

HIV/AIDS among Persons Aged 50 and Over



UNITED STATES* (2008-2009 data)

In 2009, individuals aged 50 and over at diagnosis made up approximately 23% of the estimated 34,247 AIDS cases reported in the U.S.

Among those currently living with AIDS in the U.S., people aged 50 and over represent 31% of all known cases.

In 2008, persons aged 50 and over accounted for 36% of all people living with HIV or AIDS (combined) in the U.S., among those states that report data on living persons to the CDC.

Of the 16,088 estimated deaths of persons with AIDS in 2008, nearly one-half (45%) were among people aged 50 and over.

According to CDC, sexually active older people are much less likely than the young to use condoms, mainly because they do not see themselves as at-risk for sexually transmitted diseases, or pregnancy.

Barriers or Risk Factors for HIV/AIDS among Persons Aged 50 and Over

- ❖ HIV/AIDS is generally regarded as a young person's disease in the U.S.
- ❖ Older persons may get back into the dating scene after divorce or the death of a spouse and may not consider that they need to use condoms.
- ❖ Mistake the symptoms of HIV/AIDS for the aches and pains of normal aging.
- ❖ Older persons may not be considered for testing by medical professionals, even when they exhibit symptoms for HIV/AIDS.
- ❖ Older persons are most likely to be in denial and refuse treatment because they can not identify with the disease.
- ❖ Older persons may be at higher risk for social isolation, including depression and social stigma, which might prevent identification of symptoms or access to testing and care.
- ❖ Older persons with HIV/AIDS are more likely to live alone.
- ❖ Older persons tend to die sooner than younger age groups after an AIDS diagnosis because the disease has progressed without treatment. Late identification is partially due to reasons mentioned above.

FLORIDA (2010 data)

In 2010, those aged 50 and over made up 28% of AIDS cases and 21% of the HIV cases reported in Florida.

In 2010, persons aged 50 and over accounted for 36% of all people living with HIV or AIDS (combined) in Florida.

Of the 1,614 deaths of persons with HIV/AIDS in 2010, more than one-half (56%) were among people aged 50 and over.

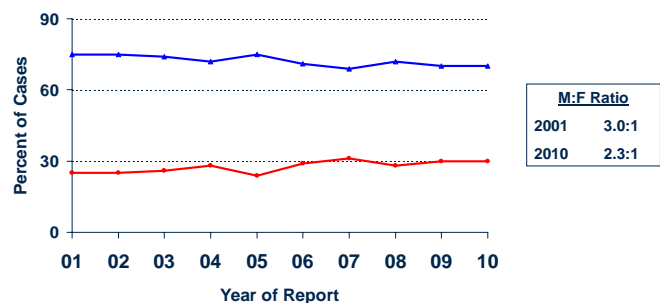
Of the 34,379 living HIV/AIDS cases reported among persons aged 50 and older in Florida through 2010:

- 74% were male and 26% were female
- 32% were white, 49% were black, 18% were Hispanic and 1% were other races.

Blood transfusion, once a common mode of transmission in this age group, has significantly declined over time. Currently, less than 1% of the reported cases among both men and women have a blood transfusion or related risk.

	MSM	IDU	MSM/IDU	Hetero	Other
Male	55%	13%	5%	26%	<1%
Female	-----	18%	-----	81%	1%

Over the past ten years, an average of 72% of newly reported AIDS cases among persons aged 50 and older were men. Although the annual trends have remained fairly level, the proportion of males to females decreased over the past few years, yielding a male to female ratio of 2.3:1 in 2010.



Of all the living HIV/AIDS cases in Florida among persons age 50 and older reported through 05/26/2011, 68% were diagnosed from the following four counties:

- Miami-Dade 32%
- Broward 19%
- Palm Beach 10%
- Orange 7%

Data sources:

- Florida data: FL Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS
- For more Florida data, go to <http://floridaaids.org/>, then trends and statistics, then slide shows to find the slide set on persons aged 50 and over.
- U.S. data: HIV Surveillance Report, 2009 (most recent available) Vol. 29
- For national facts, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/index.htm> or <http://www.kff.org/hiv/aids/>