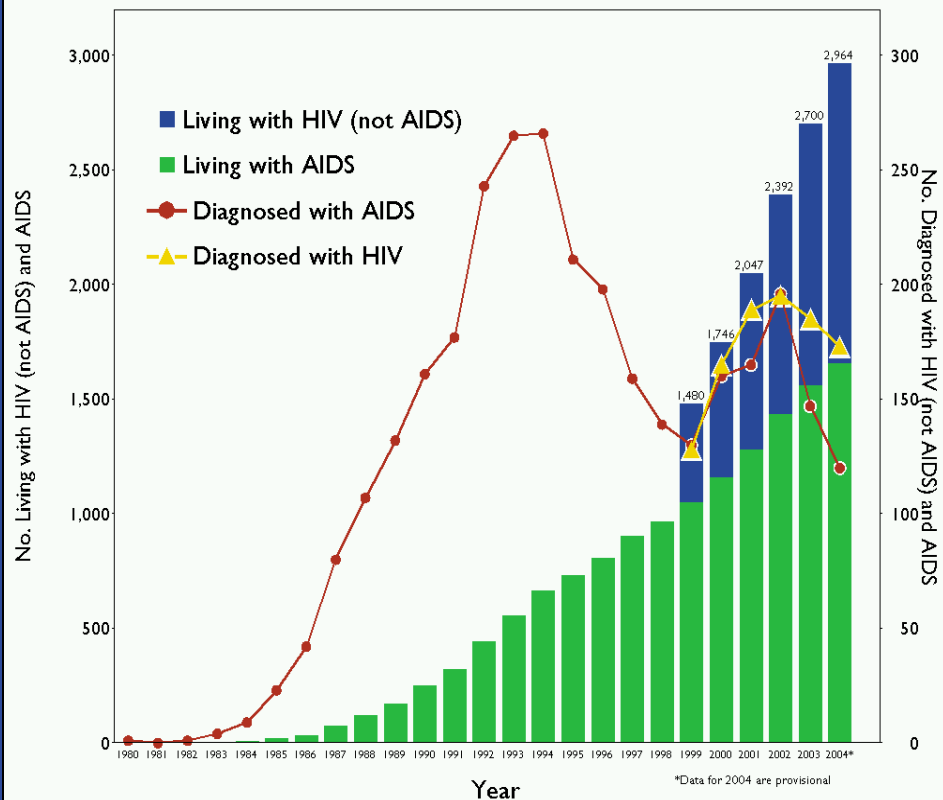
### HIV and AIDS in Chicago: An Overview

- A total of 3,126 Hispanics have been diagnosed with AIDS in Chicago through the end of 2004. Of these, 1,483 have died and 1,653 are currently living with AIDS. Including the 1,311 Hispanic living with HIV who have not progressed to AIDS, there are currently 2,964 Hispanics living with HIV/AIDS in Chicago.
- Every year, an average of 170 Hispanics are diagnosed with HIV and 140 with AIDS. The number of Hispanics living with HIV/AIDS increases by more than 300 every year.
- Hispanics account for 16% of the 18,972 people living with HIV and AIDS in Chicago. Among Hispanics living with HIV/AIDS, 50% are Mexican and 35% are Puerto Rican.

### CURRENT HIV TRENDS

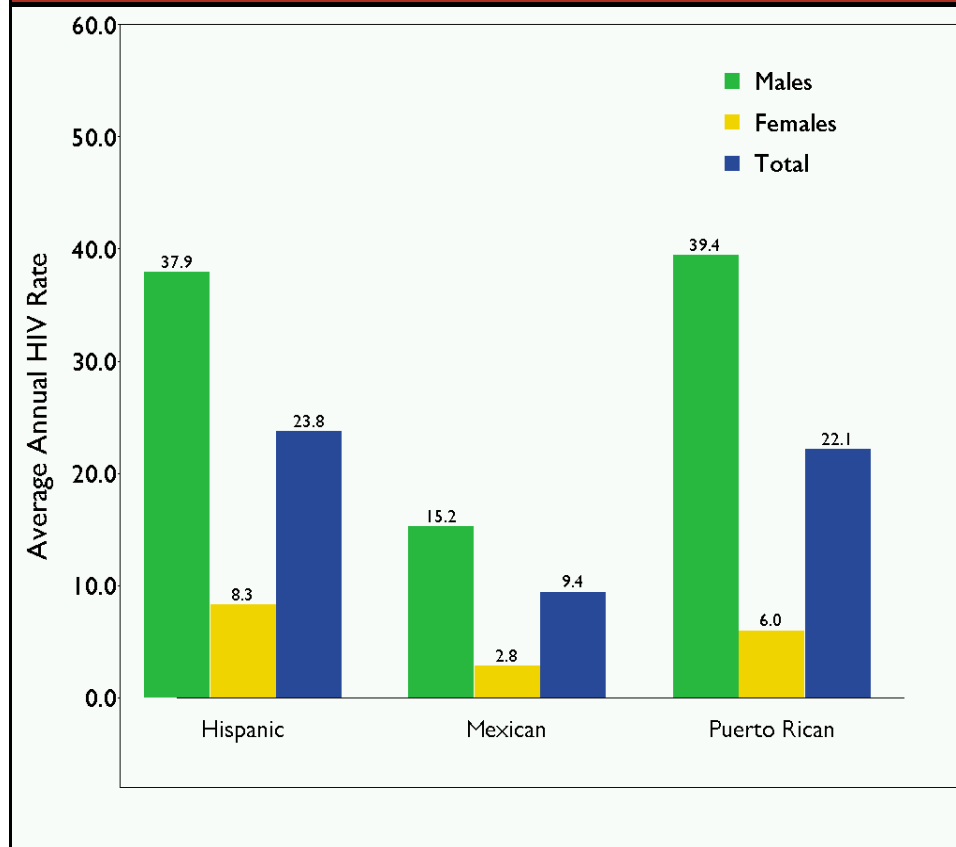
- HIV diagnoses in Hispanics increased 52% between 1999 and 2002. From 2002 to 2003, HIV diagnoses in Hispanics decreased only slightly, from 195 to 185.
- Hispanics account for 15% of recent HIV diagnoses (2003-2004) in Chicago. Of these, 57% were Mexican, 27% were Puerto Rican, and 16% were of other Hispanic origin.
- Puerto Ricans have been disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Puerto Ricans represent 15% of the Hispanic population but account for 29% of recent HIV and AIDS diagnoses.
- Puerto Ricans—both males and females—were more likely than Mexicans to have acquired HIV through IDU. While MSM was the leading mode of transmission for both Mexican and Puerto Rican men, almost 25% of Puerto Rican men acquired HIV through IDU, compared with 4% of Mexican men.

Figure 1. HIV and AIDS Diagnoses and Number of Hispanics Living with HIV and AIDS, Chicago, 1980-2004 (as of 9/30/2005).



- Similarly, among Puerto Rican and Mexican women, heterosexual contact was the most frequent mode of transmission. However, nearly 30% of Puerto Rican women acquired HIV through IDU, compared with 8% of Mexican women.
- The average annual HIV rate in Puerto Rican males was more than 2.5 times higher than the rate in Mexican men.
- Puerto Ricans are diagnosed with HIV at an older age than Mexicans. The average age at HIV diagnosis for Puerto Ricans is 38 years compared to 34 years for Mexicans.
- HIV-related mortality was the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for Hispanics aged 25-44 in 2002. Among Puerto Ricans, HIV was the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death in those aged 35-44.

Figure 2. Average Annual HIV Rates in Hispanics and Selected Hispanic Subgroups, Chicago, 2003-2004 (as of 9/30/2005)



## TRENDS IN AIDS DIAGNOSES

- AIDS diagnoses in Hispanics peaked a decade ago and declined by 50% through 1999. AIDS diagnoses again increased 50% between 1999-2002.
- The proportion of females diagnosed with AIDS has remained relatively stable over time, from 16% in 1993 to 14% in 2003.

Prepared by Demian Christiansen, MPH, and Nanette Benbow, MAS,  
Office of HIV/AIDS Surveillance, Chicago Department of Public Health.

For additional copies, call (312) 747-9812 or visit  
[www.cityofchicago.org/health](http://www.cityofchicago.org/health).