



HIV/AIDS among Latinos in New Jersey

Latino new HIV/AIDS diagnoses, data as of December 31, 2017

- ◆ Latino have made up an increasing percentage of annual new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in NJ from 26.7% (in 2006) to 34.2% (in 2015), while Latino only represent just 15.6% (in 2006) to 19.7% (in 2015) of NJ population.
- ◆ Annual MSM Latino new HIV diagnoses number increased from 116 in 2006 to 203 in 2015 during recent 10 years. Latino MSMs have accounted for 100% increasing on percentage among Latino all exposure of new HIV infection from 25.2% (in 2006) to 50.8% (in 2015).
- ◆ 41.3% of all MSM (# in all race: 492) 2015 diagnosed HIV/AIDS in the state. The number (203) of Latino MSM diagnosed HIV/AIDS in 2015 is the most-affected subpopulation among 2015 HIV diagnosed. Latino male population only accounted 20.2% of 2015 all male population.

Among Latinos living with HIV/AIDS in New Jersey who reported on place of birth, 44% were born in the United States. Latino who were born in other countries (31% in Puerto Rico, 4% each in the Dominican Republic and Mexico, 3% each in Cuba and Colombia, and the remaining 11% in other) may have different risk behavior from original risk.

Latinos living with HIV/AIDS in New Jersey account for:

- ◆ One in 173 Latinos is living with HIV/AIDS in New Jersey through 2016, At a rate 3.82 times greater than White non-Hispanic.
- ◆ 27.9 of all living HIV/AIDS cases (24% among women and 29% among men).
- ◆ 26.0% of living cases among injection drug users.
- ◆ 30.8% of living cases among men who *acquired HIV* through sex with men (MSM) and 29.9% among men and 26.5% among women who acquired HIV through heterosexual contact.

Hard hit areas in New Jersey for Latino

- ◆ Hudson County has the state's highest proportion of Latino residents (43.2%) and the highest number (2,186) of Latinos living with HIV/AIDS among New Jersey's 21 counties. Essex County (993 per100,000) has the highest rate of Latino persons living with HIV/AIDS in New Jersey (585 per100,000 Latinos in NJ), followed by Hudson (736), Cape May (709), Atlantic (650), Monmouth (629) and Camden (616).
- ◆ Of New Jersey cities with more Latinos living with HIV/AIDS: Newark (1,319), Jersey City (933), Paterson (645), Elizabeth (562), Union City (356) and Camden (314) have the largest numbers as 2017. Latinos constituted 77.9% of all persons 2017 living with HIV/AIDS in Union City, 74.4% in West New York, 72.4% in Perth Amboy, 71.5% in North Bergen, 65.6% in Passaic, 59.8% in Dover, 53.3 in New Brunswick and 51.6% in Vineland.

Prevention Challenges in Latino Communities

Continued health disparities between economic classes, the challenges related to controlling substance abuse with the epidemic of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are three interrelated issues related to the spread of HIV in communities of color. The public sector alone cannot successfully combat HIV and AIDS in the Latino community. Overcoming the current barriers to HIV prevention and treatment requires that local leaders acknowledge the severity of the continuing epidemic among Latinos. These leaders need to play an even greater role in combating HIV/AIDS in their own communities. Additionally, HIV prevention strategies known to be effective must be available and accessible for MSM populations at risk. The cities with 9 more Latino MSMs 2015 diagnosed HIV are North Bergen (#:9, 81% of new HIV Latino men), Jersey City (#:10, 71%), Paterson (#:11, 69%), Newark (#:33, 65%) and Elizabeth (#:9, 56%).

Prevention Efforts Must Focus on High-Risk Behaviors among Latino

Adult/Adolescent Women. Among Latino women reported with HIV/AIDS, injection drug use has accounted for 26.6% of the infections, and 65.7% were related to heterosexual exposure categories and 7.5% with unidentified risk exposure.

Adult/Adolescent Men. Among Latino men reported with HIV/AIDS, MSM has accumulative accounted for the proportion (35.0%) of infections. The second most common exposure for Latino men drug user (IDU), reported by 29.6%, while 4.2% report both injection drug use and sex with other men. Additionally, 21.8% were infected through heterosexual related exposure categories and 9.3 with unidentified risk. Latino IDUs have accounted for a big decreasing percentage (10.7% in 2006 to 2.0% in 2015) among Latino all exposure of new HIV infection.

Data source: Except for cities, rates were on the July 2017 bridged-race estimates for 2015 and 2016. Cities' rates denominators were based on US 2010 census, Hispanic or Latino category (of any race). Mode of exposure data is based on modified risk exposure categories as described in the NJ HIV/AIDS report as of 12/31/2017.

For more information

- ◆ Call or write: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
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- ◆ E-mail: aids@doh.nj.us
- ◆ Call the HIV/STD Hotline: 1-800-624-2377.
- ◆ Visit our website: www.state.nj.us/health

