

HIV/AIDS in Hispanics

San Diego County
2015

**County of San Diego
Health and Human Services Agency**



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HHSA
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY



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HIV/AIDS in Hispanics San Diego County 2015

County of San Diego
Health and Human Services Agency
Public Health Services



For more information:

Epidemiology & Immunization
Services Branch
HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Unit (HAEU)
3851 Rosecrans Street, MS P577
San Diego, CA 92101-3115

Phone: (619) 692-8461
Fax: (619) 692-8427

This report is available on the web at:
www.sdhiv aids.org
(click on 'Reports and Statistics')

Nick Macchione, M.S., M.P.H., F.A.C.H.E.

Director, Health and Human Services Agency

Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.,

Public Health Officer

Director, Public Health Services

Karen Waters-Montijo, M.P.H.

Chief, Epidemiology & Immunization Services Branch

Eric McDonald, M.D., M.P.H.

Medical Director,

Epidemiology & Immunization Services Branch

HAEU Staff:

Michael Bursaw, M.P.H., (619) 692-8414

Lorri Freitas, M.P.H., (619) 692-8433

Samantha Tweeten, Ph.D., M.P.H., (619) 692-8505

Ernie Awa, (619) 692-8413

Francisco McGann, (619) 692-8476

Minda Johnson, (619) 692-8463

Sonia Hunter, (619) 692-8540

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Introduction

The first Hispanic San Diego County resident was diagnosed with AIDS in 1983. Since then, the number of cases in Hispanics has grown to 27.2% of all county residents diagnosed with HIV disease. Hispanics comprise about a third of the county population, and this is similar to what is seen in the local HIV/AIDS case population (see Table 1).

The Centers for Disease Control and Pre-

vention (CDC) estimate (2012) that 21% of individuals diagnosed with HIV (regardless of vital status; incident cases) and 20% of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA, regardless of HIV or AIDS diagnosis; prevalent cases) in the US are Hispanic (See Table 2). In San Diego County (2013), Hispanics comprise 42% of HIV diagnoses (twice the national percentage) and 32% of PLWHA (60% greater than the national percentage).

Table 1

Percentage of the Hispanic Population in San Diego County and Among County HIV Diagnoses, San Diego County, Selected Years 2005-2014

Year	San Diego County		HIV Diagnoses†	
	Population*	% Hispanic	Total diagnosed	% Hispanic
2005	2,966,783	29	556	36
2010	3,095,313	32	559	40
2011	3,115,810	32	498	41
2012	3,128,734	33	473	42
2013	3,154,574	33	461	42
2014	3,194,362	33	446**	43

*SANDAG population estimate.

**Additional 2014 cases are expected to be reported in 2015.

†Regardless of HIV or AIDS status.

Table 2

HIV and AIDS Cases in the US, California, and San Diego County, 2013

	United States 2012*		California 2013		San Diego County 2,013 €	
	HIV dx‡	PLWHA	HIV dx	PLWHA	HIV dx‡	PLWHA**
Hispanic	21%	20%	†	27%	42%	32%
White	27%	32%	†	50%	38%	50%
Black	46%	43%	†	18%	13%	13%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2%	1%	†	3%	4%	3%
Other¥	2%	4%	†	2%	3%	2%
Total	47,352	914,826		118,867	461	12,839

*Estimate. Most recent year available.

**PLWHA at the end of 2013.

¥Includes Native American, Native Alaskan, multiple race, and unknown.

§Includes blood/tissue exposure, maternal transmission, and no identifiable risk.

€2013 used for comparison to California data.

†Regardless of stage of disease.

‡Not available.

Hispanics have a diagnosis rate about 50% greater than that seen in whites, but about half of the rate seen in blacks (see Table 3 and Figure 1). This rate, measured per 100,000 persons, more accurately reflects the relative disease burden in each racial or ethnic group.

For purposes of this report, HIV diagnosis refers to the first known diagnosis for a given case, regardless of current HIV or AIDS status. Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, and multiple race cases are not presented separately in tables and figures because of small case numbers. They are included in “all case” data.

Gender

More men than women are diagnosed with HIV each year in all racial/ethnic groups. The percentage of all female cases in Hispanics is about twice as high as that seen in whites cases, but almost 60% lower than in blacks cases

(see Table 4). While the proportion of female cases over all has remained stable over time ($p=0.133$), it has decreased in Hispanics ($p=0.008$) and increased in whites ($p=0.025$). The percentage of female cases in blacks has remained stable ($p=0.483$).

The HIV diagnosis case rate in 2013 for Hispanic males (34.2/100,000) is 64% more than the rate seen in white males (20.8/100,000), but half the rate seen in black males (64.1/100,000). The rate in Hispanic males in San Diego County is 22% lower than the national rate estimated by CDC for 2013 (41.8/100,000). Differences in rates for female cases are even more pronounced. The rate in 2013 for Hispanic female cases in the county (3.6/100,000) is almost twice the rate seen in white female cases (1.9/100,000) and a quarter of that seen in black female cases (15.1/100,000). The rate of Hispanic female cases in San Diego County is about

Table 3

Number and Rate of HIV Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2005-2014

Year of HIV Diagnosis	Race/Ethnicity						All Cases#	
	Hispanic		White		Black		Cases	Rate**
	Cases	Rate**	Cases	Rate**	Cases	Rate**	Cases	Rate**
2005	201	23	269	17	55	34	556	18
2006	248	28	274	17	84	52	633	21
2007	225	25	296	17	80	49	610	20
2008	232	25	223	14	78	47	566	18
2009	220	23	246	16	91	55	597	19
2010	226	23	215	14	82	56	559	18
2011	205	20	190	13	72	50	498	16
2012	199	19	185	12	54	40	473	15
2013	194	18	174	12	60	45	461	15
2014*	192	18	177	12	47	33	446	14

*Additional 2014 cases are expected to be reported throughout 2015.

**Per 100,000 population.

#Includes Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, multiple race, and unknown.

Figure 1

Rate of HIV Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2005-2014

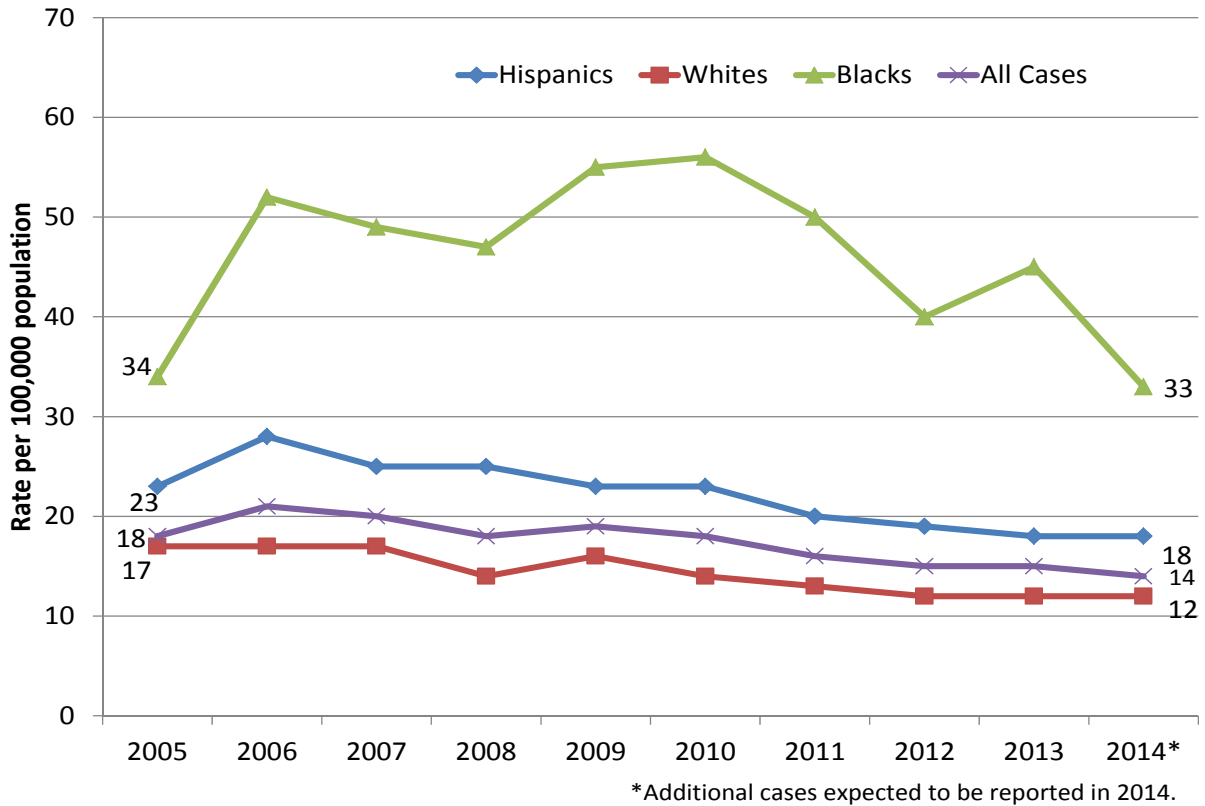


Table 4

Female HIV/AIDS Cases by Race/Ethnicity, and Five-year Time Periods, San Diego County

Time period First Diagnosis*	Race/Ethnicity							
	Hispanic		White		Black		All Cases#	
	Total cases	%** female	Total cases	%** female	Total cases	%** female	Total cases	%** female
1981-1989	665	6.2	3,772	3.3	505	11.5	5,041	4.7
1990-1994	1,061	11.3	3,178	5.8	663	15.7	5,058	8.5
1995-1999	921	12.9	1,494	7.3	440	18.9	2,975	11.5
2000-2004	1,016	13.5	1,381	6.1	403	22.3	2,916	11.0
2005-2009	1,126	10.7	1,281	7.0	388	19.5	2,962	10.2
2010-2014	1,016	8.2	942	8.0	315	15.2	2,438	9.4
cumulative	5,805	10.7	12,048	5.5	2,714	16.9	21,390	8.7

*HIV diagnosis year is used when known.

**Percent of all cases diagnosed in the time period and race.

#Includes Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, multiple race, and unknown.

half of the national estimate reported by the CDC (7.0/100,000) in 2013.

Age at Diagnosis

The mean age at HIV diagnosis in recent Hispanic cases, 32.7 years, is significantly younger than in whites (35.3 years, $p < 0.001$), but not significantly different than in blacks (32.7 years, $p > 0.999$) (see Table 5). Similar results are seen when comparing ages in PLWHA by race/ethnicity (see Table 5).

Most HIV cases are diagnosed when 20-29 years of age; blacks and Hispanics have a similar proportion in this range, while whites have a greater percentage in the 30-39 year age range (see Figure 2). Over time, the mean age at diagnosis has increased in all racial/ethnic groups, increasing the percent diagnosed in the 40-49 year range for all races/ethnicity. However, only whites have an average mean in the 40-49 age range in recent (2010-2014) years.

The number of total pediatric (under thirteen years of age) cases is similar for blacks (29

cases) and whites (30 cases), but the percent of pediatric cases in blacks is 1.1%, which is five times higher than the percent in whites (0.2%). The proportion of pediatric cases in blacks is the same as that seen in Hispanics (69 cases; 1.2%) (data not shown). Small numbers of pediatric cases mean that the significance of these differences cannot be determined and these data should be interpreted with caution.

Although there are statistical differences in mean age at diagnosis across race/ethnicity, it is unlikely that these represent clinically significant differences.

Current Age

Of the individuals diagnosed with HIV disease in San Diego County, 38% had died by December 31, 2014. The mean age of Hispanic PLWHA is 44.9 years, which is significantly younger than both white PLWHA ($p < 0.001$) and black PLWHA ($p < 0.001$). Although there are statistical differences among the groups, it is unlikely that these represent clinically significant

Table 5

Mean and Median Age, and Age Range at HIV Diagnosis in Recent (2010-2014) Diagnoses and PLWHA by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County

Age at First Diagnosis†	Race/Ethnicity						All Cases#	
	Hispanic		White		Black		Recent*	PLWHA**
	Recent*	PLWHA**	Recent*	PLWHA**	Recent*	PLWHA**		
Mean age (years)	38.7	32.7	43.5	35.3	39.6	32.7	40.9	34.1
Median age (years)	38.0	32.0	44.0	34.0	41.0	32.0	41.0	33.0
Range (years)	0-83	0-88	16-77	0-76	1-66	0-71	0-84	0-88
Number of cases	1,016	4,314	942	6,605	315	1,688	2,438	13,200

*2010-2014.

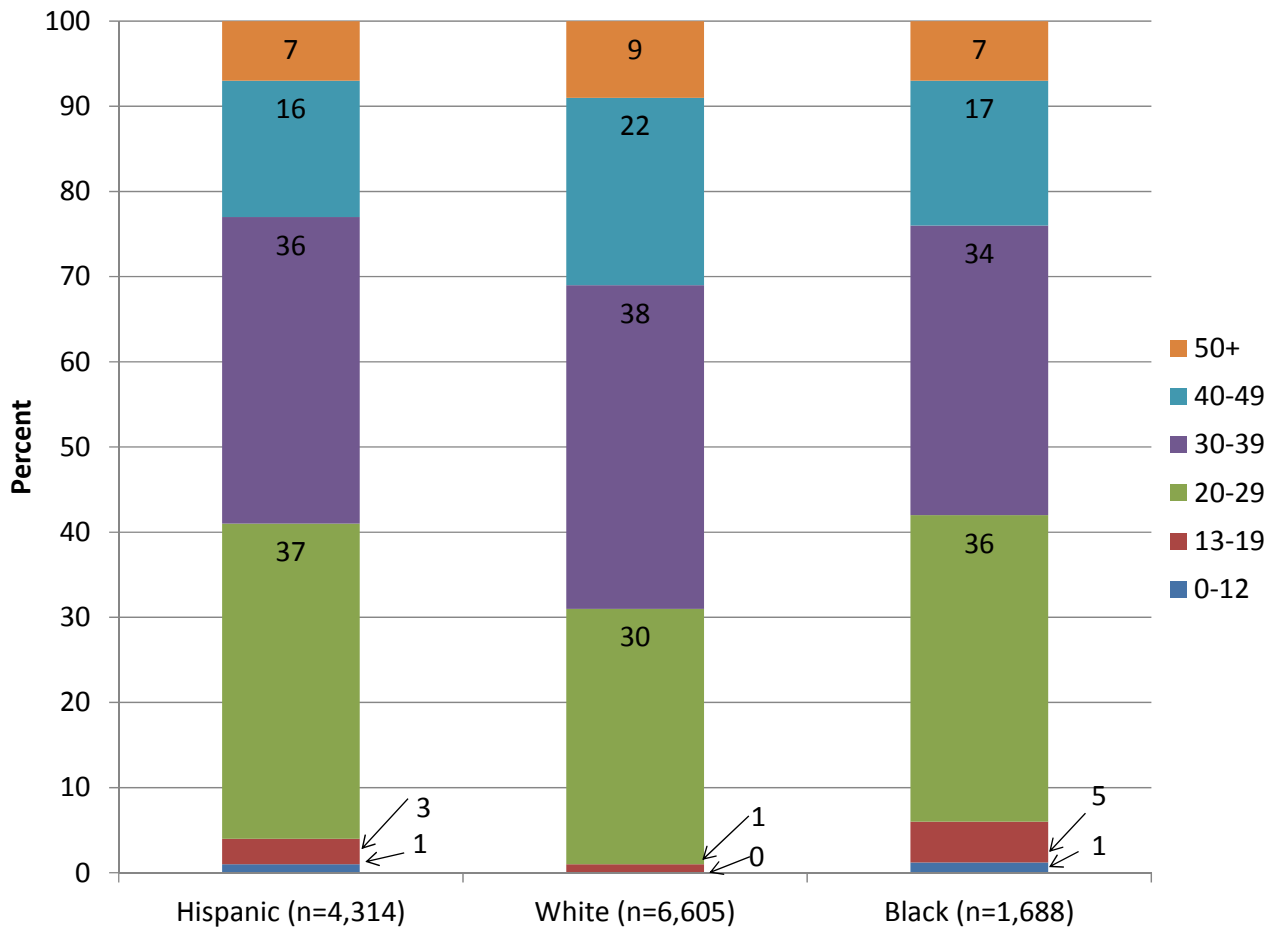
**Living as of 31 December 2014.

†HIV diagnosis if known.

#Includes Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, multiple race, and unknown.

Figure 2

Percent of PLWHA Cases in 10-year Age Groups at Diagnosis by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County



differences.

Mode of HIV Transmission

The most commonly reported mode of HIV transmission across racial/ethnic groups

continues to be Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) (see Table 7). The proportion of MSM cases has remained relatively stable in all groups, with no significant difference between Hispanics (82%) and whites (83%; p=0.178), but

Table 6

Current (2014) Age of PLWHA by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County

Age Measure	Race/Ethnicity			All Cases#
	Hispanic	Black	White	
Mean age (years)	44.9	46.3	50.8	48.0
Median age (years)	45.0	48.0	51.0	49.0
Range (years)	0-93	5-84	4-89	0-93
Total cases	4,314	1,688	6,605	13,200

#Includes Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, multiple race, and unknown.

the percentage of MSM is significantly lower in blacks (71%; $p < 0.001$) than whites and Hispanics. In recent (2010-2014) years, percentages of injection drug use (IDU) have been similar across male cases of all race/ethnicity groups. Heterosexual transmission is similar in Hispanics and whites, but recent black male cases are more likely than Hispanics ($p < 0.001$) or whites ($p < 0.001$) to report heterosexual transmission. Heterosexual transmission among males has increased significantly over 5-year intervals in all races/ethnicities.

The proportions of MSM, IDU, and heterosexual Hispanic males in San Diego County recently (2010-2014) diagnosed with HIV disease (82%, 4%, and 7% respectively) are similar to the national estimates from the CDC for 2013 (83%, 6%, and 8% respectively).

In female cases, both recent (2010-2014) and PLWHA, heterosexual contact is the most commonly reported mode of HIV transmission (see Table 8). The proportion of Hispanic fe-

males reporting heterosexual contact as mode of transmission has increased significantly ($p < 0.001$) over time while the proportion with IDU has decreased significantly ($p < 0.001$). Hispanic females, particularly in recent years, are less likely than white or black female cases to be reported with a heterosexual partner who is known to have HIV disease. In recent years, the proportion of Hispanic female cases with IDU transmission is lower than in whites ($p = 0.001$), and greater than blacks ($p = 0.005$).

Like Hispanic male cases, the CDC 2013 estimate for Hispanic HIV-infected females cases with heterosexual transmission (86%) is similar to that reported in the county (86%) in recent years, but the CDC estimate for IDU (12%) is twice that seen in than the county (6%).

Country of Origin

The majority of Hispanic PLWHA (50.9%) were born in Mexico, but this has changed in those recently diagnosed (38.6%) (see Table 9).

Table 7

Mode of HIV Transmission in Recent (2010-2014) Male HIV Diagnoses and Male PLWHA, by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County

	Race/Ethnicity						All Cases#	
	Hispanic		Black		White		Recent*	PLWHA**
	Recent*	PLWHA**	Recent*	PLWHA**	Recent*	PLWHA**		
MSM	82%	82%	72%	71%	80%	83%	81%	82%
IDU	4%	5%	5%	8%	5%	4%	5%	5%
MSM+IDU	3%	6%	3%	10%	6%	10%	4%	9%
Heterosexual	7%	5%	15%	9%	6%	2%	8%	3%
Other†	4%	2%	5%	2%	3%	1%	2%	1%
Total in group	933	3,833	267	1,378	867	6,200	2,209	11,920

*2010-2014

**Living as of 31 December 2014.

†Includes blood/blood product, transplantation, maternal transmission, and not specified.

#Includes Asian, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, multiple race, and unknown.

Table 8

Mode of Transmission Among Recent (2010-2014) Female HIV Diagnoses and PLWHA, by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County

	Race/Ethnicity						All Cases#	
	Hispanic		Black		White		Recent*	PLWHA**
	Recent*	PLWHA**	Recent*	PLWHA**	Recent*	PLWHA**		
Heterosexual, all	86%	76%	83%	72%	71%	65%	78%	71%
w/IDU	11%	16%	4%	11%	8%	16%	7%	14%
w/MSM	4%	22%	0%	9%	6%	11%	4%	15%
w/recipient†	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
w/HIV+§	70%	37%	79%	51%	56%	36%	66%	41%
IDU	7%	15%	2%	20%	24%	29%	12%	21%
Blood/tissue‡	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Other‡	7%	8%	15%	7%	5%	5%	10%	7%
Total in group	83	481	48	310	75	405	229	1,280

*2010-2014.

**Living as of 31 December 2014.

§Heterosexual contact with person known to be HIV+, but whose risk group is unknown.

†Includes blood/blood product exposure, transplantation, and artificial insemination.

‡Includes maternal transmission and risk not specified.

#Includes Asians, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, multiple race, and unknown.

Hispanic cases are less likely to have been born in the US than white (p<0.001) or black (p<0.001) cases.

Some cases may have contracted HIV before coming to the US. The current data does not contain information about how long individuals with HIV disease who were born outside the United States or its territories have been

residing in the United States. Therefore, an assessment of how acculturation or country of origin impacts risk factors is beyond the scope of this report.

Residence at Diagnosis

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency divides the county into six

Table 9

Country of Origin of Recent (2010-2014) HIV Diagnoses and PLWHA, by Race, San Diego County

	Race/Ethnicity						All Cases#	
	Hispanic		White		Black		Recent*	PLWHA**
	Recent*	PLWHA**	Recent*	PLWHA**	Recent*	PLWHA**		
USA	56.5%	43.5%	96.4%	97.2%	85.4%	89.2%	76.1%	76.9%
Mexico	38.6%	50.9%	0.0%	<0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	16.1%	16.7%
Other/Unknown	4.9%	5.6%	3.6%	2.9%	14.6%	10.8%	8.0%	6.5%
Total in group	1016	4,314	941	6,605	315	1,688	2,438	13,200

*2010-2014.

**Living as of 31 December 2014.

#Includes Asians, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, multiple race, and unknown.

geographical regions for planning purposes. Recent (2010-2014) diagnoses in Hispanics and Hispanic PLWHA make up about 20-40% of the population of cases in each region except the South Region (see Table 10). Hispanics make up the majority of recent cases (68%) and PLWHA (71%) diagnosed in the South Region and this is the only region with a non-white majority of cases. Since 1990, about 30% of all Hispanic diagnoses were in South Region. Although Hispanics, like whites and blacks, are most often living in the Central region at diagnosis, there has been a shift from about 50% in 1990 to 41% in recent years.

Time from HIV to AIDS

Of the 2,438 recent (2010-2014) cases

diagnosed with HIV, 792 have progressed to be classified as AIDS cases. Of the 13,200 PLWHA, 7,533 have an AIDS diagnosis. The time between an HIV-only diagnosis and an AIDS diagnosis can provide information on how late in the infection a case was tested and/or if they have remained in care after the initial diagnosis. The currently available data do not allow for the determination of the reason for the time between diagnoses.

Because the data on time from HIV diagnosis to AIDS diagnosis are skewed towards less than one year, the proportion of cases with fewer than 12 months between HIV and AIDS diagnosis was examined. When this proportion is looked at in all cases with an AIDS diagnosis, Hispanics are significantly more likely to be diag-

Table 10

HHSA Region of Residence at HIV Diagnosis in Recent (2010-2014) HIV Diagnoses and PLWHA, by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County

HHSA Region		Race/Ethnicity				Total in Region
		Hispanic	White	Black	Other**	
Central	2010-2014*	36%	43%	15%	7%	1,120
	PLWHA‡	27%	55%	14%	4%	7,158
East	2010-2014*	27%	53%	15%	4%	208
	PLWHA‡	27%	55%	15%	4%	905
South	2010-2014*	71%	14%	11%	4%	481
	PLWHA‡	68%	19%	10%	3%	1,944
North Coastal	2010-2014*	40%	43%	11%	6%	209
	PLWHA‡	31%	51%	13%	6%	1000
North Inland	2010-2014*	46%	41%	5%	8%	104
	PLWHA‡	36%	52%	6%	6%	546
North Central	2010-2014*	27%	48%	11%	13%	1590
	PLWHA‡	20%	62%	11%	7%	1,863
All County	2010-2014*	42%	39%	13%	7%	2438#
	PLWHA‡	33%	54%	13%	5%	13200†

*Time period of HIV diagnosis when known (first AIDS diagnosis if HIV diagnosis year is not known)

**Includes Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, multiple race, and unknown .

#Region is not known for 9 cases.

†Region is not known for 57 cases.

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

‡Living as of 31 December 2014.

nosed with AIDS within a year of HIV diagnosis (60.8%) than whites (53.0%; $p < 0.001$) or blacks (53.1%; $p < 0.001$) (see Table 11).

When the proportion of AIDS cases with less than 12 months from HIV to AIDS diagnosis is examined over five-year time periods from 1995 to 2014, the percentage of Hispanics ($p < 0.001$) and whites ($p < 0.001$) have increased significantly while the percentage in blacks has remained stable ($p = 0.319$) (see Figure 3). Hispanics have a consistently greater proportion of cases with less than 12 months between diagnoses than whites or blacks. Half of all AIDS cases in the county have had less than one year between HIV and AIDS diagnosis, indicating a large proportion of cases tested later in the disease progression.

Some AIDS cases have a simultaneous diagnosis with HIV, with less than 30 days between HIV and AIDS diagnoses. This is an indication that the case has an advanced infection before being diagnosed and has been tested late in the course of the infection. Among all AIDS cases, Hispanics are significantly less likely to have a simultaneous diagnosis than whites (39.9% vs. 41.8%; $p < 0.053$), but not blacks (39.9% vs. 37.7%; $p = 0.105$).

There has been a significant increase for all AIDS cases in the percent of cases with simultaneous diagnosis over 5-year time periods from 1995 to 2014 (see Figure 4). When looked at by race/ethnicity, the percent of simultaneous diagnosis has not increased in Hispanic ($p = 0.267$) or black cases ($p = 0.166$), but has significantly increased in white cases ($p = 0.013$).

Cases with late testing or simultaneous diagnosis play a role in continuing the spread of HIV. A person who is HIV-positive but does not know his or her status may be a sustained source of infection to others. Thus, early testing and linkage into care will help prevent transmission by identifying cases and lowering viral loads of infected persons through treatment.

Survival

By the end of 2014, 50% of all black AIDS case diagnosed in the county, 59% of white cases, and 36% of Hispanic cases had died.

The proportion Hispanic AIDS cases diagnosed in 2004-2009 in San Diego County surviving more than 12, 24, and 36 months does not differ from whites or blacks (see Table 12). Because the current published CDC statistics use 2004-2009 for this analysis, the same years of

Table 11
AIDS Diagnoses in Less Than One Year of HIV Diagnosis, and Simultaneous Diagnosis, by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County

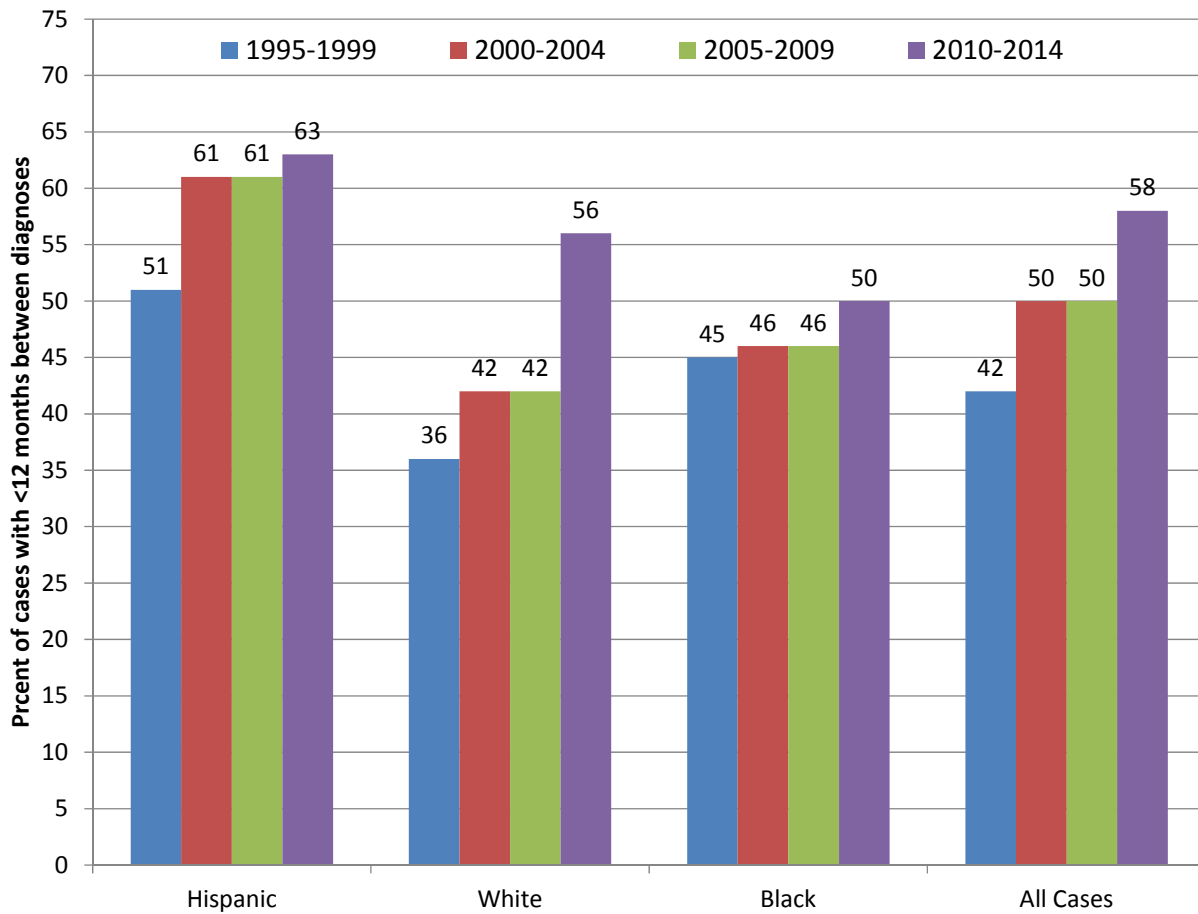
	Race/Ethnicity			All Cases#
	Hispanic	White	Black	
<1 year	60.8%	53.0%	53.2%	55.2%
Simultaneous†	39.9%	41.8%	37.7%	40.7%
Total in group	3,995	8,871	1,941	15,332*

#Includes Asians, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, multiple race, and unknown.

†Less than 30 days between HIV and AIDS diagnoses. *1981-2014.

Figure 3

Percent of AIDS Cases with Less than 12 Months Between HIV and AIDS Diagnoses, by Race/Ethnicity, Over Five-Year Time Periods, San Diego County



San Diego County data were used for comparison. The proportions of Hispanic, white, and black AIDS cases diagnosed in the county surviving more than 12, 24, and 36 months were significantly greater than that reported by the CDC.

There has been a general increase in survival over 5-year intervals. Part of this results from increases in therapeutic options that can prolong the lives of cases after AIDS diagnosis. Changes in the AIDS case definition to include conditions that arise earlier in HIV disease such as lowered CD4 counts, also increase survival times by providing earlier diagnoses. Because

survival times are not normally distributed, use of proportions of cases surviving categorical time periods (i.e., >12, >24, and >36 months) may provide a less biased representation of survival over all.

Limitations

The data contained in this report depend on accurate reporting from healthcare providers, laboratories and patients. Patients, for many reasons, may not provide accurate information to healthcare providers for reporting. Healthcare providers in turn may not report

Figure 4

Percent of AIDS Cases with Less Than 30 Days between HIV and AIDS Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity Over Five-Year Time Periods, San Diego County

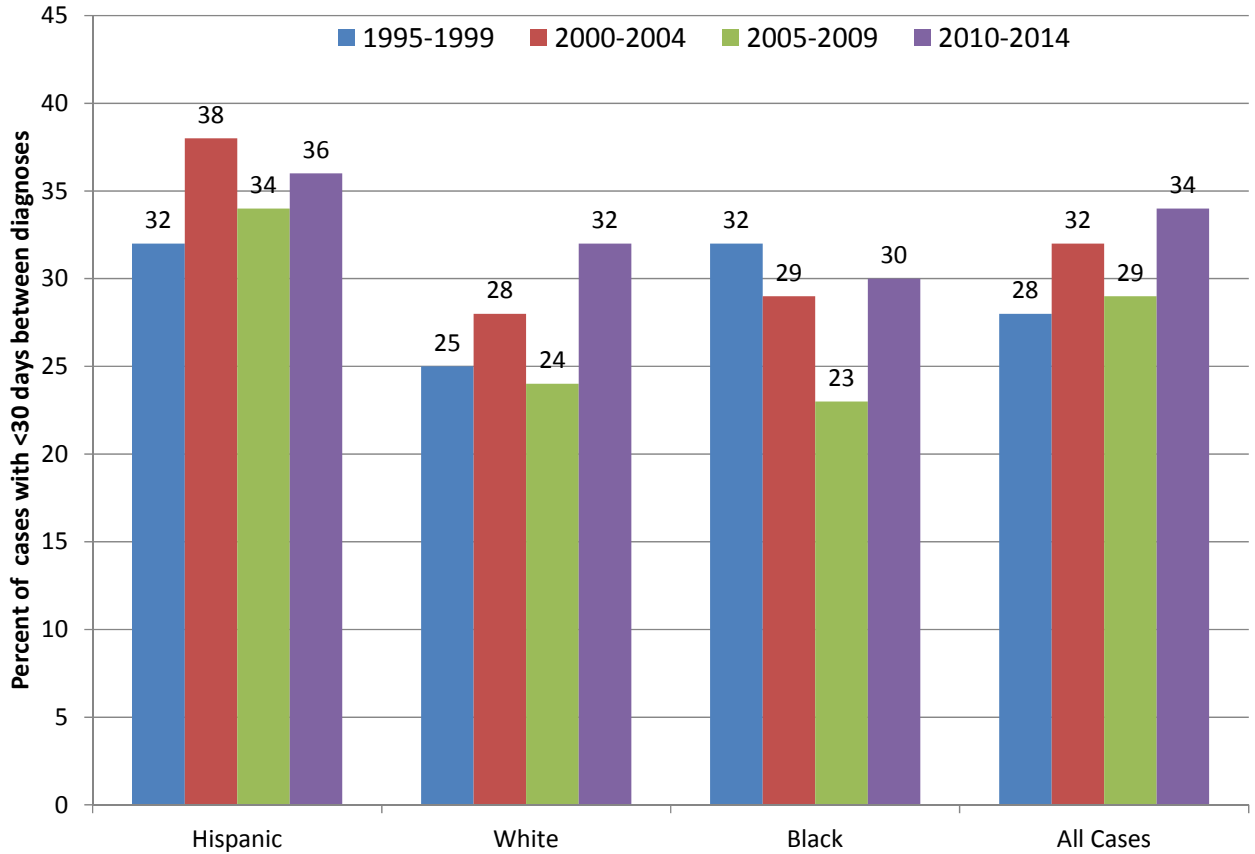


Table 12

Proportion of AIDS Cases Diagnosed in 2004-2009 Surviving More Than 12, 24, and 36 Months, by Race/Ethnicity, United States (CDC) and San Diego County

Race/ Ethnicity	Survival in Months (Proportion)					
	>12		>24		>36	
	CDC	San Diego County	CDC	San Diego County	CDC	San Diego County
Hispanic	0.91	0.94‡	0.88	0.93†	0.87	0.93†
White	0.89	0.92‡	0.87	0.90**	0.84	0.88‡
Black	0.88	0.94‡	0.84	0.92†	0.81	0.90†
All Cases*	0.89	0.93†	0.86	0.91†	0.84	0.90†

*Includes Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, Native Alaskan, multiple race, and unknown.

†Significantly different from CDC; p<0.001.

‡Significantly different from CDC; p<0.10.

**Significantly different from CDC; p<0.05.

complete or accurate information. These inaccuracies may impact analysis.

Caution should be exercised in the analysis of the most recent time period because additional cases are likely to continue to be reported. Retrospective case finding is an ongoing process. It is expected that cases diagnosed in 2014 will be reported through 2015. Case reports are also updated as new information becomes available. When, for example, more information on risks is obtained, the database is updated. This may impact proportions and rates used in analysis.

Some of the variables under study do not have sufficient numbers of occurrences to make statistical inferences. It is the policy of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency not to provide information when there are fewer than five individuals for any given variable; when small numbers are presented, cau-

tion should be exercised in data interpretation. This is particularly true for pediatric HIV/AIDS cases.

Whenever possible, case information is updated for vital status. However, it is possible that some cases may have died, but were not reported to the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency. Other cases may have left the area, or state, and died. This may result in inaccurate assumptions and survival calculations.

Differences in local population size, compared to the rest of the United States, may make comparisons to national data difficult. In this county, Hispanics comprise 33% of the population; nationally, Hispanics comprise 17% of the population. This greater proportion of Hispanics in the county is likely to generate some differences from national HIV statistics.

Data Sources

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Public Health Service
Epidemiology & Immunization Services Branch
HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Unit
3851 Rosecrans Street, MS P577
San Diego CA 92110



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