

HIV among Female Adolescents (Ages 13–19)

United States 2009

- ✘ In earlier years, most AIDS diagnoses in the U.S. among adolescents (ages 13-19) were in males; over time, the male-to-female ratio has decreased. In 2009, 547 adolescents were diagnosed with AIDS; of these, 353 (65%) were male and 195 (35%) were female.
- ✘ Of adolescents who were diagnosed with HIV infection in 2009, females accounted for 23% of cases, compared with 19% of cases in those aged 20 to 24 years and 25% of cases in those aged 25 years and older.
- ✘ The majority of HIV infections among female adolescents in 2009 were most likely to be infected via high-risk heterosexual contact (90%). Injection drug use accounted for 9% of cases.
- ✘ According to CDC's Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (YRBS, 2009), many young people begin having sexual intercourse at early ages: 47% of high school students have had sexual intercourse and 7.4% of them reported first sexual intercourse before age 13. This risk was higher among minority females.

Florida 2010

- ✘ In Florida, 18% (964) of newly reported HIV cases in 2010 were among persons under the age of 25.
- ✘ Between 2008-2010, 719 HIV cases were reported among persons ages 13-19, of which 30% were female.
- ✘ Nearly one-half (48%) of the female adolescents reported with AIDS between 2008 and 2010 were infected perinatally, followed by high-risk heterosexual contact.
- ✘ The majority (84%) of female adolescents who were diagnosed with HIV infection between 2008 and 2010 were infected via high risk heterosexual contact.

MODE OF EXPOSURE	Adolescent Females Diagnosed with HIV 2008-2010, Florida	
Injection Drug Use	7	3%
Heterosexual Contact	184	84%
Perinatal	28	13%
Other Risk	0	0%
TOTAL	219	100%

- ✘ A total of 468 female adolescents were living with a diagnosis of HIV through 2010; 76% were black, 13% were Hispanic, 10% were white, and 1% were other races.
- ✘ Of the 468 female adolescents living with HIV/AIDS in Florida through 2010, 29% were from Miami-Dade County, 17% from Broward County and 9% from Palm Beach County.
- ✘ Of the sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) reported among females in Florida in 2010, adolescents accounted for 37% of Chlamydia, 37% of gonorrhea and 17% of primary and secondary syphilis cases.

- ✘ **Most people diagnosed with AIDS before the age of 30 were infected with HIV in their teens or early twenties. This illustrates the importance of advocating prevention to young people so that they have the information and resources to protect themselves from HIV when they make decisions about experimentation with drugs and sex. HIV/AIDS education needs to take place at correspondingly young ages, before youth engage in sexual behaviors that put them at risk for HIV infection.**
- ✘ **Adolescents need accurate, age-appropriate information about HIV infection and AIDS. Topics should include, but not be limited to: how to talk with their parents or other trusted adults about HIV and AIDS, how to reduce or eliminate risk factors, how to talk with a potential partner about risk factors, how to use a condom correctly and where to get tested for HIV and/or STDs. Information should also include the concept that abstinence is the primary way to avoid sexually transmitted infection.**

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 adolescents
- 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/>
- MMWR, Surveillance Summaries, YRBS-United States, 2010, Vol. 59 No.5
- The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Sexual Health Statistics for Teenagers and Young Adults in the United States. September 2011