



2015 - 2019 HIV Surveillance Report

Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit
Cook County Department of Public Health

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Abbreviations, Acronyms and Definitions

AIAN: American Indian or Alaskan Native.

AIDS: Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. Caused by the human immunodeficiency virus.

CCDPH: Cook County Department of Public Health. Jurisdiction includes all areas in Cook County, Illinois excluding Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie, and Stickney Township.

CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hetero: Heterosexual contact (as a risk factor).

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

HIV (Any Stage): A person with HIV infection who may have progressed to AIDS; equivalent to HIV (stage 3) or “HIV or AIDS”

IDU: Injection drug use.

MSM: Male-to-male sexual contact.

NIR: No identified risk factor.

PI: Pacific Islander.

PLWH: Person(s) living with HIV (any stage).

STI: Sexually Transmitted Infection. Generally, this refers to chlamydia (*Chlamydia trachomatis*), gonorrhea (*Neisseria gonorrhea*) or syphilis (*Treponema pallidum*) infection.

Executive Summary

In 2019, 271 new HIV diagnoses were made; there were 6,100 living with HIV in 2019.

Two hundred sixteen (216) or 80% of these were in were male (sex at birth); 157 (58%) were Black/African American. Men (sex at birth) and Black/African American continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV.

What looked like some promising downward trends from 2015 to 2018 reversed course between 2018 and 2019. HIV cases:

- increased in Hispanic/Latinx persons, from 33 in 2010 to 58 in 2019 (76% increase).
- increased in Black/African Americans from 135 in 2010 to 157 in 2019 (9% increase).
- decreased in Whites from 64 in 2010 to 42 in 2019 (34% decrease).

In 2019, Black/African Americans were 58% of new HIV diagnoses but were only 16% of the population of suburban Cook County.

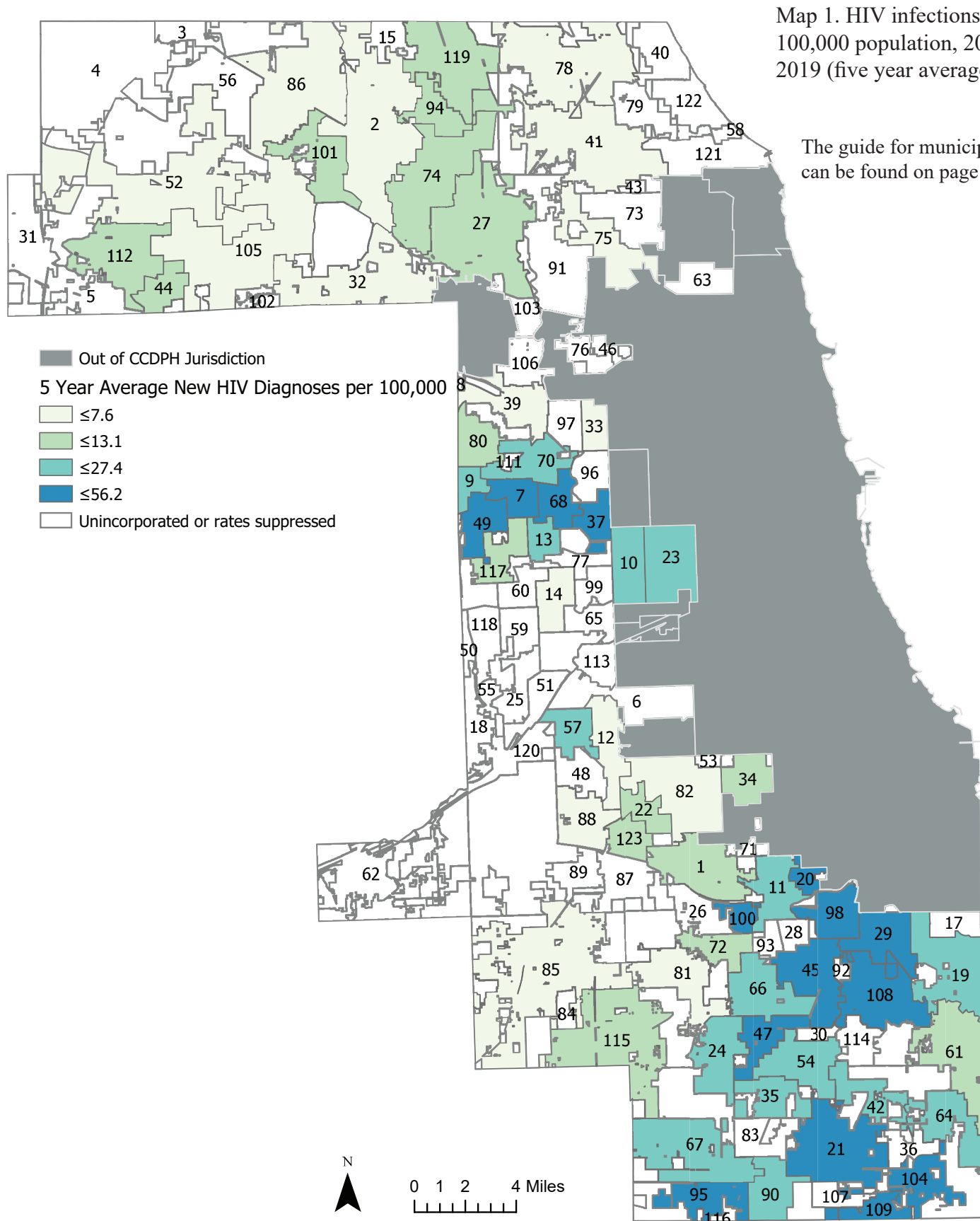
Most (45%) of new HIV diagnoses reported were in their 20s; however, most PLWHA (about 2 of every 3) are 40 years old or older.

Male-to-male sexual transmission is the most common mode of transmission reported in adult and adolescent men (sex at birth); heterosexual transmission is the most common mode of transmission reported in adult and adolescent women (sex at birth).

Unemployment is correlated with HIV prevalence. The higher the unemployment rate, the greater the prevalence of HIV.

Taken together, the data in this report point to systematic health inequities that continue to affect deeply persons of color and specifically Black/African American populations.

At this point in the HIV epidemic, we should be seeing declines in all race/ethnic groups. More resources are needed in suburban Cook County to prevent all persons, though especially persons of color, from transmitting and acquiring HIV and other STIs.



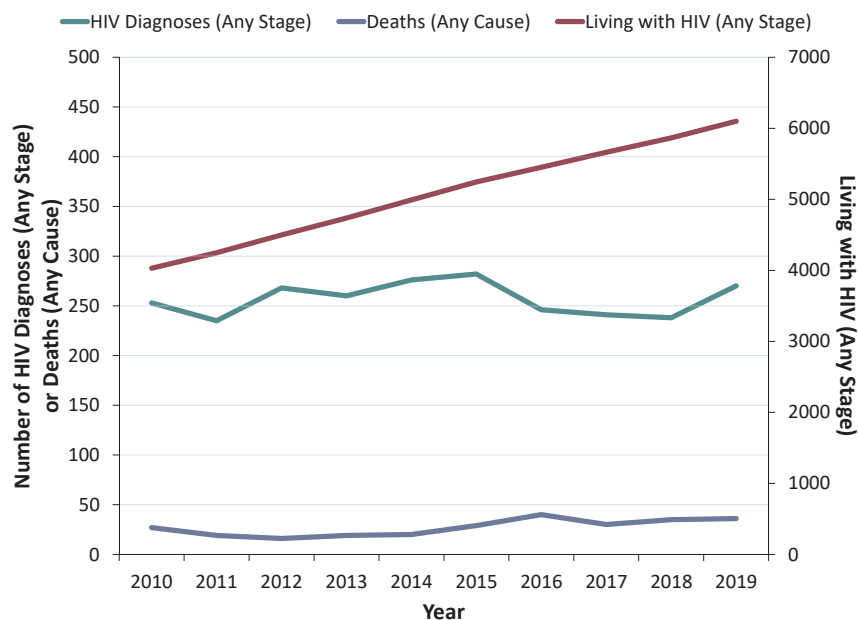


Figure 1. Trends in the number of HIV diagnoses has not changed much over the past 10 years.

In 2019, 270 new HIV diagnoses were reported.

HIV/AIDS Prevalence has increased linearly with time.

In 2019, there were 6,100 PLWH in suburban Cook County. In 2010 there were 4,030 PLWH. This is, on average, a net increase of 207 PLWH per year.

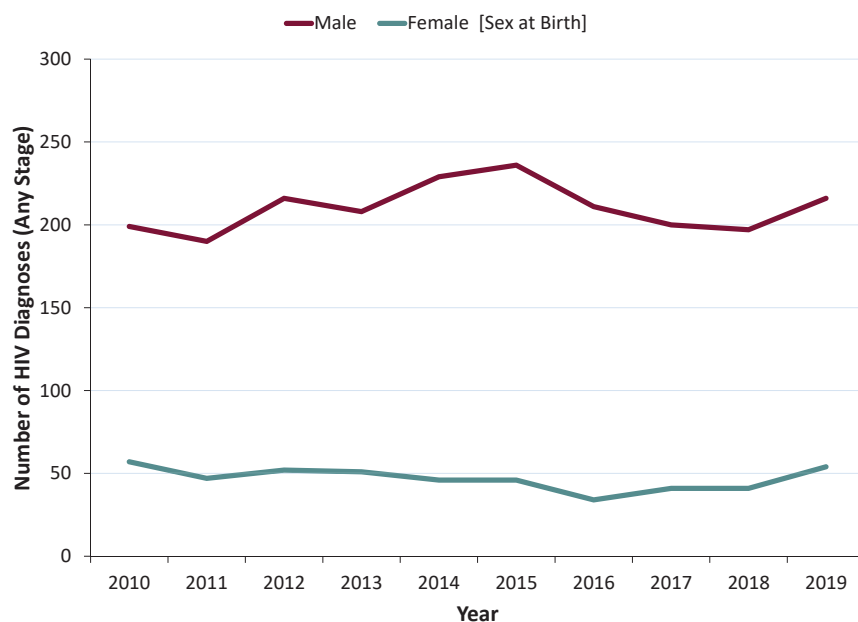


Figure 2. The number of males and females (sex at birth) diagnosed with HIV infection has been stable despite some yearly fluctuations.

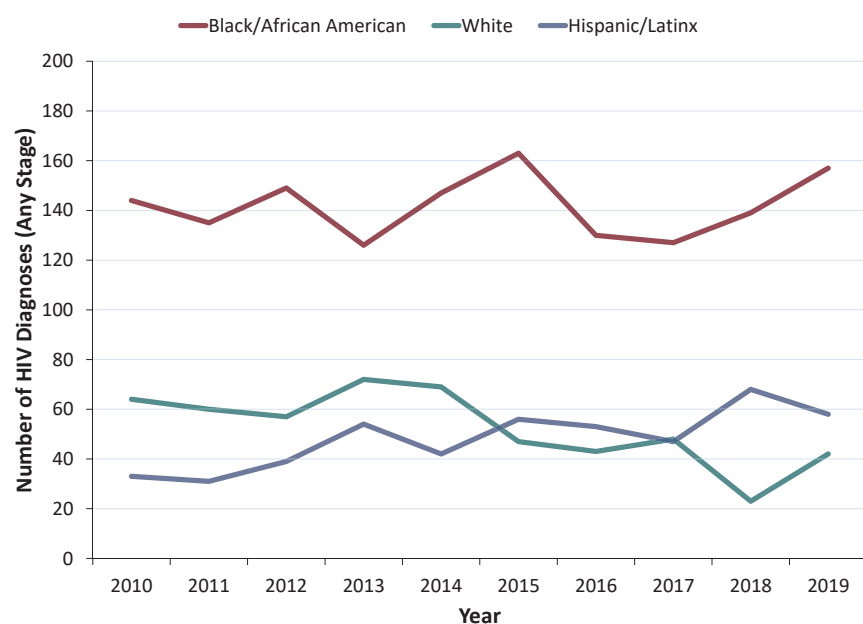


Figure 3. The number of HIV diagnoses in Black/African Americans remains highest.

The number of HIV diagnoses in Hispanic/Latinx persons increased 76% over the past decade, from 33 to 58.

The number of new diagnoses in Whites decreased 34% over the past 10 years from 64 to 42.

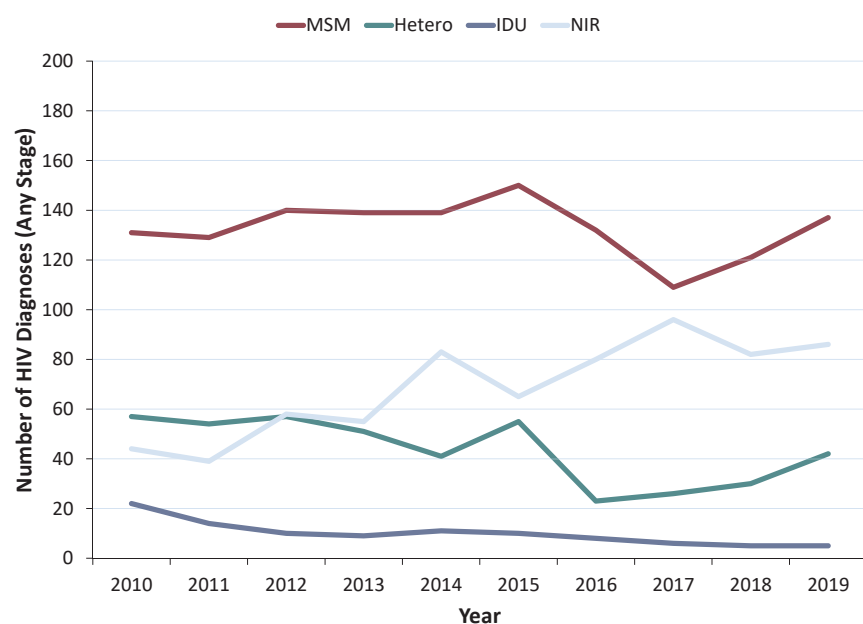


Figure 4. The number of cases with no identified risk factor increased since 2010, while those with heterosexual contact and injection drug use declined.

Male-to-male sexual transmission declined between 2015 and 2017 and then rose between 2017 and 2019.

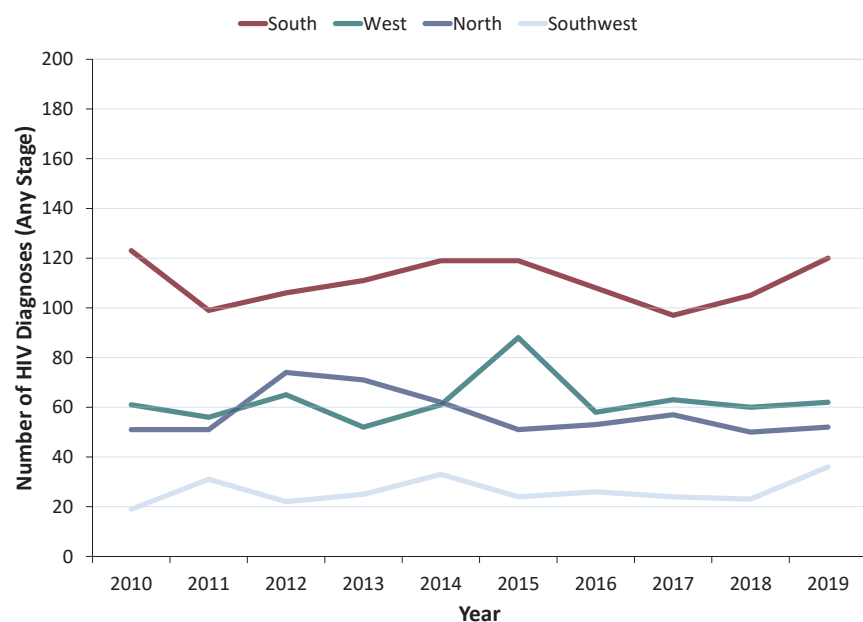


Figure 5. HIV diagnoses remain highest in the South District.

Overall, HIV diagnoses have not changed much by public health district over the past 10 years.

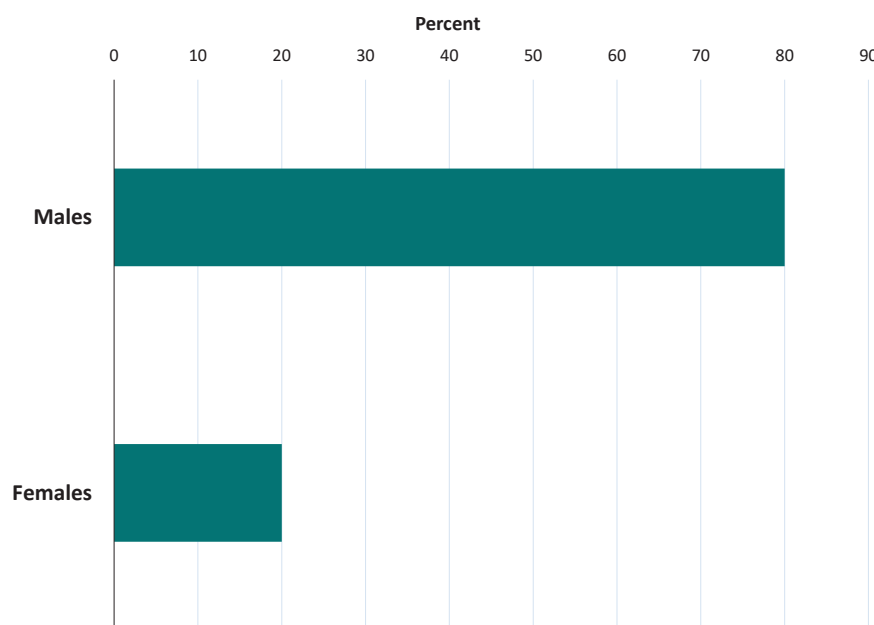


Figure 6. The vast majority (80%) of HIV diagnoses in 2019 were in males (sex at birth).

Men have been over-represented since the earliest days of the epidemic. Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, continue to be at high risk for acquisition and transmission of HIV.

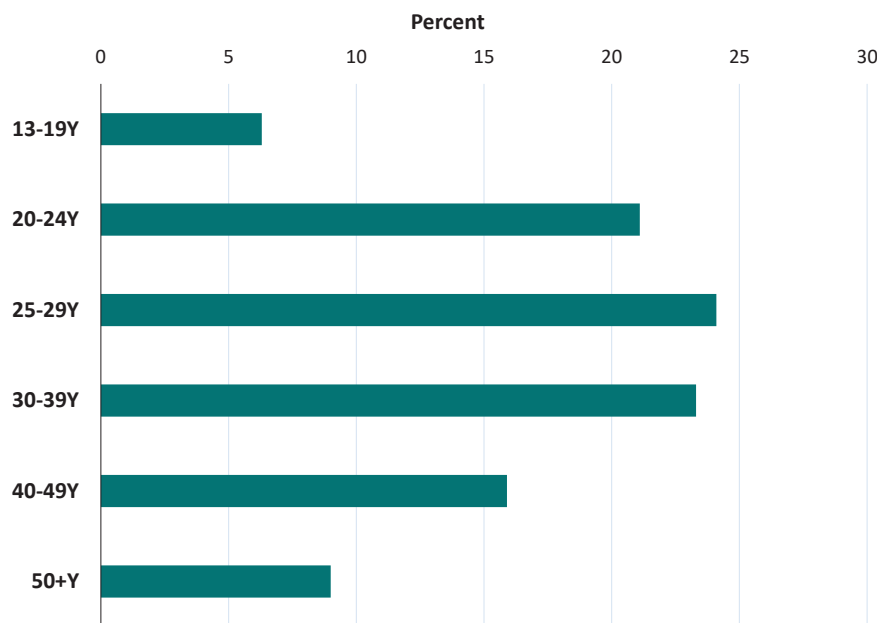


Figure 7. Most (45%) new HIV diagnoses reported were in their 20s.

The proportion of new HIV diagnoses decreases with age.

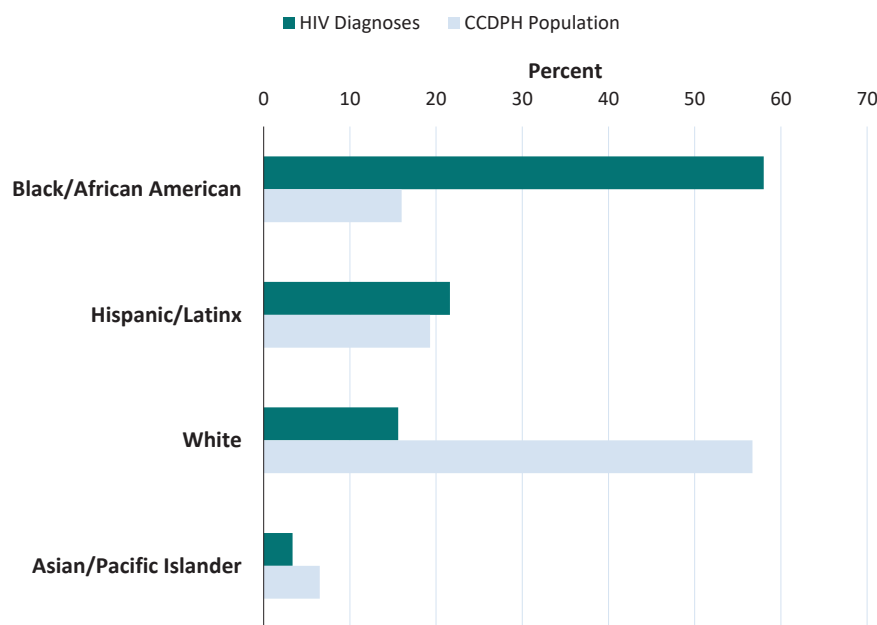


Figure 8. Black/African Americans are over-represented among new HIV diagnoses.

In 2019, Black/African Americans represented 58% of new HIV diagnoses but are only 16% (light blue) of the population of suburban Cook County; this group remains at high risk.

Hispanic/Latinx populations represent 22% of new HIV cases but are only 19% of the population of suburban Cook County.

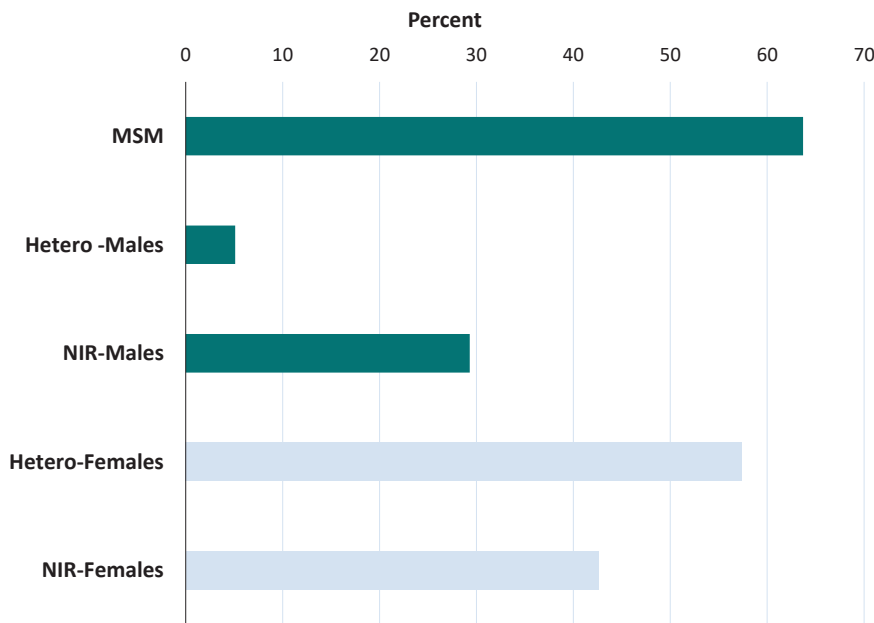


Figure 9. Male-to-male sexual transmission is the most common mode of transmission reported in men; heterosexual transmission is the most common mode of transmission reported in women.

The proportion of cases with no identified risk factor is high in both males and females.

Injection drug use was not a common mode of transmission in 2019.

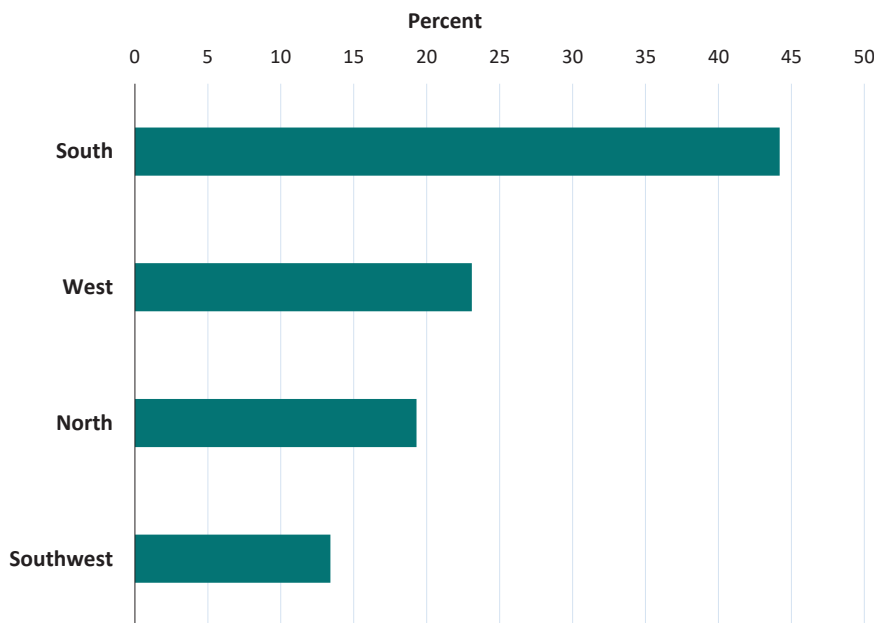


Figure 10. About 2 in 3 new HIV diagnoses were in persons living in the South or West districts.

374.6per 100,000
2018**USA****289.9**per 100,000
2019**Illinois**

The prevalence of persons living with HIV (any stage) is lowest in suburban Cook County.

Although prevalence is lowest in suburban Cook County, cases are not distributed equally throughout suburban Cook County. This is covered in the next few pages.

873.7per 100,000
2018**Chicago****268.1**per 100,000
2019**Sub Cook**

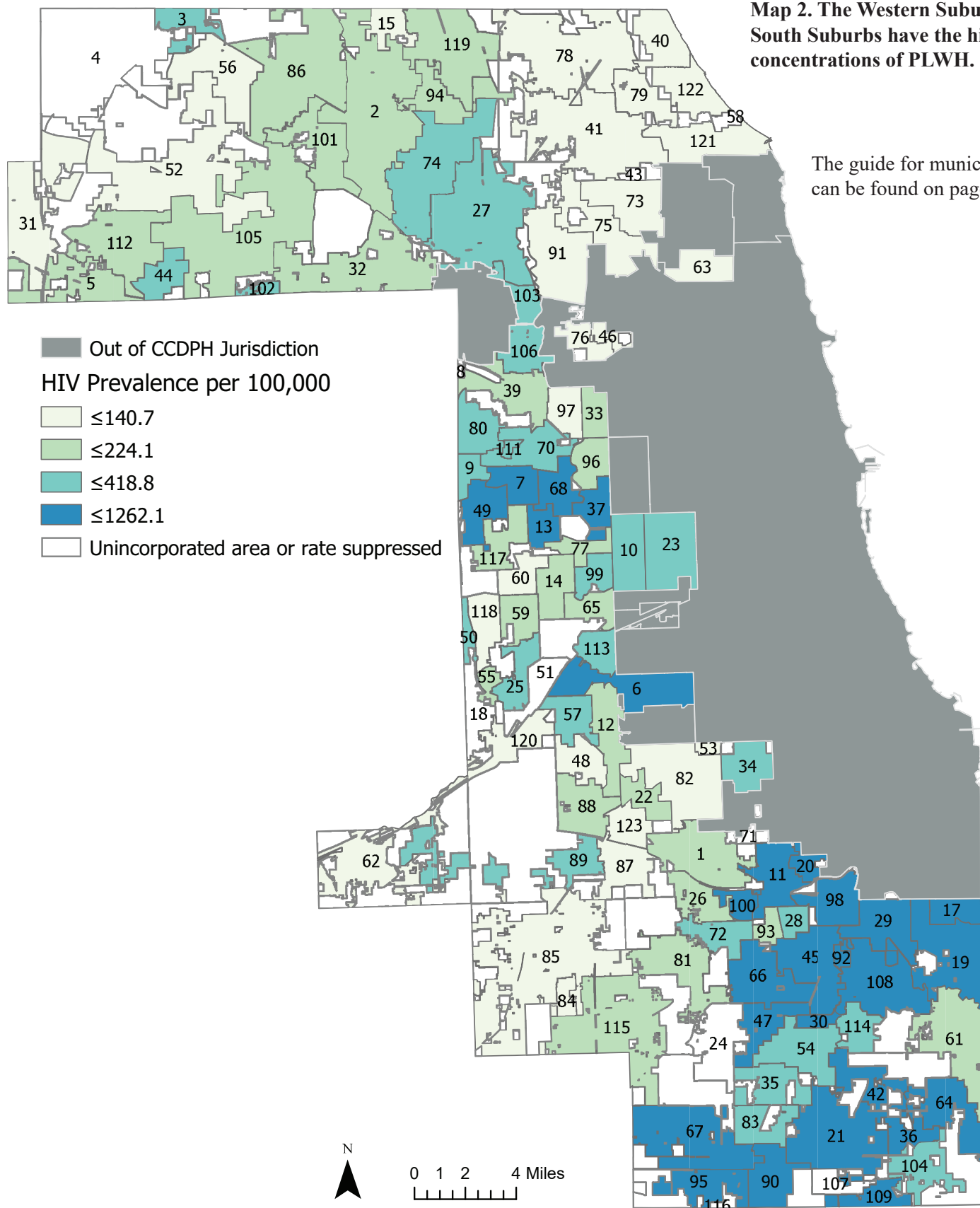
Attention Providers!

Please MAIL (do not fax or email!) completed HIV Case Reports to:

**ATTN: HIV Surveillance Coordinator
Cook County Department of Public Health
7556 W. Jackson, Forest Park, IL 60130**

Mail reports on **anyone** who has tested positive for HIV in Suburban Cook County **regardless of the patient's county of residence.**

Reports may also be taken over the phone (708-836-8675) by the HIV Surveillance Coordinator.



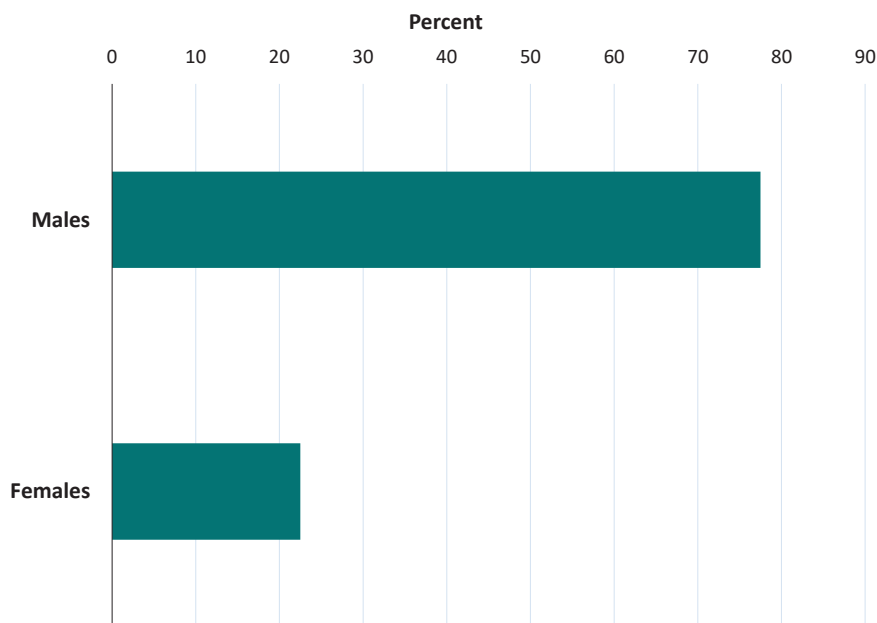


Figure 11. More than 3 in 4 PLWH (2019) were male (sex at birth).

Again, males (sex at birth) have been over-represented since the beginning of the HIV epidemic.

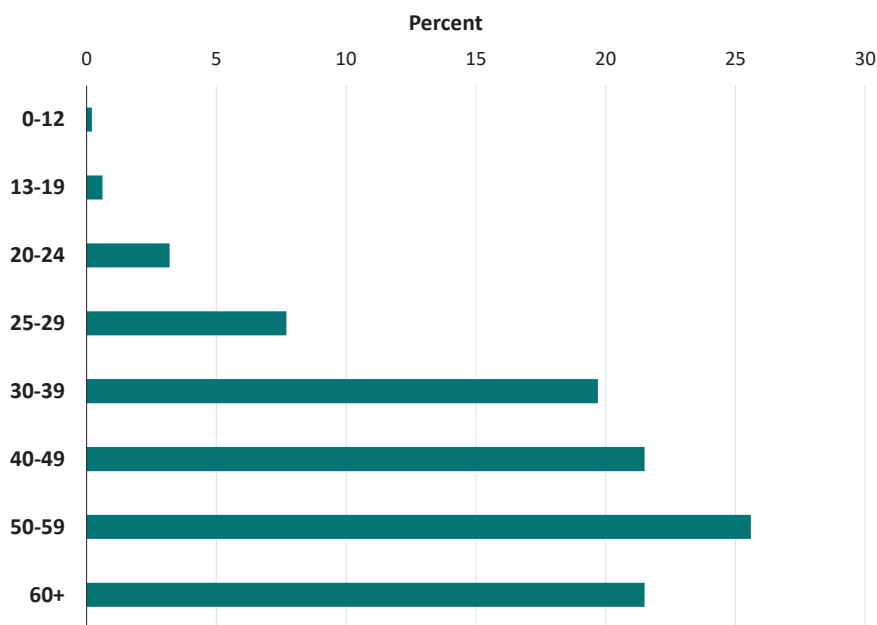


Figure 12. Although most new HIV diagnoses are made in persons in their 20s (see Figure 7), 2 of every 3 PLWH are 40 years old or older.

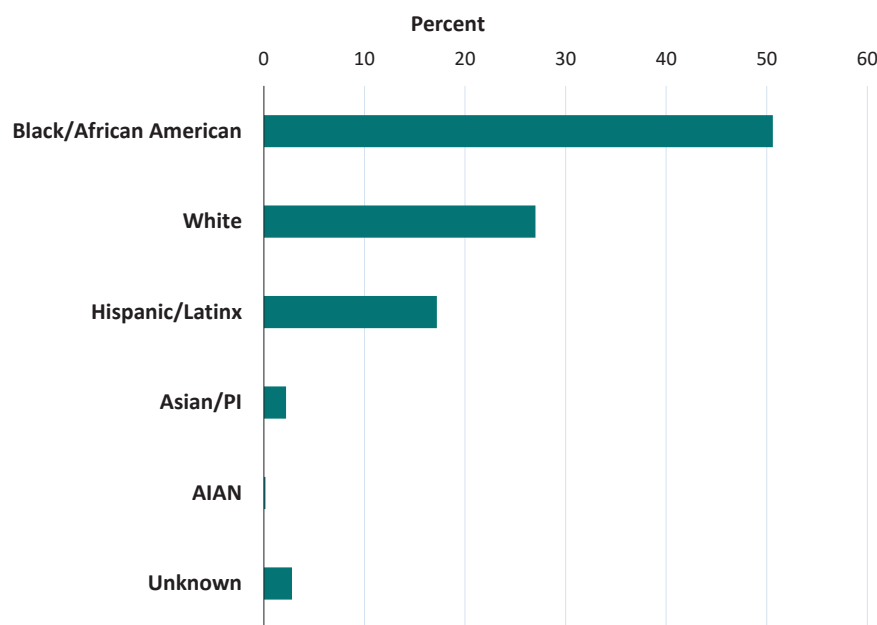


Figure 13. About half of all PLWH are Black/African American.

Recall this group is only about 16% of the population of CCDPH's jurisdiction.

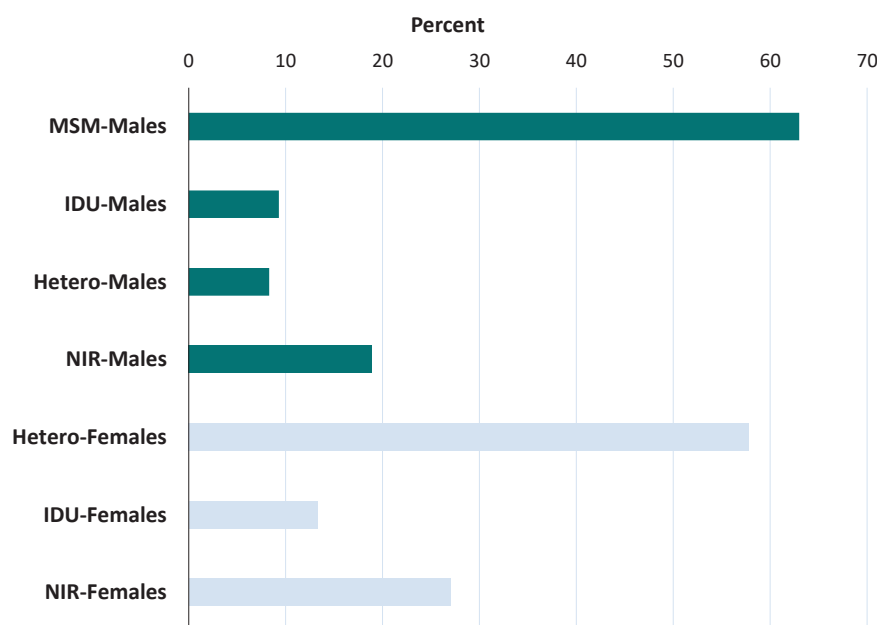


Figure 14. More than 60% of males (sex at birth) acquired HIV through male-to-male sexual contact. The majority of females (sex at birth) acquired HIV through heterosexual contact.

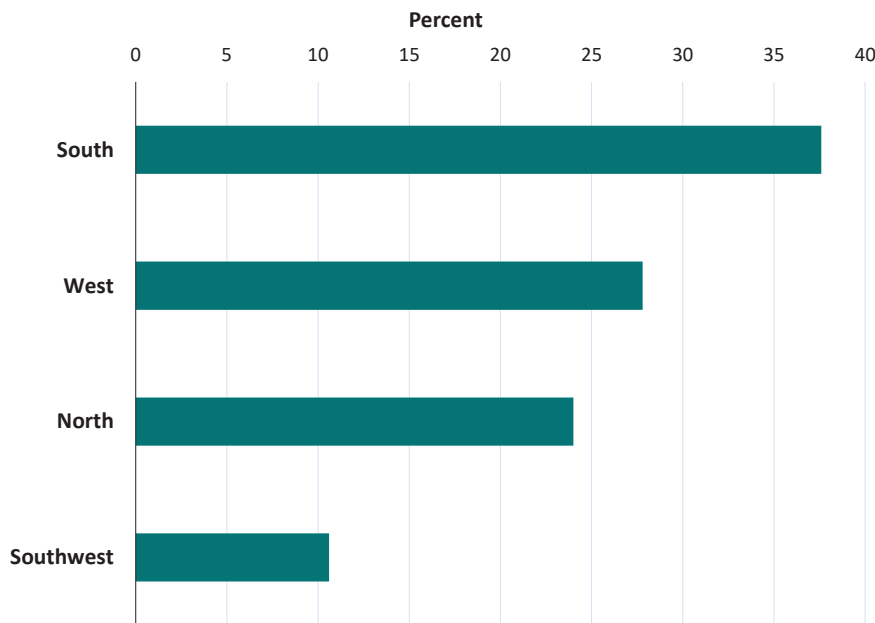


Figure 15. PLWH reside mostly in the South (38%) and West (28%) districts.

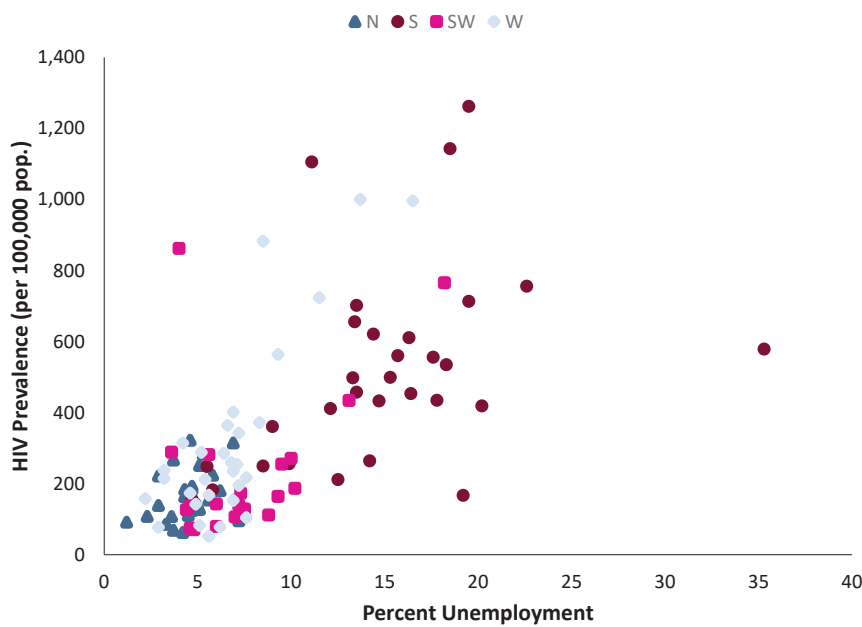


Figure 16. Unemployment is correlated with HIV prevalence.

Each point represents a town in one of the 4 districts in CCDPH's jurisdiction.

The higher the percent unemployed, the higher the HIV prevalence.

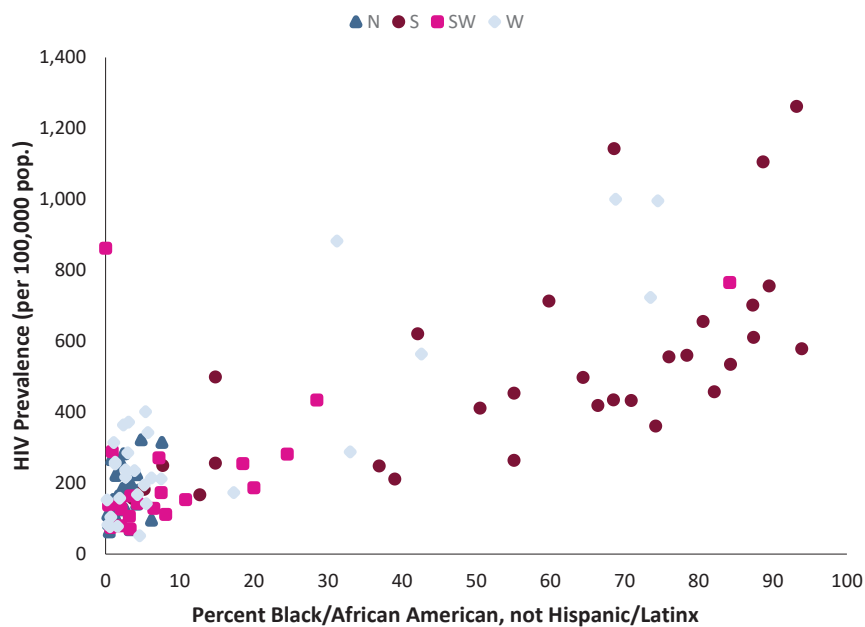


Figure 17. CCDPH's south sub-urbs have higher concentrations of Black/African American residents; this group also has larger numbers of PLWH.

Got PrEP?!!

To learn more about PrEP, call the CORE Center at **(312) 572-4500** to schedule an appointment with a health educator.

Another way to find out more about PrEP is to contact your regular doctor or healthcare provider or by calling the Illinois HIV/STD Hotline at **800-243-2437**.

Table 1. HIV Diagnoses (Any Stage) by Selected Characteristics, Suburban Cook County, 2015 - 2019

| Characteristic | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | | 2018 | | 2019 | |
|--|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| | No. | (%) | No. | (%) | No. | (%) | No. | (%) | No. | (%) |
| Sex at Birth | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 232 | (82.3) | 210 | (85.4) | 200 | (83.0) | 196 | (82.4) | 210 | (87.1) |
| Female | 46 | (16.3) | 34 | (13.8) | 41 | (17.0) | 41 | (17.2) | 53 | (22.0) |
| Male to Female | - | - | - | - | 0 | (0.0) | - | - | - | - |
| Female to Male | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| Age Group (Years) | | | | | | | | | | |
| <20 | 11 | (3.9) | 15 | (6.1) | 17 | (7.1) | 16 | (6.7) | 18 | (6.6) |
| 20-24 | 61 | (21.6) | 62 | (25.2) | 45 | (18.7) | 59 | (24.8) | 57 | (21.0) |
| 25-29 | 64 | (22.7) | 35 | (14.2) | 42 | (17.4) | 39 | (16.4) | 65 | (24.0) |
| 30-39 | 60 | (21.3) | 56 | (22.8) | 52 | (21.6) | 43 | (18.1) | 64 | (23.6) |
| 40-49 | 41 | (14.5) | 36 | (14.6) | 48 | (19.9) | 45 | (18.9) | 43 | (15.9) |
| >50 | 45 | (16.0) | 42 | (17.1) | 37 | (15.4) | 36 | (15.1) | 24 | (8.9) |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Hispanic Black | 163 | (57.8) | 131 | (53.3) | 127 | (52.7) | 139 | (58.4) | 158 | (58.3) |
| Non-Hispanic White | 47 | (16.7) | 43 | (17.5) | 48 | (19.9) | 23 | (9.7) | 42 | (15.5) |
| Hispanic/Latinx | 56 | (19.9) | 53 | (21.5) | 47 | (19.5) | 68 | (28.6) | 58 | (21.4) |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | - | - | 8 | (3.3) | 10 | (4.1) | - | - | 9 | (3.3) |
| Other/Unknown | - | - | 11 | - | 9 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Transmission Category | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male Adult or Adolescent | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male-to-male sexual contact | 150 | - | 132 | - | 109 | - | 121 | - | 137 | - |
| Injection drug use | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Male-to-male sexual contact and injection drug use | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Heterosexual contact | 24 | - | 8 | - | 10 | - | 12 | - | 11 | - |
| Other/No Identified Risk | 52 | - | 64 | - | 73 | - | 59 | - | 63 | - |
| Female adult or Adolescent | | | | | | | | | | |
| Injection drug use | - | - | - | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - |
| Heterosexual contact | 31 | - | 15 | - | 16 | - | 18 | - | 32 | - |
| Other | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| No Identified Risk | - | - | - | - | 24 | - | 23 | - | 23 | - |
| District | | | | | | | | | | |
| South | 119 | (42.2) | 108 | (43.9) | 97 | (40.2) | 105 | (44.1) | 121 | (44.6) |
| West | 88 | (31.2) | 59 | (24.0) | 63 | (26.1) | 60 | (25.2) | 62 | (22.9) |
| North | 51 | (18.1) | 53 | (21.5) | 57 | (23.7) | 50 | (21.0) | 52 | (19.2) |
| Southwest | 24 | (8.5) | 26 | (10.6) | 24 | (10.0) | 23 | (9.7) | 36 | (13.3) |
| Total | 282 | (100.0) | 246 | (100.0) | 241 | (100.0) | 238 | (100.0) | 271 | (100.0) |

Cells with counts between 1-4 are suppressed; adjacent cells may be suppressed if a cell between 1-4 could be calculated from displayed data.

Table 2. PLWH by Selected Characteristics,
Suburban Cook County, 2015 - 2019

| Characteristic | Year | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--|--------------|------|-----|------|--|
| | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | | 2018 | | 2019 | | | | 2018 | | 2019 | |
| | No. | (%) | No. | (%) | No. | (%) | No. | (%) | No. | (%) | | | No. | (%) | | |
| Sex at Birth | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 4,014 | (76.5) | 4,193 | (76.9) | 4,368 | (77.1) | 4,559 | (77.4) | 4,727 | (77.5) | | 429.8 | | | | |
| Female | 1,230 | (23.5) | 1,258 | (23.1) | 1,297 | (22.9) | 1,326 | (22.6) | 1,373 | (22.5) | | 116.8 | | | | |
| Current Age Group (Years) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <20 | 23 | (0.4) | 24 | (0.4) | 29 | (0.5) | 36 | (0.6) | 50 | (0.8) | | 8.1 | | | | |
| 20-24 | 35 | (0.7) | 65 | (1.2) | 96 | (1.7) | 143 | (2.4) | 195 | (3.2) | | 146.9 | | | | |
| 25-29 | 266 | (5.1) | 320 | (5.9) | 356 | (6.3) | 403 | (6.9) | 470 | (7.7) | | 326.5 | | | | |
| 30-39 | 965 | (18.4) | 1,029 | (18.9) | 1,097 | (19.4) | 1,140 | (19.4) | 1,202 | (19.7) | | 415.4 | | | | |
| 40-49 | 1,156 | (22.0) | 1,185 | (21.7) | 1,231 | (21.7) | 1,274 | (21.7) | 1,310 | (21.5) | | 403.7 | | | | |
| >50 | 2,714 | (51.8) | 2,828 | (51.9) | 2,853 | (50.4) | 2,869 | (48.9) | 2,873 | (47.1) | | 374.5 | | | | |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black/African American | 2,613 | (49.8) | 2,720 | (49.9) | 2,828 | (49.9) | 2,952 | (50.3) | 3,089 | (50.6) | | 848.0 | | | | |
| White | 1,531 | (29.2) | 1,563 | (28.7) | 1,603 | (28.3) | 1,610 | (27.5) | 1,644 | (27.0) | | 127.5 | | | | |
| Hispanic/Latinx | 838 | (16.0) | 888 | (16.3) | 933 | (16.5) | 997 | (17.0) | 1,049 | (17.2) | | 707.4 | | | | |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 107 | (2.0) | 114 | (2.1) | 123 | (2.2) | 128 | (2.2) | 136 | (2.2) | | 89.4 | | | | |
| AIAN | - | - | 7 | (0.1) | 7 | (0.1) | 9 | (0.2) | 10 | (0.2) | | 62.8 | | | | |
| Other/Unknown | 155 | (3.0) | 159 | (2.9) | 168 | (3.0) | 169 | (2.9) | 172 | (2.8) | | - | | | | |
| District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| North | 1,283 | (24.5) | 1,321 | (24.2) | 1,373 | (24.2) | 1,417 | (24.2) | 1,463 | (24.0) | | 157.7 | | | | |
| West | 1,490 | (28.4) | 1,538 | (28.2) | 1,596 | (28.2) | 1,645 | (28.0) | 1,694 | (27.8) | | 336.1 | | | | |
| Southwest | 547 | (10.4) | 572 | (10.5) | 592 | (10.5) | 608 | (10.4) | 642 | (10.5) | | 176.4 | | | | |
| South | 1,929 | (36.8) | 2,020 | (37.1) | 2,101 | (37.1) | 2,195 | (37.4) | 2,301 | (37.7) | | 487.7 | | | | |
| Total | 5,244 | (100.0) | 5,451 | (100.0) | 5,662 | (100.0) | 5,865 | (100.0) | 6,100 | (100.0) | | 268.1 | | | | |

*Prevalence calculated per 100,000 population based on 2010 estimates of the population (U.S. Census Bureau).

Cells with counts between 1-4 are suppressed; adjacent cells may be suppressed if a cell between 1-4 could be calculated from displayed data.

Table 3. Municipalities and Reference Numbers in Suburban Cook County

| Ref# | City | Ref# | City | Ref# | City | Ref# | City |
|------|--------------------|------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Alsip | 32 | Elk Grove Village | 63 | Lincolnwood | 94 | Prospect Heights |
| 2 | Arlington Heights | 33 | Elmwood Park | 64 | Lynwood | 95 | Richton Park |
| 3 | Barrington | 34 | Evergreen Park | 65 | Lyons | 96 | River Forest |
| 4 | Barrington Hills | 35 | Flossmoor | 66 | Markham | 97 | River Grove |
| 5 | Bartlett | 36 | Ford Heights | 67 | Matteson | 98 | Riverdale |
| 6 | Bedford Park | 37 | Forest Park | 68 | Maywood | 99 | Riverside |
| 7 | Bellwood | 38 | Forest View | 69 | Mccook | 100 | Robbins |
| 8 | Bensenville | 39 | Franklin Park | 70 | Melrose Park | 101 | Rolling Meadows |
| 9 | Berkeley | 40 | Glencoe | 71 | Merrionette Park | 102 | Roselle |
| 10 | Berwyn | 41 | Glenview | 72 | Midlothian | 103 | Rosemont |
| 11 | Blue Island | 42 | Glenwood | 73 | Morton Grove | 104 | Sauk Village |
| 12 | Bridgeview | 43 | Golf | 74 | Mount Prospect | 105 | Schaumburg |
| 13 | Broadview | 44 | Hanover Park | 75 | Niles | 106 | Schiller Park |
| 14 | Brookfield | 45 | Harvey | 76 | Norridge | 107 | South Chicago Heights |
| 15 | Buffalo Grove | 46 | Harwood Heights | 77 | North Riverside | 108 | South Holland |
| 16 | Burbank | 47 | Hazel Crest | 78 | Northbrook | 109 | Steger |
| 17 | Burnham | 48 | Hickory Hills | 79 | Northfield | 110 | Stickney |
| 18 | Burr Ridge | 49 | Hillside | 80 | Northlake | 111 | Stone Park |
| 19 | Calumet City | 50 | Hinsdale | 81 | Oak Forest | 112 | Streamwood |
| 20 | Calumet Park | 51 | Hodgkins | 82 | Oak Lawn | 113 | Summit |
| 21 | Chicago Heights | 52 | Hoffman Estates | 83 | Olympia Fields | 114 | Thornton |
| 22 | Chicago Ridge | 53 | Hometown | 84 | Orland Hills | 115 | Tinley Park |
| 23 | Cicero | 54 | Homewood | 85 | Orland Park | 116 | University Park |
| 24 | Country Club Hills | 55 | Indian Head Park | 86 | Palatine | 117 | Westchester |
| 25 | Countryside | 56 | Inverness | 87 | Palos Heights | 118 | Western Springs |
| 26 | Crestwood | 57 | Justice | 88 | Palos Hills | 119 | Wheeling |
| 27 | Des Plaines | 58 | Kenilworth | 89 | Palos Park | 120 | Willow Springs |
| 28 | Dixmoor | 59 | La Grange | 90 | Park Forest | 121 | Wilmette |
| 29 | Dolton | 60 | La Grange Park | 91 | Park Ridge | 122 | Winnetka |
| 30 | East Hazel Crest | 61 | Lansing | 92 | Phoenix | 123 | Worth |
| 31 | Elgin | 62 | Lemont | 93 | Posen | | |

TECHNICAL NOTES

Surveillance Methodology

Healthcare providers and laboratories within suburban Cook County are required to report positive cases of HIV to the Cook County Department of Public Health within 7 days of diagnosis. These case reports are then entered into a secured database as new cases or as updates to existing cases. These data are analyzed and provide the basis for the information presented in this report.

This report includes all reported cases of HIV or AIDS through April 31, 2021. These data do not represent the entire population of persons infected with HIV nor PLWH as not all persons with HIV have been tested or reported. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that approximately 21% of persons infected with HIV are unaware of their status (1). In addition, there is often a lag (sometimes considerable) between the time a person is diagnosed with HIV infection and the time the local health department obtains the report, despite the requirement that providers and laboratories report within 7 days. Also, case counts change year to year as new reports are submitted and as databases at the local, state, and national levels are deduplicated. These are all important caveats to consider when interpreting HIV/AIDS data.

Data Presentation and Confidentiality

Small cells (representing 1-4 cases) have been suppressed in order to protect the confidentiality of persons diagnosed with HIV or PLWH. Additional cells may be suppressed or removed if they can be used to calculate cells with values between 1-4.

1. CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/test-treat-prevent/index.html>). Ending HIV Transmission | Vital Signs. Last accessed 12/31/2019.