

American Indian and Alaska Native People and HIV

(updated January 2023)



American Indian and Alaska Native People and HIV

This educational packet is a curated compilation of resources on American Indian and Alaska Native People and HIV.

The contents of this packet are listed below:

- HIV/AIDS and American Indians/Alaska Natives (Office of Minority Health)
- American Indian/Alaska Native Clients: Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (HRSA)
- Health Disparities: American Indians and Alaska Natives (CDC)
- HIV in Indian Country (Indian Health Service)
- Infographics from AIDSvu
- Infographics from CDC

You may wish to customize this packet to meet the needs or interests of particular groups, such as event participants, providers, patients, clients, or the general public. So please feel free to distribute all or part of this document as either a printout or PDF.

HIV/AIDS and American Indians/Alaska Natives

 minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx

- American Indians/Alaska Natives have lower HIV infection rates as compared to their white counterparts, and they are less likely to die of HIV Infection.
- National surveillance data for HIV infection in American Indians/Alaska Natives subgroups is limited.

HIV Infection Cases and Rates (Adults)

	# Cases	Rate	American Indian/Alaska Native / White Ratio
American Indian/Alaska Native males	165	16.9	1.9
White males	7,498	8.9	
American Indian/Alaska Native females	44	4.3	2.5
White females	1,508	1.7	
American Indian/Alaska Native (total, all ages)	210	8.6	1.9
White (total, all ages)	9,013	4.6	

Estimated number of diagnosed cases and rates (per 100,000) of HIV infection, 2019

Source: CDC 2021. HIV Surveillance Report: Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2019, v.32. Tables 1a and 3a.

<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-2018-updated-vol-32.pdf> [PDF | 19.7MB]

HIV Infection Cases and Rates (Children <13 years)

	# Cases	Rate
American Indians/Alaska Natives	1	0.2
White	7	0.0
Total Population	61	0.1

**Estimated number of diagnosed cases and rates
(per 100,000) of HIV infection, 2019**

Source: CDC 2021. HIV Surveillance Report: Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2019, v.32. Table 2a.

<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-2018-updated-vol-32.pdf> [PDF | 16.7MB]

HIV Infection Cases (Adults and Children)

	# Cases	% of Total Cases
American Indians/Alaska Natives	210	0.6
White	9,013	24.8
Total Population	36,398	

**Estimated number of cases of HIV infection by year of
diagnosis, 2019**

Source: CDC 2021. HIV Surveillance Report: Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2019, v.32. Table 1a.

<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-2018-updated-vol-32.pdf> [PDF | 19.7B]

	Rate	# Cases	% of Total Cases
American Indians/Alaska Natives	132.0	3,215	0.3
White	153.9	303,701	29.0
Total Population	318.4	1,044,977	

Estimated number of persons living with HIV infection and rates (per 100,000) by year, 2019

Source: CDC 2021. HIV Surveillance Report: Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2019, v.32. Table 16a.

<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-2018-updated-vol-32.pdf> [PDF | 19.7MB]

AIDS Cases and Rates (Adults)

	# Cases	Rate	American Indians/Alaska Natives / White Ratio
American Indians/Alaska Natives males	48	4.9	1.3
White males	3,190	3.8	
American Indians/Alaska Natives females	17	1.7	2.1
White females	685	0.8	
American Indians/Alaska Natives (both sexes)	65	3.3	1.4

White (both sexes)	3,975	2.3	
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Estimated number of cases and rates (per 100,000) of AIDS, 2019

Source: CDC 2021. NCHHSTP Atlas Plus.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm> [Accessed 06/16/2021]

	Cumulative # Cases*	% of Total Cases
American Indian/Alaska Native	3,562	0.3
White	444,613	34.0
Total Population	1,307,283	

Estimated number of cases of AIDS by year of diagnosis, 2019

Source: CDC 2021. HIV Surveillance Report: Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2019. Slide Set: HIV Infection, Stage 3 (AIDS) 2019. Slide 43.

<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/slidesets/cdc-hiv-infection-stage-3-2019.pdf> [PDF | 6.6MB]

Death Rate

	American Indian/Alaska Native	White	American Indian/Alaska Native / White Ratio
All ages, Men	3.4	5.0	0.7
All ages, Women	1.8	0.6	2.3

Total Population	2.1	2.5	0.8
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HIV infection death rates per 100,000 population. 2019

Source: CDC 2021. HIV Surveillance Report: Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2019, v.32. Table 12a.

<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-2018-updated-vol-32.pdf> [PDF | 19.7MB]

AIDS Deaths

	# Deaths 2019	Rate 2019	Cumulative # Deaths*	% of Total Cases
American Indian/Alaska Native	41	2.1	2,087	0.3
White	3,637	2.1	293,444	38.3
Total Population	11,899	4.3	766,380	

Estimated number of deaths, and death rates, of persons with AIDS by year of death, 2019

Source: CDC 2021. NCHHSTP Atlas Plus

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm> [Accessed 06/16/2021]

Source: CDC 2021. HIV Surveillance Report: Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2019. Slide Set: HIV Infection, Stage 3 (AIDS) 2019. Slide 43.

<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/slidesets/cdc-hiv-infection-stage-3-2019.pdf> [PDF | 6.6MB]

HIV Testing

	American Indian/Alaska Native	Non-Hispanic White	American Indian/Alaska Native / Non-Hispanic White Ratio
Ever tested	46.6	39.9	1.2
Never tested	53.4	60.1	0.9

Age-adjusted percent of HIV testing status among persons 18 years of age and over, 2018

Source: CDC 2021. Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Adults: 2018. Table A-20a.
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/SHS/tables.htm>

* Cumulative data are from the beginning of the epidemic through 2019.

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American Indian/ Alaska Native Clients:

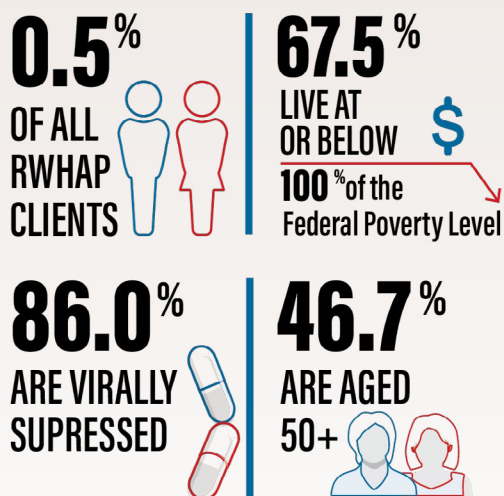
HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, 2020



Population Fact Sheet | July 2022

The Health Resources and Services Administration's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) provides a comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, medications, and essential support services for low-income people with HIV. More than half the people with diagnosed HIV in the United States—nearly 562,000 people in 2020—receive services through RWHAP each year. The RWHAP funds grants to states, cities, counties, and local community-based organizations to provide care and treatment services to people with HIV to improve health outcomes and reduce HIV transmission. For more than three decades, RWHAP has worked to increase health equity, stop HIV stigma, and reduce health disparities by caring for the whole person and addressing their social determinants of health.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Fast Facts: American Indian/Alaska Native Clients



Of the more than half a million clients served by RWHAP, 73.6 percent are people from racial and ethnic minorities; 0.5 percent (nearly 2,800 clients) are American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people.

Learn more about AI/AN clients served by the RWHAP:

- **The majority of AI/AN clients served by RWHAP are male.** Data show that 71.8 percent of AI/AN clients are male, 24.8 percent are female, and 3.3 percent are transgender.
- **The majority of AI/AN clients served by RWHAP are people with lower incomes.** Data show that 67.5 percent of AI/AN clients are living at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, which is higher than the national RWHAP average (60.9 percent).
- **AI/AN RWHAP clients are aging.** AI/AN clients aged 50 years and older account for 46.7 percent of all AI/AN RWHAP clients. This percentage is lower than the national RWHAP average (47.9 percent).
- **Data show that 10.6 percent of RWHAP AI/AN clients experience unstable housing.** This percentage is significantly higher than the national RWHAP average (4.8 percent).
- **Among AI/AN RWHAP male clients, 65.9 percent are men who have sex with men (MSM).** This percentage is slightly lower than the national RWHAP average of MSM clients (66.7 percent of all male clients).

Medical care and treatment improve health outcomes and decrease the risk of HIV transmission. People with HIV who take HIV medication as prescribed and reach and maintain viral suppression cannot sexual transmit the virus to their partner. In 2020, 86.0 percent of AI/AN clients receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed,* which is lower than the national RWHAP average (89.4 percent).

* Viral suppression is defined as a viral load result of less than 200 copies/mL at the most recent test, among people with HIV who had at least one outpatient ambulatory health services visit and one viral load test during the measurement year.

American Indians and Alaska Natives

 [cdc.gov/nchhstp/healthdisparities/AmericanIndians.html](https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/healthdisparities/AmericanIndians.html)

Health disparities are differences in the incidence, prevalence, and mortality of a disease and the related adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups. These groups may be characterized by gender, age, race or ethnicity, education, income, social class, disability, geographic location, or sexual orientation. These health disparities are one reason why HIV, viral hepatitis, STDs, and TB take a greater toll in one population group over another. Find information about how these diseases affect American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

HIV

Though the overall numbers are small, in 2018, the rate (per 100,000 population) of HIV diagnoses in the United States among adult and adolescent American Indian/Alaska Native males was greater (16.2) than the rate for White males (9.6). The rate per 100,000 population among American Indian/Alaska Native females was greater (3.0) than for White females (1.7).

STDs

Chlamydia

In 2018, the rate of reported chlamydia cases among AI/AN was 784.8 cases per 100,000 population. Overall, the rate of reported chlamydia cases among AI/AN in the United States as 3.7 times the rate among Whites.

Gonorrhea

In 2018, the rate of reported gonorrhea cases among AI/AN (329.5 cases per 100,000 population) was 4.6 times the rate among Whites. The disparity between gonorrhea rates for AI/AN and Whites was larger for AI/AN females (6.3 times the rate among White females) than for AI/AN males (3.3 times the rate among White males). The disparity in gonorrhea rates for AI/AN in 2018 was larger in the Midwest than in the West, Northeast, and South.

Primary and Secondary Syphilis

In 2018, the rate of reported P&S syphilis cases among AI/AN was 2.6 times the rate among Whites (15.5 versus 6.0 cases per 100,000 population, respectively). This disparity was greater for AI/AN females (5.4 times the rate among White females) than for AI/AN males (2.1 times the rate among White males).

Congenital Syphilis

From 2014 to 2018, the rate of reported congenital syphilis increased 500% among American Indians/Alaska Natives (13.2 to 79.2 cases per 100,000 live births). In 2018, the rate of reported cases of congenital syphilis among AI/AN was 5.9 times the rate among Whites (79.2 cases versus 13.5 cases per 100,000 live births, respectively).

Viral Hepatitis

In 2018, there were 15,713 death certificates among US residents that listed hepatitis C as the underlying or a contributing cause of death. American Indians/Alaskan Natives have historically experienced the highest age-adjusted hepatitis C-related mortality rates, relative to other race/ethnic groups, and the rate increased from 2016 to 2017. In 2018 American Indians/Alaska Natives again had the highest hepatitis C related death rate among all race/ethnic groups, at 9.05 deaths per 100,000 population.

Tuberculosis (TB)

In 2018, 87% of all reported TB cases occurred in racial and ethnic minorities. TB disease was reported in 104 American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States, accounting for 1.2% of all people reported with TB disease nationally. The rate of TB disease in American Indians and Alaska Natives was 4.3 cases per 100,000 population, which is over eight times higher than the rate of TB disease in non-Hispanic whites (0.5 cases per 100,000 population). Overall, 9,025 TB cases were reported to CDC from the 50 states and the District of Columbia in 2018.



HIV in Indian Country



The mission of the Indian Health Service is to raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level. The **IHS National HIV/AIDS Program** coordinates and promotes HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment activities specific to Indians as part of a comprehensive public health approach. The goals of the HIV/AIDS Program are to prevent further spread of HIV and improve health outcomes for those already living with HIV and AIDS.

From 2012-2016
HIV screening
increased by

63%

for AI/AN
ages 13-64

Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America focuses on three major areas of action, one being increasing investments in geographic hotspots. Many of the counties and states identified in the plan are in

locations with federal, tribal and urban health sites. American Indians and Alaska Natives are ranked fourth in the nation for the estimated rate of new HIV diagnoses when compared with all other races and ethnicities.

The president's **fiscal year 2020 budget proposal** **includes \$25 million** in new investments to establish the Eliminating Hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS in Indian Country Initiative. This will expand partnerships between IHS and Native communities to end the HIV epidemic in Indian Country.

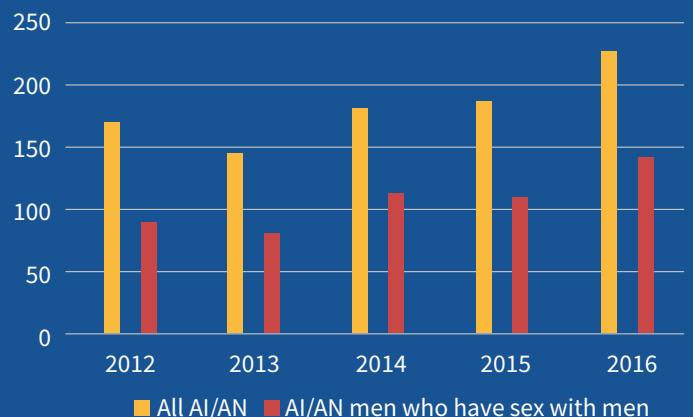
Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, also known as PrEP, is a once-per-day pill that has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection through sex by as much as 97%.

Since August 2018, PrEP has been available in the same manner as all other medications accessible at IHS.



PrEP is a prevention method in which **people who do not have HIV** infection take a pill daily to reduce their risk of being infected.

American Indian and Alaska Native Diagnoses of HIV infection



- From 2012-2016 there has been a 34% increase in HIV diagnoses among American Indian and Alaska Native.
- From 2012-2016 there has been a 58% increase in HIV diagnoses among American Indian and Alaska Native gay and bisexual men.

The **HIV clinic at Phoenix Indian Medical Center** is the largest in all of IHS, with over 300 patients. American Indian and Alaska Native people who are living with HIV in Arizona have the highest viral suppression rates of all racial groups in the state

Despite **decreasing** from **2016 to 2018**, new HIV diagnoses among **American Indians/Alaska Natives** increased by **11%** from **2018 to 2019**.



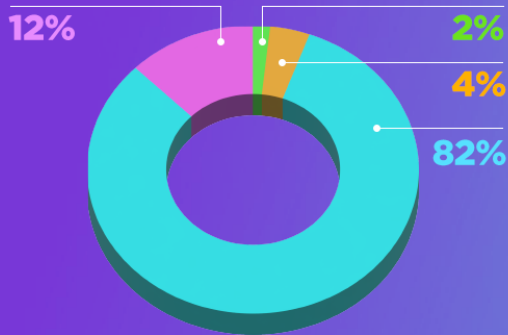
NEW HIV DIAGNOSES AMONG AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVES, 2008-2019

AIDSVu.ORG

SOURCE: CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, NCHHSTP ATLASPLUS

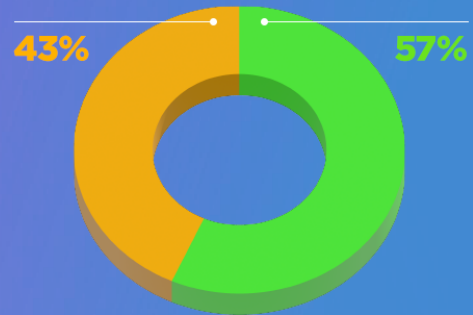
AIDSVu

In 2020, **Gay and Bisexual Men** accounted for **82%** of all new HIV diagnoses among **American Indian/Alaska Native men**.



Percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native Males Newly Diagnosed with HIV by Transmission Category, 2020

In 2020, **57%** of new HIV diagnoses among **American Indian/Alaska Native women** were attributed to **heterosexual contact**.



Percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native Females Newly Diagnosed with HIV by Transmission Category, 2020

HETEROSEXUAL CONTACT

INJECTION DRUG USE (IDU)

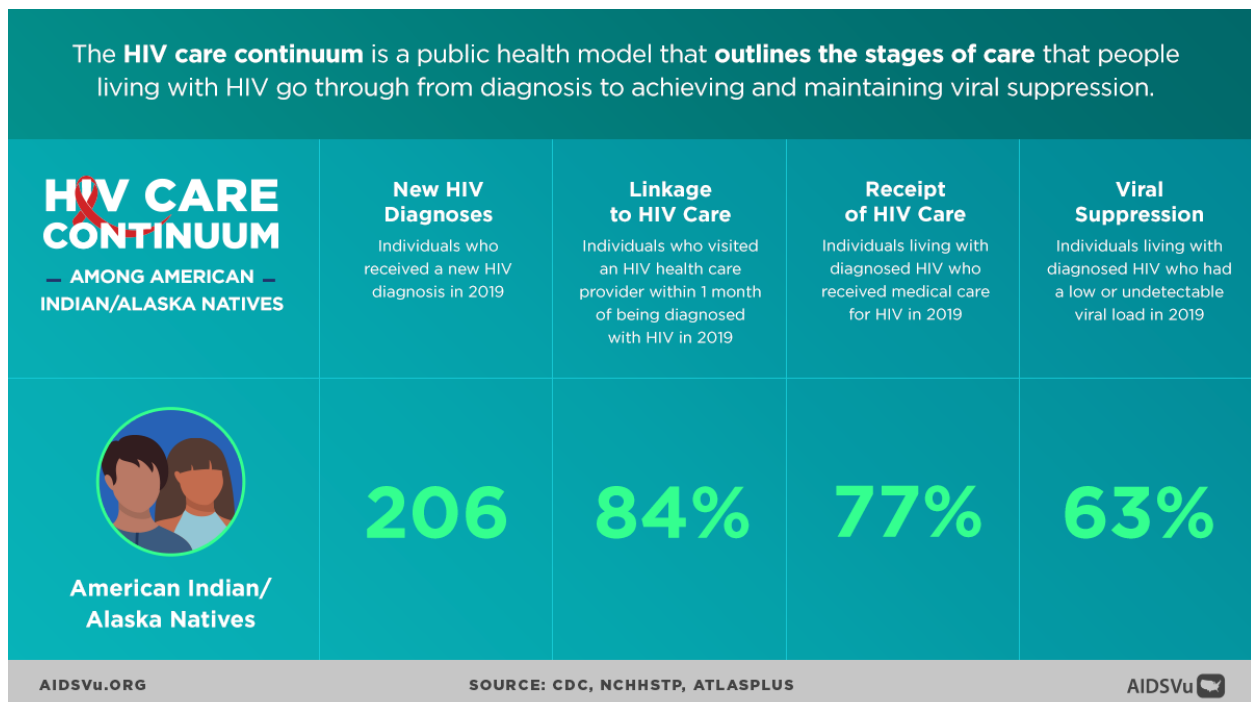
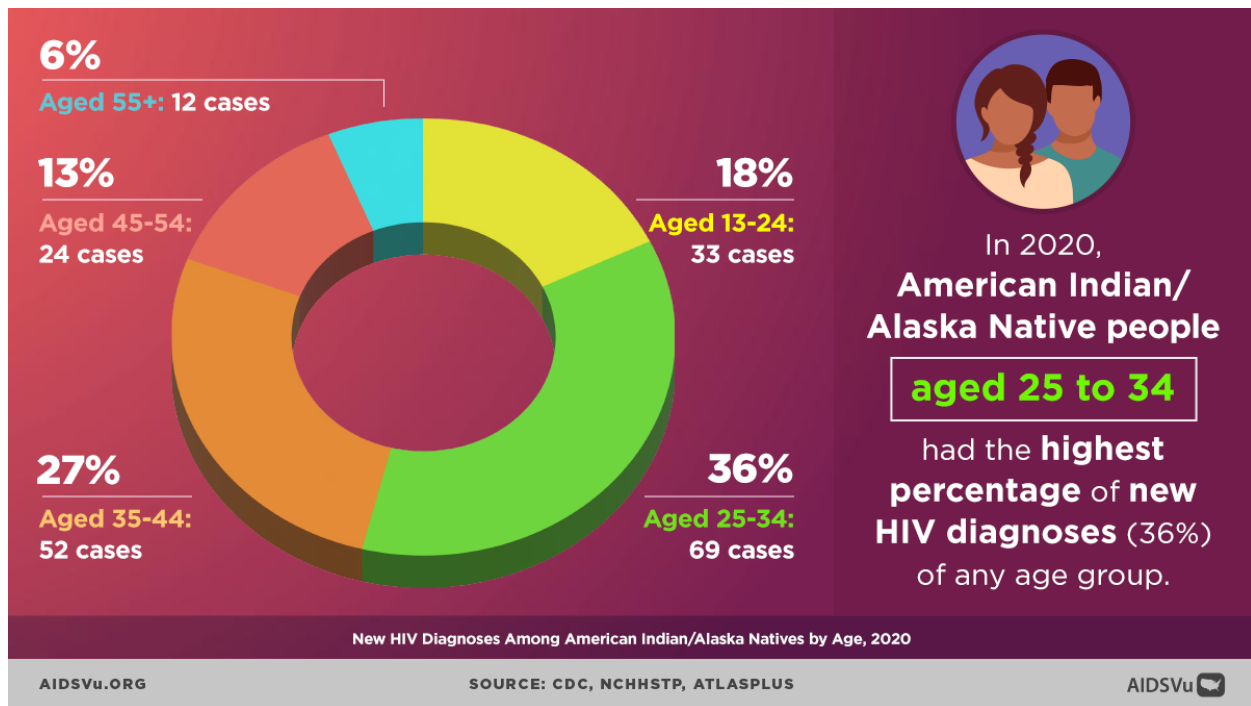
MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN (MSM)

MSM & IDU

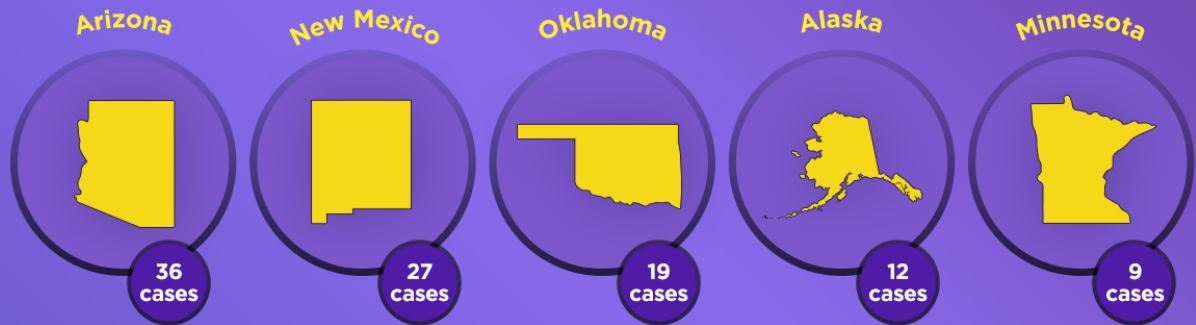
AIDSVu.ORG

SOURCE: CDC ATLAS

AIDSVu



In 2020, these **five states** had the **highest number of new HIV diagnoses** among **American Indian/Alaska Natives**.



These five states made up **54% of all new HIV diagnoses** among American Indian/Alaska Natives.

AIDSVu.ORG

SOURCE: CDC ATLAS

AIDSVu

Social Determinants of Health and HIV Among American Indians/Alaska Natives

From 2018 to 2019, **new HIV diagnoses** among American Indians/Alaska Natives **increased by 11%.***

Social determinants of health such as **poverty**, **lack of health insurance**, **education**, and **unemployment**, can **negatively affect HIV-related health outcomes** for American Indians/Alaska Natives.

*Center for Disease Control and Prevention, NCHS/STP AtlasPlus



Poverty

American Community Survey, 2018

13.1%
of U.S. population
were living in poverty.



23.7%
of American Indian/
Alaska Native population
were living in poverty.



Uninsured

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health, 2019 and U.S. Census, 2019

8%
of U.S. population
were uninsured.



15%
of American Indian/
Alaska Native population
were uninsured.



Unemployment

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019

3.7%
of U.S. population
were unemployed.



6.1%
of American Indian/
Alaska Native population
were unemployed.



Education

U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2015-2019

32%
of U.S. population
over the age of 25 had a
bachelor's degree or higher.



15%
of American Indian/
Alaska Native population
over the age of 25 had
a bachelor's degree or higher.

AIDSVu.org

AIDSVu

Infographics from CDC

(including information about HIV Among American Indian/Alaska Native People)

People with Diagnosed HIV in 44 States and the District of Columbia by Race/Ethnicity, 2019*

For every 100 **American Indian/Alaska Native** people with diagnosed HIV:



77
received
some
HIV care



57
were
retained
in care **



63
were virally
suppressed ††

* Among people aged 13 and older.

** Had 2 viral load or CD4 tests at least 3 months apart in a year.

†† Based on most recent viral load test.

Source: CDC. [Monitoring selected national HIV prevention and care objectives by using HIV surveillance data—United States and 6 dependent areas, 2019. HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report 2021;26\(2\).](#)

Knowledge of Status

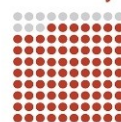
Knowledge of status is one of the six [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.](#) indicators. Knowledge of status refers to the estimated percentage of people with HIV who have received an HIV diagnosis.

HIV in the US by Race/Ethnicity, 2019*



In 2019, an estimated **1,189,700 PEOPLE** had HIV.

For every 100 people with HIV



87
knew their
HIV status.

For every 100...



American
Indian/Alaska
Native people
with HIV
80



Asian people
with HIV
87



Black/African
American people
with HIV[†]
87



Hispanic/Latino
people with HIV[‡]
84



Native Hawaiian
and other Pacific
Islander people
with HIV
84



White people
with HIV
89



multiracial
people with HIV
89

...knew their status

* Among people aged 13 and older.

† *Black* refers to people having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. *African American* is a term often used for people of African descent with ancestry in North America.

‡ Hispanic/Latino people can be of any race.

Source: CDC. [Estimated HIV incidence and prevalence in the United States, 2015–2019](#) [PDF – 3 MB]. *HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report 2021;26(1).*

Infographics from CDC

(including information about HIV Among American Indian/Alaska Native People)

HIV in the United States by Race/Ethnicity: HIV Diagnoses

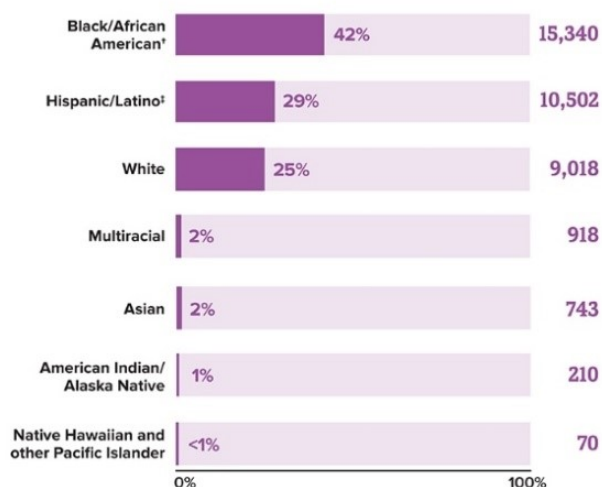
Data for 2020 should be interpreted with caution due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to HIV testing, care-related services, and case surveillance activities in state and local jurisdictions. While 2020 data on [HIV diagnoses](#) and [prevention and care outcomes](#) are available, we are not updating this web content with data from these reports.

HIV diagnoses is one of the six [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.](#) indicators. HIV diagnoses refers to the number of people who received an HIV diagnosis each year.

In 2019, **36,801 people received an HIV diagnosis** in the US and dependent areas.

New HIV Diagnoses in the US and Dependent Areas by Race/Ethnicity, 2019*

Racial and ethnic differences in HIV diagnoses continue to exist.



* Among people aged 13 and older.

† Black refers to people having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. *African American* is a term often used for people of African descent with ancestry in North America.

‡ Hispanic/Latino people can be of any race.

Source: CDC. [Diagnoses of HIV infection in the United States and dependent areas, 2019](#). *HIV Surveillance Report* 2021;32.

Infographics from CDC

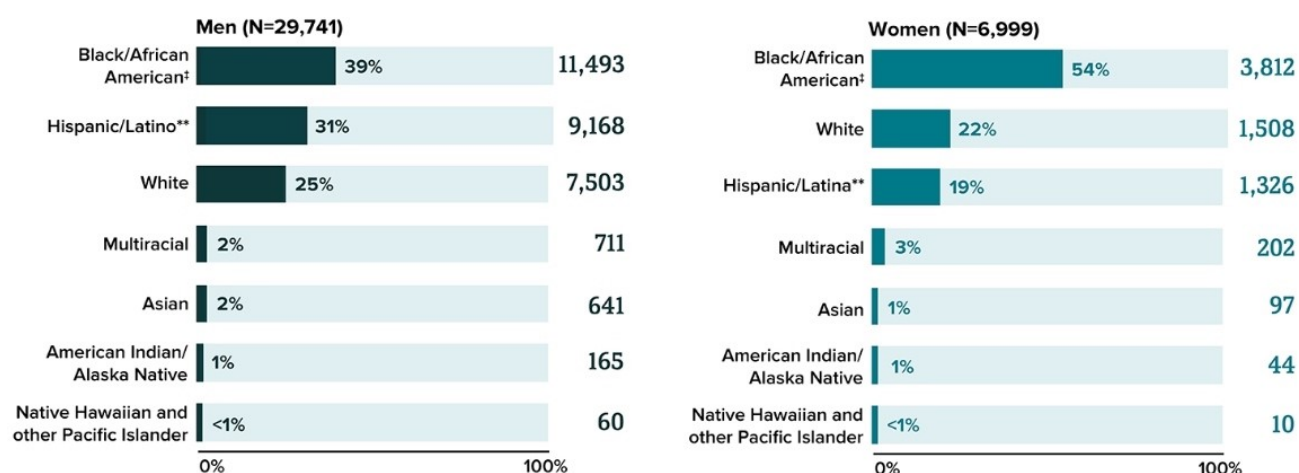
(including information about HIV Among American Indian/Alaska Native People)

HIV in the United States by Race/Ethnicity: HIV Diagnoses

Data for 2020 should be interpreted with caution due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to HIV testing, care-related services, and case surveillance activities in state and local jurisdictions. While 2020 data on [HIV diagnoses](#) and [prevention and care outcomes](#) are available, we are not updating this web content with data from these reports.

HIV diagnoses is one of the six [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.](#) indicators. HIV diagnoses refers to the number of people who received an HIV diagnosis each year.

New HIV Diagnoses in the US and Dependent Areas by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, 2019*†



* Among people aged 13 and older.

† Based on sex assigned at birth and includes transgender people. For more information about transgender people, visit CDC's [HIV and Transgender People web content](#).

‡ *Black* refers to people having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. *African American* is a term often used for people of African descent with ancestry in North America.

** Hispanic/Latino people can be of any race.

Source: CDC. [Diagnoses of HIV infection in the United States and dependent areas, 2019](#). *HIV Surveillance Report* 2021;32.

Infographics from CDC

(including information about HIV Among American Indian/Alaska Native People)

HIV in the United States by Race/Ethnicity: HIV Diagnoses

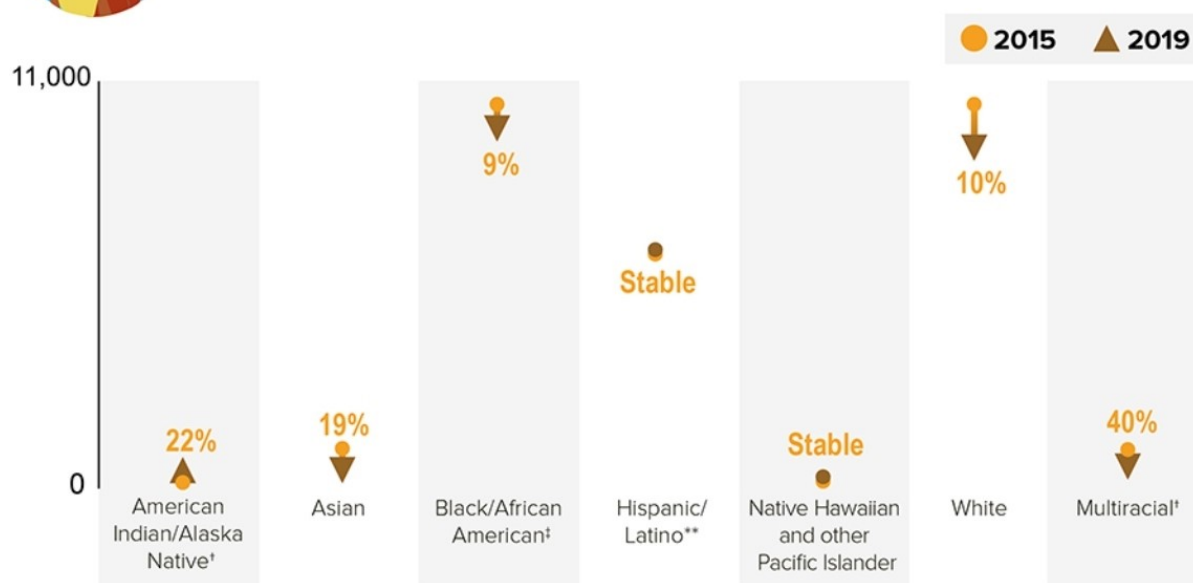
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HIV diagnoses is one of the six [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.](#) indicators. HIV diagnoses refers to the number of people who received an HIV diagnosis each year.

New HIV Diagnoses in the US and Dependent Areas by Race/Ethnicity, 2015-2019*



Trends by Race and Ethnicity



*Among people aged 13 and older.

† Changes in subpopulations with fewer HIV diagnoses can lead to a large percentage increase or decrease.

‡ *Black* refers to people having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. *African American* is a term often used for people of African descent with ancestry in North America.

** Hispanic/Latino people can be of any race.

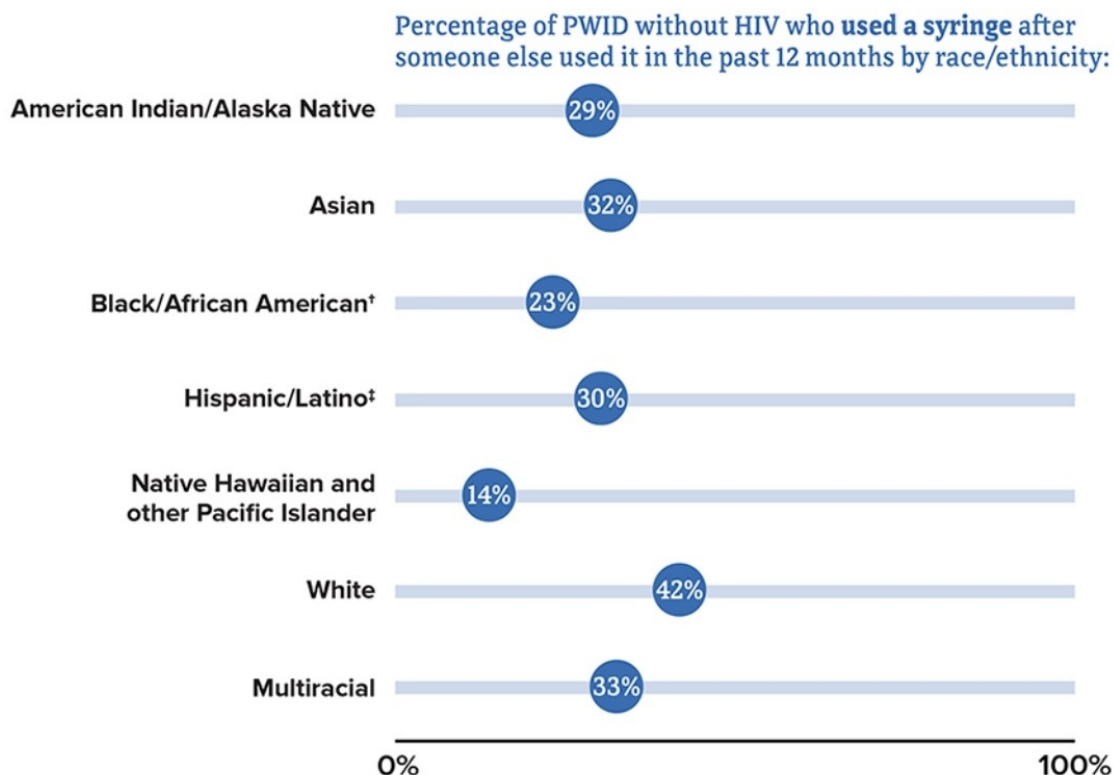
Source: CDC. [Diagnoses of HIV infection in the United States and dependent areas, 2019](#). *HIV Surveillance Report* 2021;32.

Infographics from CDC

(including information about HIV Among American Indian/Alaska Native People)

HIV Risk Behaviors

Injection Behaviors Among People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) in 23 US Cities by Race/Ethnicity, 2018*



* Among PWID without HIV aged 18 and older.

† *Black* refers to people having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. *African American* is a term often used for people of African descent with ancestry in North America.

‡ Hispanic/Latino people can be of any race.

Source: CDC. [HIV infection risk, prevention, and testing behaviors among persons who inject drugs—National HIV Behavioral Surveillance: injection drug use, 23 U.S. Cities, 2018](#) [PDF – 2 MB]. *HIV Surveillance Special*

Report 2020;24.