

HIV among Women

United States 2009

As of December 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) received reports of 220,795 AIDS cases among women (ages 13+) in the U.S. The proportion of AIDS cases by sex has shifted over the years. In 2009 25% of the adult AIDS cases were women, up from 20% in 1995 and 7% in 1985. The similar proportion of females (24%) was seen among the total of HIV cases reported from the 40 states with confidential name-based reporting in 2009.

The Proportion of HIV and AIDS Cases Among Adult Females Diagnosed in the U.S., by Race/Ethnicity, 2009

Race/Ethnicity	AIDS	HIV
White	16%	17%
Black	65%	66%
Hispanic	16%	14%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2%	2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	1%

Among women diagnosed with HIV infection in 40 states in the U.S. in 2009, 84% of the cases were attributed to high-risk heterosexual contact, 15% to injection drug use and 1% to other or unidentified risk factors.

According to both national and Florida data, the survival time from AIDS diagnosis to death is significantly shorter for females than males. Of the AIDS cases that died in Florida from 2001-2010, females had a median survival of 44 months from time of diagnosis to death compared with males who had 54 months.

Why Focus on Women?

Prompt and early diagnosis of HIV in pregnant women is imperative for helping to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), most women become infected through their partner's high-risk behavior, which they have little or no control over.

Women who are financially dependent on male partners or fear their partner will physically abuse or leave them are at a disadvantage in negotiating condom use.

Some women become infected because they may be unaware of a male partner's risk factors for HIV infection or have a lack of HIV knowledge and lower perception of risk.

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 women
- 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/>
- For more information on the global impact of HIV/AIDS on women see the AIDS Epidemic Update, December 2009, produced by the WHO and UNAIDS at <http://www.unaids.org>

Florida 2010

In Florida, women ages 13 and over accounted for 11% of reported AIDS cases in 1987. That figure steadily rose to 32% in 2010. Women accounted for 25% of the HIV cases reported in 2010.

In 2010, 1,097 AIDS and 1,314 HIV cases were reported among women, with the majority being black. As of 2010, 62% of Florida women are white, 15% are black, 21% are Hispanic and 3% are other races.

The Proportion of HIV and AIDS Cases Among Adult Females Reported in Florida by Race/Ethnicity, 2010

Race/Ethnicity	AIDS		HIV	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
White	157	14%	177	13%
Black	787	72%	900	68%
Hispanic	131	12%	216	16%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	1%	9	1%
American Indian	20	2%	12	1%

Women are most likely to be infected through heterosexual sex, followed by injection drug use.

The Proportion of HIV and AIDS Cases Among Adult Females Reported in Florida by Mode of Exposure, 2010

Mode of Exposure	AIDS		HIV	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Injection Drug Use	137	12%	96	7%
Heterosexual Contact	946	86%	1,209	92%
Other Risk	14	1%	9	1%

Among women living with HIV disease through 2010, the majority (63%) were aged 40 and older. Also in 2010, 1 in 284 adult women were living in Florida with HIV/AIDS, including 1 in 61 blacks, 1 in 439 Hispanics, 1 in 1,121 whites and 1 in 284 other races.

In 2010, HIV was the 5th leading cause of death among women between the ages of 25-44. By race/ethnicity for the same age group, HIV was the 9th leading cause among white females, the 2nd leading cause among black females (down from number 1 for the first time ever since 1988) and the 5th leading cause among Hispanic females.