

# Facts About...

## HIV/AIDS in People of Color

HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Program  
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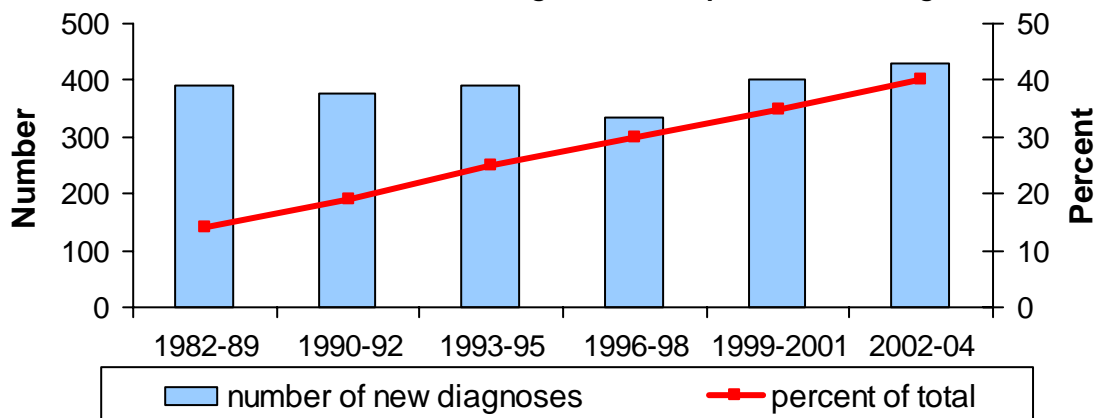


**SUMMARY:** In Seattle & King County, as in the U.S. as a whole, HIV and AIDS disproportionately affect U.S.-born Blacks & foreign-born Blacks, American Indians & Alaska Natives, and persons of Hispanic ethnicity compared to Whites and Asians & Pacific Islanders. The racial disparity is even greater among women than among men.

### STATUS AND TRENDS IN HIV/AIDS CASES, WITH POPULATION SIZES:

- Twenty-nine percent (2,450) of the total of 8,400 estimated King County residents currently living with HIV infection (including those with AIDS), are People of Color.
- HIV-infected King County residents are 71% White, 16% Black (including 11% U.S.-born and 5% foreign-born Blacks), 9% persons of Hispanic ethnicity, 2% Asian & Pacific Islander (API), 1% Native American & Alaska Native (NA/AN). An additional 0.5% are of multiple racial background.
- The proportion of HIV/AIDS cases among People of Color has risen steadily since the early years of the epidemic in King County, increasing from 14% of cases in 1982-1989 to 30% in 1996-1998 and 40% in 2002-2004 (Figure 1). The increase since 1996 was almost entirely due to increases among both U.S.-born Blacks (from 10% to 13%) and foreign-born Blacks (from 4% to 9%).

**Figure 1: Number & Percent of New HIV Diagnosis in People of Color, King Co., 1982-2004**



- Population-based rates of recently (2002-2004) diagnosed people show disproportionate impact on People of Color. King Co. rates among Blacks, Hispanics, and NA/AN were two to four times the rate among Whites. The rate among foreign-born Blacks was eight times higher than for Whites. HIV/AIDS rates among API, however, are about one-third of that among Whites (Table 1).

**Table 1: King Co. Population, New Diagnoses, and Diagnosis Rates by Race and Ethnicity**

	Estimated 2004 population*		HIV diagnosed 2002-2004		Average Annual Rate per 100,000	Rate Ratio (compared to White rate)
	No.	(%)	No.	(%)		
White, non-Hispanic	1,229,757	(71)	645	(60)	17.5	1.0
Black, non-Hispanic (nH)	100,943	(6)	239	(22)	78.9	4.5
U.S.-born Blacks	77,082	(4.4)	137	(13)	59.2	3.4
Foreign-born Blacks	23,852	(1.4)	101	(9)	141.1	8.0
Hispanic	113,120	(7)	117	(11)	34.5	2.0
Asian & Pacific Islander, nH	230,354	(13)	31	(3)	4.5	0.3
Native American & Alaskan Native, nH	10,850	(0.6)	21	(2)	64.5	3.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,738,896</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>20.0</b>	--

\* 2004 King County population estimates were derived from the 2004 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau. The total includes 53,872 persons of multiple or other race. \*\* And non-Hispanic.

- The racial disparities are even greater for women. The average annual King Co. rate of HIV diagnoses 2002-2004 among foreign-born Black females (122.4) is more than 50 times higher than for White females (1.8 per 100,000). The rate is nine times higher (16.1) for U.S.-born Black women than for White women. Although each has fewer than five cases per year, NA/AN and Hispanic women also have rates higher than among White women.
- Table 2 describes people living with HIV/AIDS as of September 2005. Cases are shown by race and gender by exposure category. Compared with White males, Black and NA/AN males are more likely to inject drugs (IDU & MSM/IDU), and less likely to be MSM. Compared with White females, Foreign-born Black females are more likely to have undetermined risk of transmission.

**Table 2: Exposure Category of People Living with HIV/AIDS by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex**

	White	US-born Black	Foreign-born Black	Hispanic	API	NA/AN
<b>MALES (N = 5,151)</b>						
Total males	3,815	487	149	464	124	57
MSM not injecting drugs	83%	64%	7%	73%	77%	53%
MSM who also inject drugs	10%	7%	4%	7%	3%	25%
Injection drug users (IDU)	3%	14%	0%	7%	2%	12%
Heterosexual partner is HIV+ or IDU	1%	5%	48%	4%	4%	3%
Other risk (perinatal or blood exposure)	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Undetermined or not reported	2%	9%	40%	9%	13%	7%
<b>FEMALES (N = 548)</b>						
Total females	213	126	115	43	14	26
Injection drug users (IDU)	29%	27%	1%	9%	0%	65%
Heterosexual partner is HIV+, MSM, or IDU	50%	40%	49%	53%	50%	27%
Other risk (perinatal or blood exposure)	4%	12%	3%	8%	14%	0%
Undetermined or not reported	17%	21%	50%	30%	36%	8%

**HIV PREVALENCE:**

- Seroprevalence data from the 2002-2003 unlinked surveys of Public Health's Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Clinic patients indicate that 0.3% of all heterosexual clients are HIV-infected. These rates are significantly higher among Blacks and Hispanics than among Whites. In the STI Clinic surveys, 0.4% of 1,575 heterosexual Whites tested HIV positive compared to 0.6% of 516 Blacks, 0.7% of 144 Hispanics and 2.9% of 35 NA/AN. None of 932 heterosexual API have tested HIV positive in this survey since 1990.
- Seroprevalence data from unlinked surveys conducted predominantly among IDU (90%) from 1997 to 1999 in King County drug treatment facilities show significantly lower HIV prevalence rates among Whites (1.0%) entering drug treatment compared to Blacks (3.2%) or NA/AN (6.2%). None of the 106 API tested in this survey since 1991 were HIV positive.
- The Young Men's Survey of 1998-2000 interviewed 2,400 MSM in six US cities, including Seattle. The overall survey found HIV prevalence to be 30% among Blacks and 15% among Hispanics, but only 7% among Whites and 3% among API.

**OTHER MEASURES OF RISK:**

- Information about other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is useful in evaluating the risk of HIV transmission. King Co. STI data indicate much higher rates of gonorrhea, syphilis, and chlamydia among People of Color. The 2004 rate of gonorrhea among Black men was 7 times higher, and among Black women 12 times higher, than the rate among Whites. Compared to Whites, gonorrhea rates in 2004 were also significantly higher among NA/AN, but lower among API. Also in 2004, the incidence of Chlamydia was six times higher among Black women than White women and nine times higher among Black men than among White men.
- The adolescent birth rate is one indicator of unprotected sexual activity and therefore risk of HIV infection. Overall birth rates for young women 15 to 17 years of age in King Co. in 1999-2003 were highest among Hispanics (47 per 1,000), NA/AN (40 per 1,000), and Blacks (23 per 1,000), and lowest among Whites (10 per 1,000) and API (9 per 1,000).