

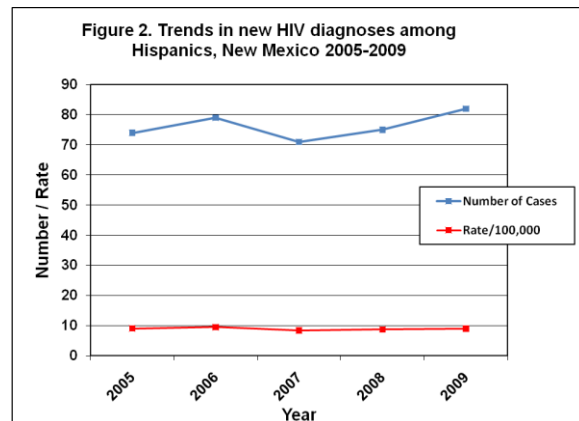
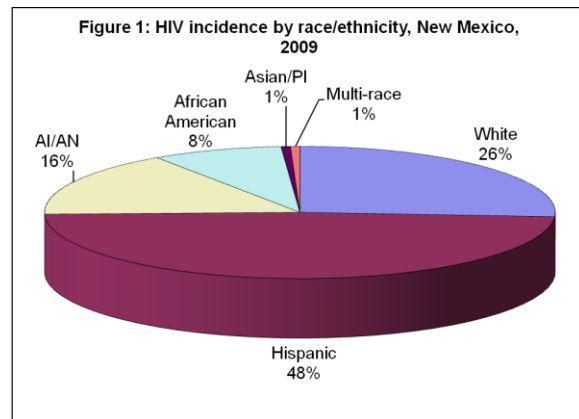
## FACT SHEET

### ***Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) among Hispanics in New Mexico***

Hispanics in the U.S. experiences a disproportionate burden of HIV, with significant health disparities observed across geographic regions and population subgroups.<sup>1</sup> For example, in the U.S. the estimated lifetime risk of acquiring an HIV infection among Hispanics is almost 2%, or 1 in 50 persons.<sup>2</sup> For HIV+ Hispanics, health disparities may result in decreased quality of life, loss of economic opportunities, and perceptions of injustice.

#### **New HIV diagnoses**

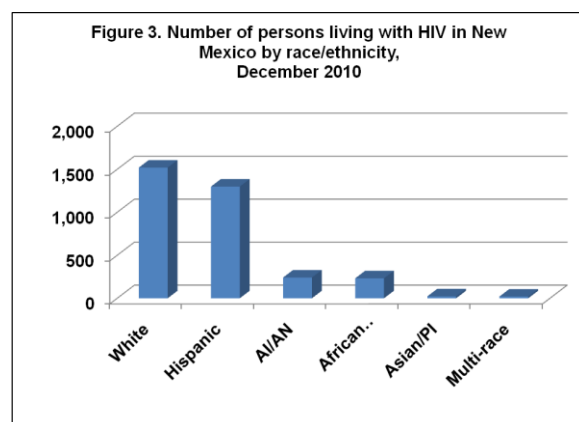
- Hispanics make up about 43% of New Mexico's population.<sup>3</sup> In 2009, Hispanics in New Mexico accounted for 48% of newly reported HIV cases (Figure 1). The rate of new HIV diagnoses for Hispanics in New Mexico was 9 per 100,000 population.
- Despite small fluctuations in the number of new HIV cases, the rate among Hispanics has remained relatively stable across the past five years (Figure 2).
- In 2008, Hispanics accounted for more than 19% of new HIV diagnoses in the U.S.<sup>4</sup> The rate of new diagnoses of HIV infection in Hispanics was 25 per 100,000 population.<sup>5</sup> Also, the HIV diagnosis rate among Hispanics in the U.S. was approximately 3 times that of Whites.<sup>6</sup>
- In New Mexico, the proportion of HIV positive Hispanics with concurrent AIDS diagnoses (46%) was higher than that of non-Hispanic Whites, African Americans, and American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN).<sup>7</sup> The higher proportion found among Hispanics in New Mexico has also been seen at the national level.<sup>8</sup>



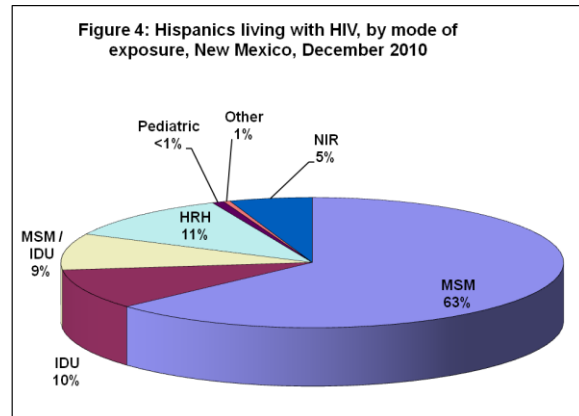
#### **Persons Living With HIV/AIDS**

Of the more than 3,300 persons living with HIV in New Mexico, 39% are Hispanic (Figure 3). The majority of Hispanics living with HIV reside in Bernalillo and Dona Ana Counties.

- Like other racial/ethnic groups, the mode of exposure most commonly reported among HIV+ Hispanics in New Mexico is men who have sex with men (MSM; Figure 4).



- Among Hispanic women living with HIV in New Mexico, more than half (56%) 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 21% of Hispanic women living with HIV reported injection drug use (IDU) as their risk exposure. This percentage is smaller compared to women statewide (23%), White women (28%), and African American women (22%).



## Prevention and Advocacy

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD), established in 2003, is one of the nation's largest and broadest reaching community level awareness campaigns focused on promoting HIV testing opportunities, connecting people to care and enhancing HIV awareness among Hispanics. NLAAD seeks to raise awareness of the disproportionate impact of HIV on the Hispanic population in the United States and to encourage prevention measures such as HIV testing.

The New Mexico Latino Advisory Council (NM-LAC) formed in 2008 to aid in the assessment, planning, and implementation of projects to benefit Latino/Hispanic gay and bisexual men. The NM-LAC provided technical support during a statewide community assessment of HIV prevention services. This assessment led to the implementation of programs that encourage HIV testing, provide innovative and culturally specific HIV education, and offer opportunities to build social networks. The report from this effort, the "New Mexico Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan 2009-2011: Supplement on Latino Gay & Bisexual Men" is available online at: [www.nmcpag.org](http://www.nmcpag.org).

The HIV Prevention Program has applied evidence-based models to create culturally appropriate material for Hispanic populations to prevent the negative stigma of HIV testing. Language and cultural competency as well as a client's perspective on health and healthcare can influence prevention and treatment issues.

## Footnotes

NMDOH categorizes persons as Hispanic if their race is White or is unknown; all other ethnic Hispanics are classified according to their racial group. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) categorizes Hispanics as those of Hispanic ethnicity regardless of race. For this report, we follow the NMDOH methodology to categorize race and ethnicity. When race/ethnicity is calculated for New Mexico cases using the CDC methodology, the NM percentages and rates are not drastically different than those percentages and rates calculated using the NMDOH methodology.

## References

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