

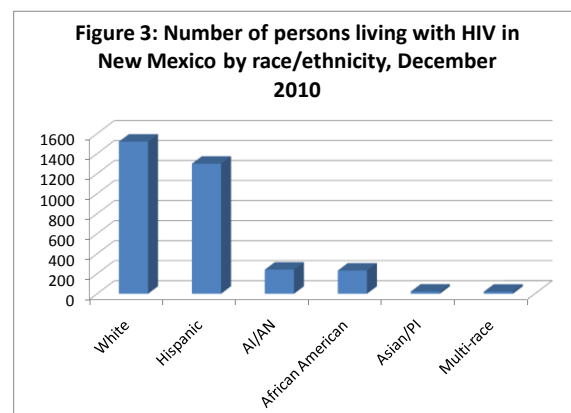
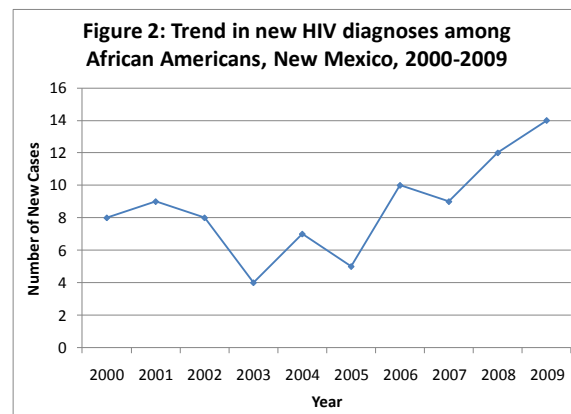
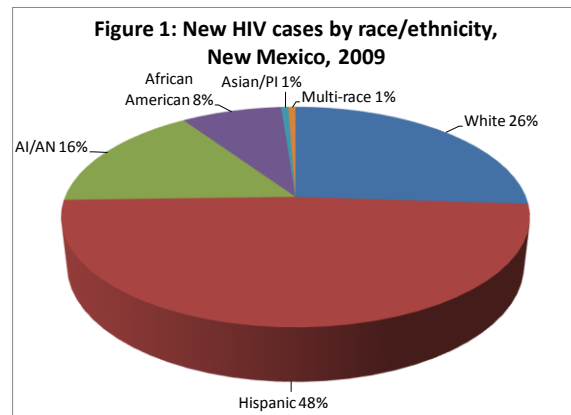
FACT SHEET

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) among African Americans in New Mexico

African Americans experience a disproportionate burden of HIV compared with persons of other race/ethnicities.¹ For example, in 2008, African Americans in the U.S. accounted for 52% of all new diagnoses of HIV infection. African Americans make up nearly half of the million plus persons living with HIV in the U.S., and more than 230,000 African Americans in the U.S. have died of HIV.² The highlights here are useful to provide guidance for the design and conduct of HIV prevention, intervention, care and advocacy programs for African Americans in New Mexico.

New HIV diagnoses

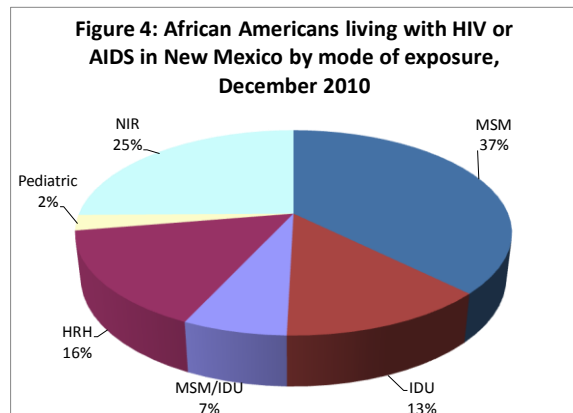
- African Americans make up less than 3% of New Mexico's population.³ In 2009, African Americans living in New Mexico accounted for 8% of new HIV cases (Figure 1).
- From 2000-2009, African American women in New Mexico had the highest average rate of new HIV diagnoses among women – 7.9 per 100,000 population.⁴
- Since 2000, there have been fluctuations in both the counts and rates of new HIV cases among African Americans in New Mexico (Figure 2). Since 2005, both counts and rates have been increasing.
- From 2005-2008, the rate of new HIV diagnoses among African Americans in the U.S. increased 12% – from 68 to 74 per 100,000 persons; this change reflects the largest increase in rates of HIV diagnoses by race or ethnicity.¹
- The estimated lifetime risk of becoming infected with HIV is 1 in 16 for black males, and 1 in 30 for black females, a far higher risk than for white males (1 in 104) and white females (1 in 588).⁵
- In New Mexico, the proportion of HIV+ African Americans with concurrent diagnoses (33%) was lower than that of all other racial ethnic groups.⁶



Persons Living With HIV

- Of the more than 3,300 people currently living with HIV in New Mexico, approximately 4% are African American (Figure 3).
- Like other racial/ethnic groups, the mode of exposure most commonly reported among HIV+ African Americans in New Mexico is men who have sex with men (MSM; Figure 4).

- One-third of African American women living with HIV in New Mexico reported high risk heterosexual (HRH) sex as their mode of exposure, which includes contact with a person known to have, or to be at high risk for, HIV.
- Approximately 13% HIV+ African Americans living in New Mexico are African-born. This sub-population of African Americans may require culturally specific public health efforts to promote HIV prevention and medical and social care.⁷
- In 2007, the highest rate of HIV deaths in the U.S. occurred among African Americans – approximately 31.3 per 100,000 population.²



Prevention and Advocacy

The CDC's "Heightened National Response to the HIV/AIDS Crisis Among African Americans" intends to intensify efforts to address the AIDS epidemic by focusing on four different areas: 1) expanding the reach of prevention services; 2) increasing opportunities for diagnosing and treating HIV; 3) developing new prevention interventions; and 4) mobilizing broader community action.

The New Mexico Department of Health HIV Prevention Program funds organizations to use evidence-based models from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Programs designed for African Americans in New Mexico include:

- **Many Men/Many Voices (3MV)** intervention targets gay men of color, including men who have sex with men (MSM) who may not identify as gay.
- **Sister to Sister** is a one-on-one HIV risk-reduction behavioral intervention for sexually active African American women 18 to 45 years old, delivered during the course of a routine medical visit
- **VOICES/VOCES** program for African American men and women in clinics and other settings.
- **SISTA** project is designed to increase condom use in sexually active African American women.
- **d-up: Defend Yourself!** is a community-level intervention designed for and developed by Black men who have sex with men (MSM). **d-up!** is designed to promote social norms of condom use and assist Black MSM to recognize and handle risk-related racial and sexual bias.

References

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