

2020-21

HIV

Surveillance Report

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



Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health

BUILDING
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES

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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”

MSM: Male-to-male sexual contact.

NIR: No identified risk factor.

PI: Pacific Islander.

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

PWID: Person(s) who inject drugs.

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

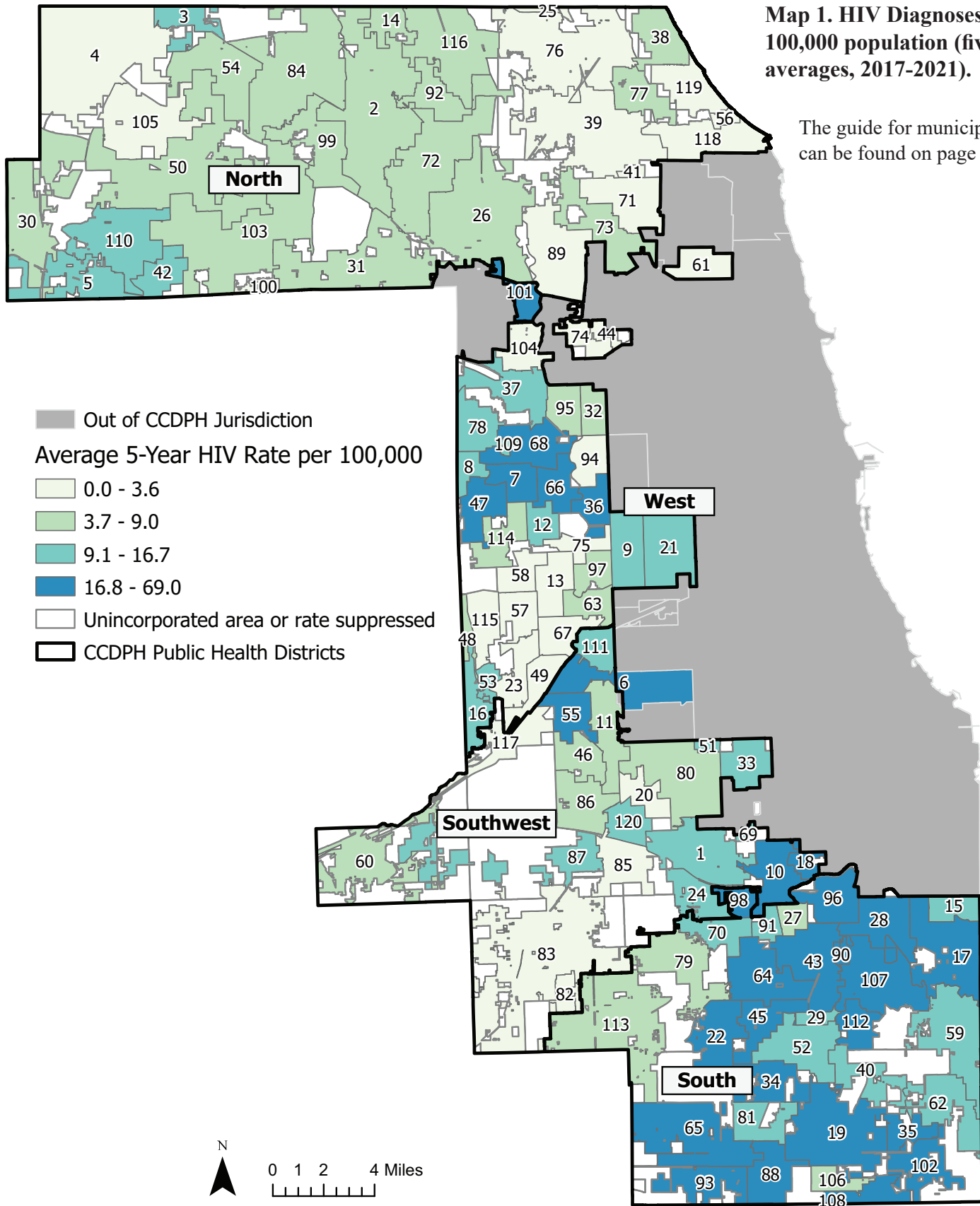
Executive Summary

In 2021, 265 new HIV diagnoses were made; there were 6,465 living with HIV (any stage) in 2021. However, in 2020 (see Figure 1, for example), many fewer new HIV diagnoses were reported. This was likely because fewer people sought testing and care during 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of the 265 new HIV diagnoses (any stage) in 2021, 225 (85%) were male (sex at birth); 126 (48%) were Black/African American persons. Black/African American persons account for only 16% of the general population in the Cook County Department of Public Health's jurisdiction, but this population represents nearly half of new HIV diagnoses. Men (sex at birth) and Black/African American persons continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV.

Most new HIV diagnoses reported were in their 20s (36%) and 30s (32%); however, most PLWH (about 2 of every 3) are 40 years old or older. For males (sex at birth), male-to-male sexual transmission remains the most common mode of transmission. For women (sex at birth), heterosexual transmission was the most common mode of transmission.

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. More resources are needed in suburban Cook County to prevent all persons, especially persons of color, from transmitting and acquiring HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).



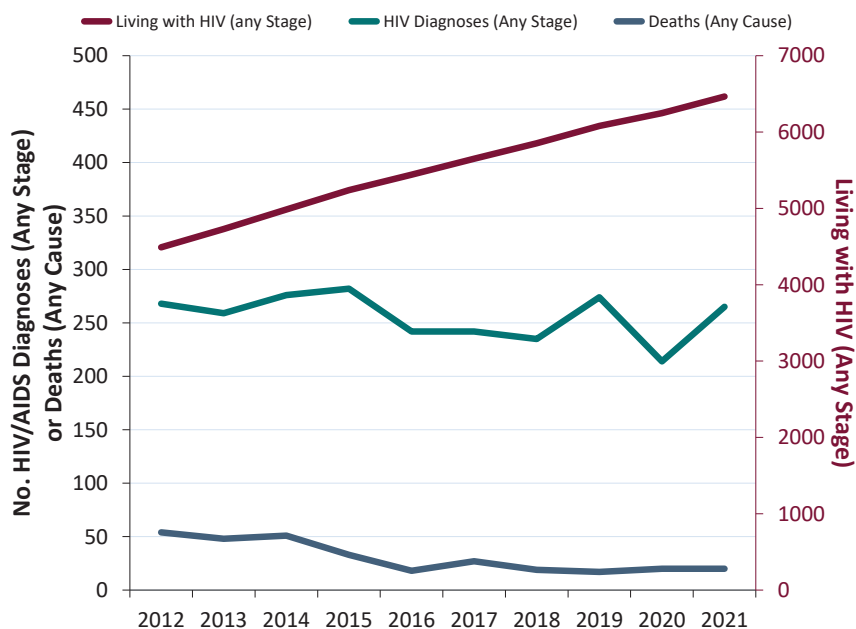


Figure 1. Trends in New HIV Diagnoses, HIV-related Deaths (Any Cause) and PLWH (Any Stage), Suburban Cook County, 2012-2021.

- In 2021, 265 new HIV diagnoses were reported. In 2020, 214 cases were reported.
- HIV prevalence has increased linearly with time.
- In 2021, there were 6,465 PLWH in suburban Cook County.

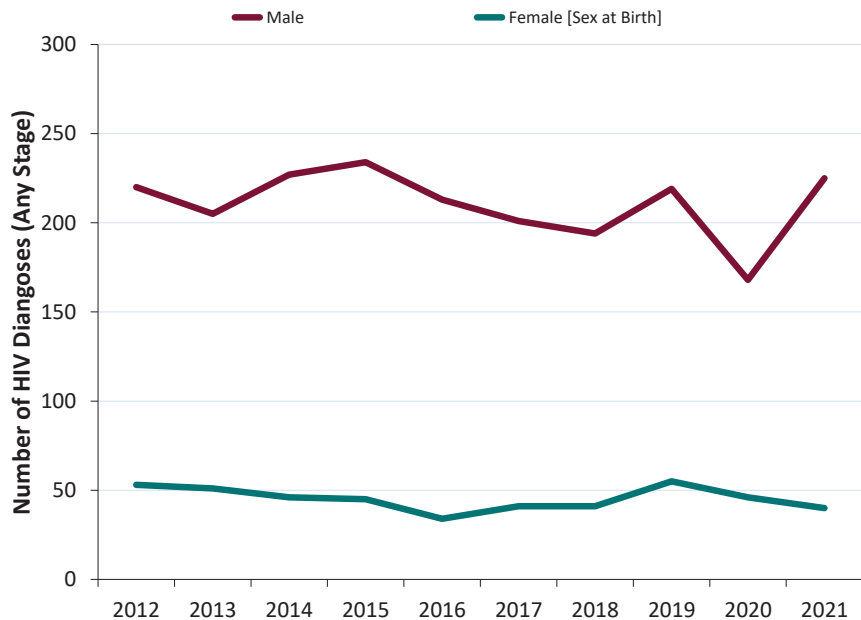


Figure 2. Trends in HIV Diagnoses by Sex (at Birth), Suburban Cook County, 2012-2021.

- The number of males and females (sex at birth) diagnosed with HIV has been relatively stable despite some yearly fluctuations, especially among males in 2020.
- HIV reports for females (sex at birth) did not show the same drop in 2020 compared to males (sex at birth).

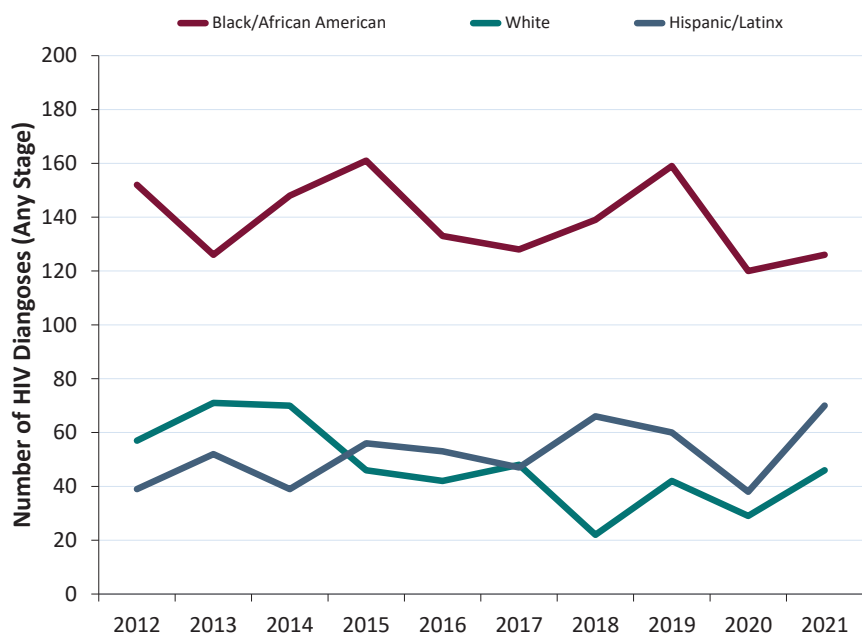


Figure 3. Trends in HIV Diagnoses by Select Race/Ethnic Groups, Suburban Cook County, 2012-2021.

- The number of HIV diagnoses in Black/African American persons remains highest.
- Though the number of HIV diagnoses decreased in 2020 for each group, Whites and Hispanic/Latinx groups experienced a significant increase in 2021. The increase in 2021 in Black/African American populations was much smaller.

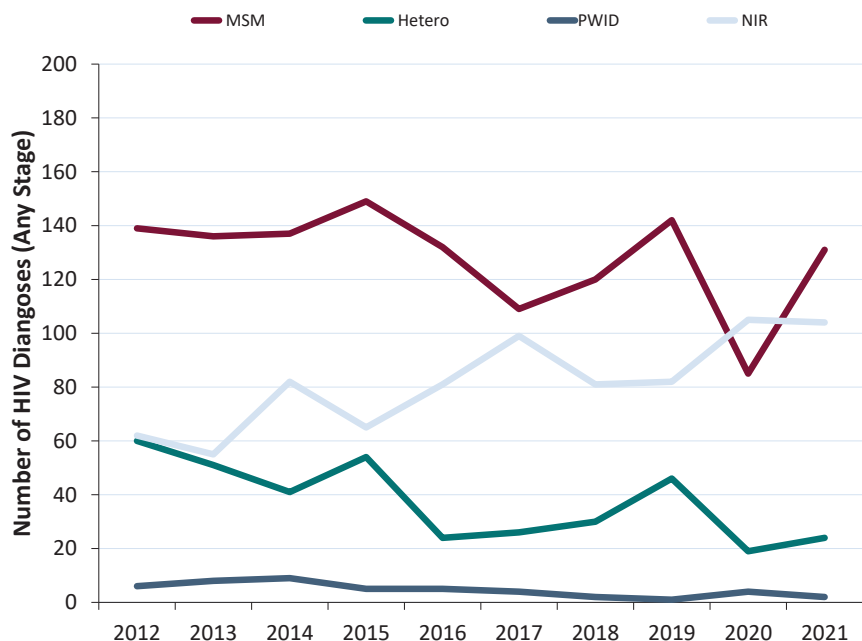


Figure 4. Trends in HIV Diagnoses by Select Modes of Transmission, Suburban Cook County, 2012-2021.

- Male-to-male sexual contact (MSM) remains the most common risk factor in persons newly diagnosed with HIV.
- The number of cases with no identified risk factor (NIR) has increased significantly since 2012. In fact, NIR was more common in 2020 than MSM.

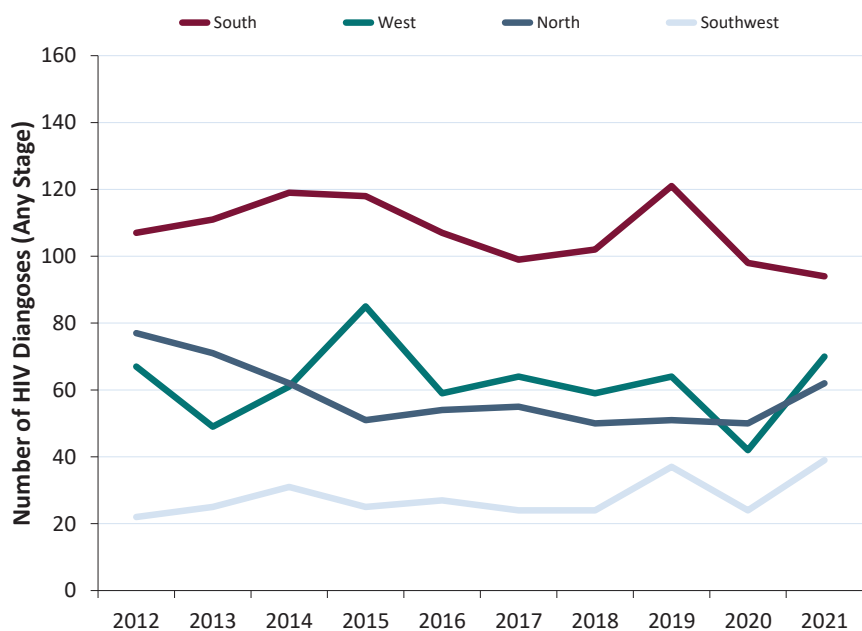


Figure 5. Trends in HIV Diagnoses by Public Health District, Suburban Cook County, 2012-2021.

- Overall, HIV diagnoses have not changed much by public health district over the past 10 years despite some yearly fluctuations.

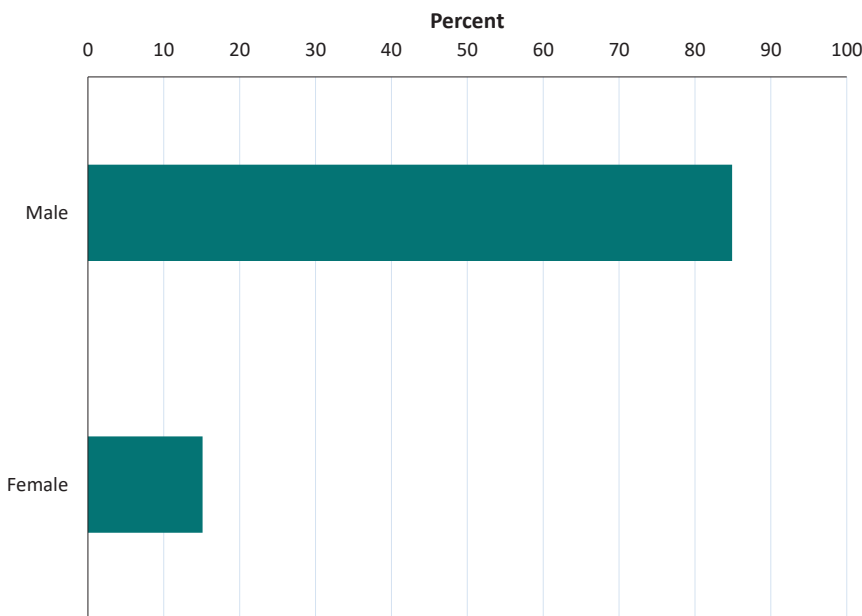


Figure 6. Proportion of New HIV Diagnoses by Sex (at Birth), Suburban Cook County, 2021.

- The vast majority (85%) of HIV diagnoses in 2021 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 higher risk for acquisition and transmission of HIV.

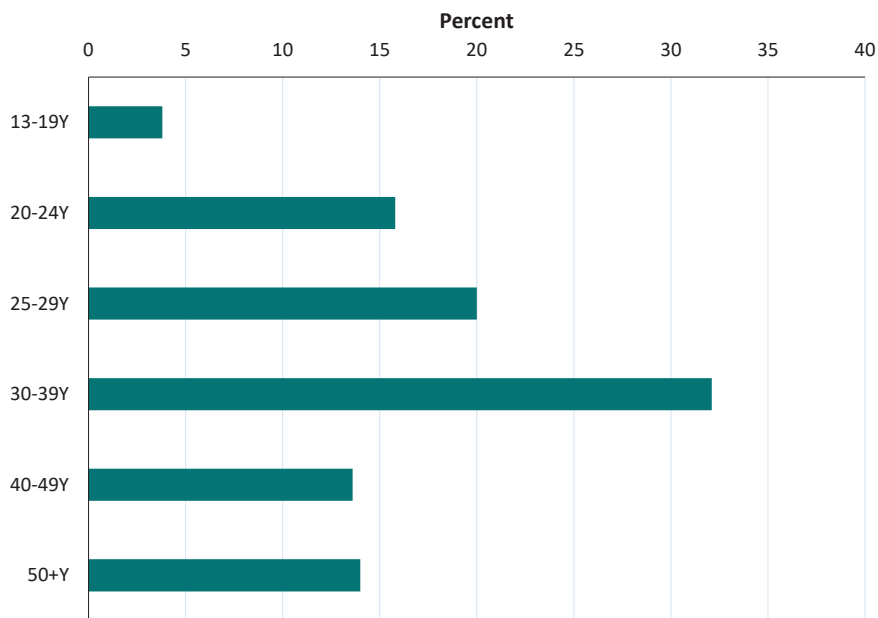


Figure 7. Proportion of New HIV Diagnoses by Age Group, Suburban Cook County, 2021.

- About 2 in 3 new HIV diagnoses in 2021 were made in persons 20-39 years of age.
- Of these, 36% were in their 20s and 32% were in their 30s.

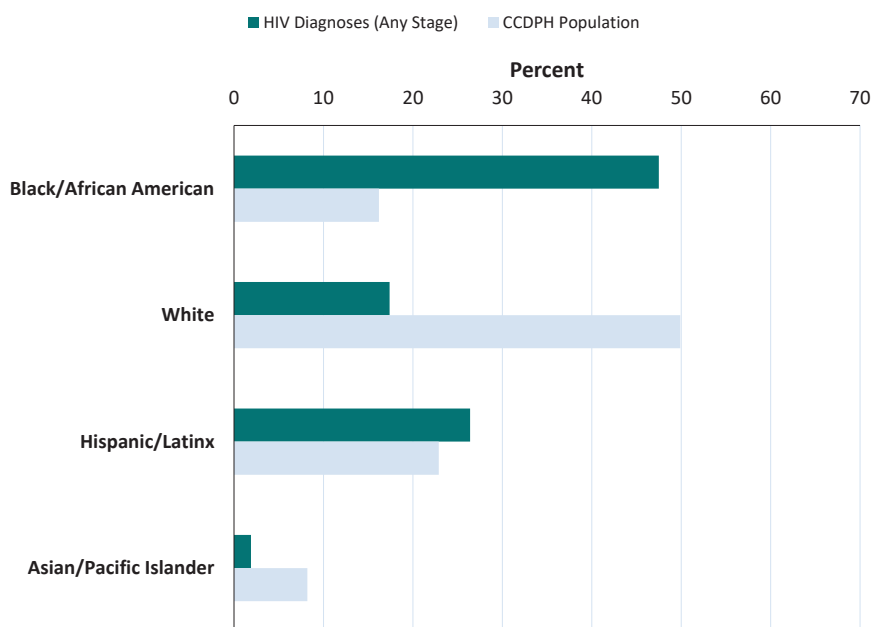


Figure 8. Comparison of the Proportions of New HIV Diagnoses and the General Population of Suburban Cook County by Select Race/Ethnic Groups, 2021.

- Black/African American persons are over-represented among persons newly diagnosed with HIV in 2021.
- In 2021, Black/African American persons represented 48% of new HIV diagnoses but are only 16% (light blue) of the population of suburban Cook County.
- Similarly, Hispanic/Latinx persons represented 26% of new HIV cases but are just 19% of the population of suburban Cook County.

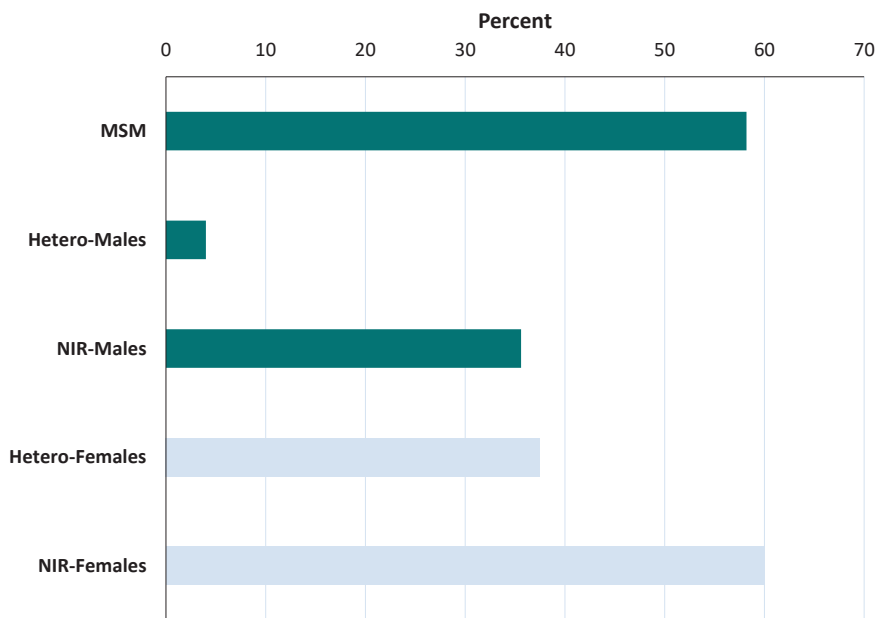


Figure 9. Proportion of New HIV Diagnoses by Select Modes of Transmission and Sex (at Birth), Suburban Cook County, 2021.

- Male-to-male sexual transmission (MSM) is the most common mode of transmission reported in men (sex at birth); heterosexual transmission is the most common mode of transmission reported in women (sex at birth).
- The proportion of cases with no identified risk factor is high in both males and females (sex at birth).
- Injection drug use was not a common mode of transmission in 2021.

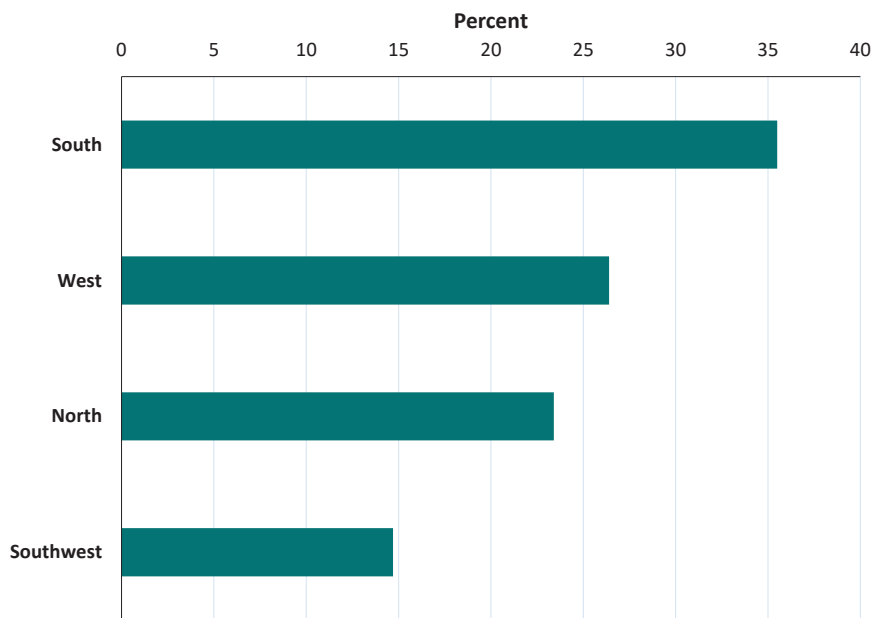


Figure 10. Proportion of New HIV Diagnoses by Public Health District, Suburban Cook County, 2021.

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



Figure 11. PLWH by Select Public Health Jurisdictions, 2021.

- The prevalence of persons living with HIV (any stage) in Illinois and suburban Cook County is lower than the prevalence in Chicago and the USA.

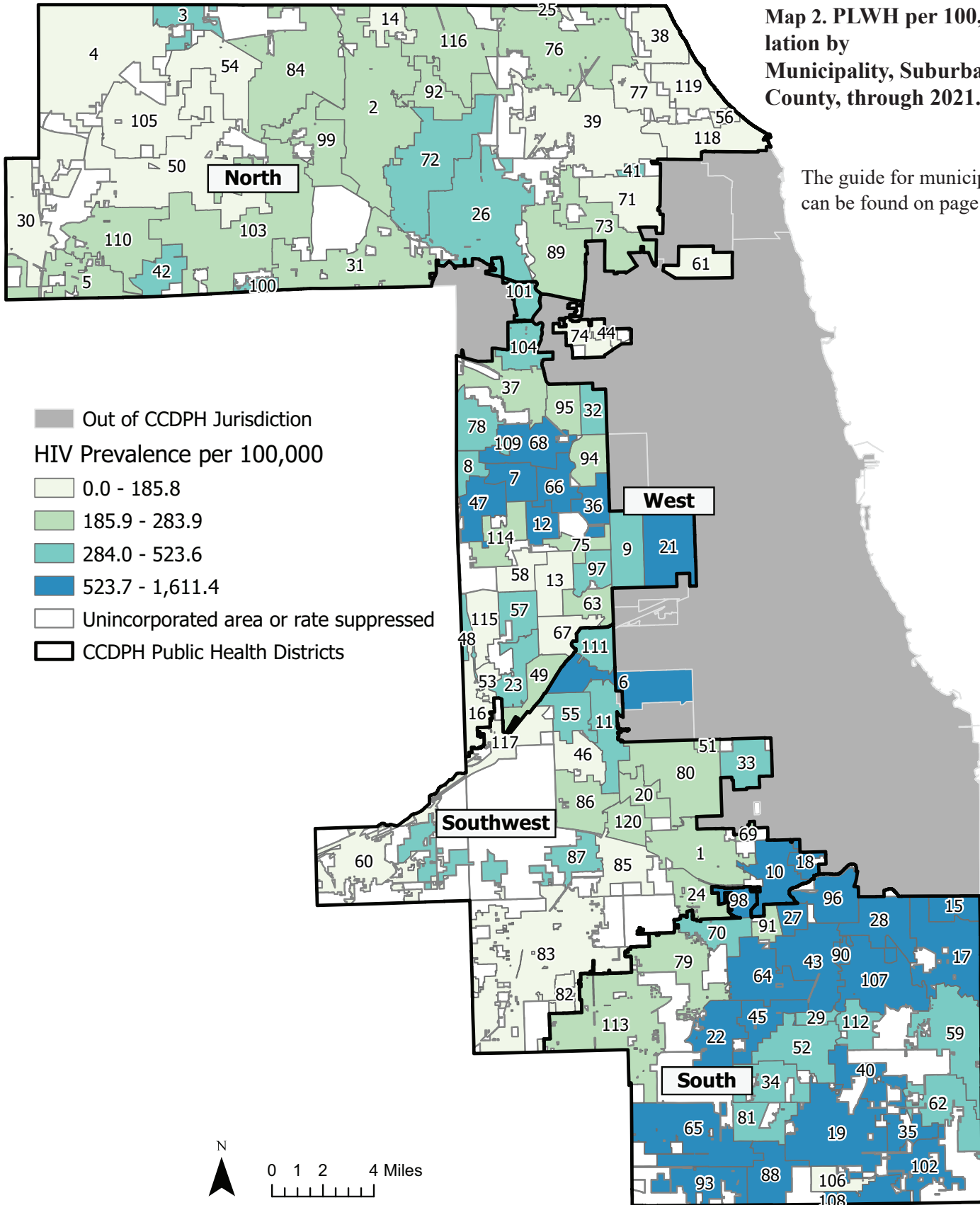
Attention Providers!

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.



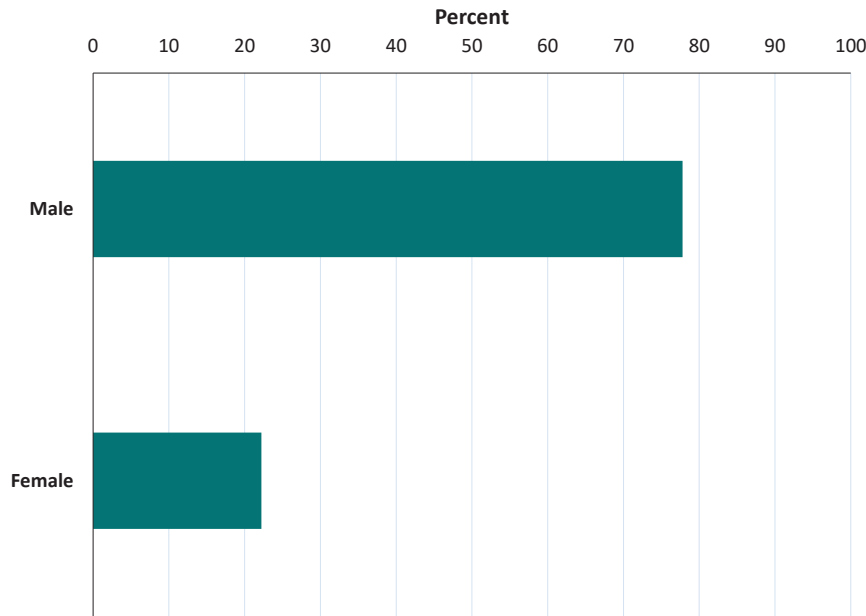


Figure 12. Proportion of PLWH by Sex (at Birth), Suburban Cook County, through 2021.

- More than 3 in 4 PLWH (2021) were male (sex at birth).
- Again, males (sex at birth) have been over-represented since the beginning of the HIV epidemic.

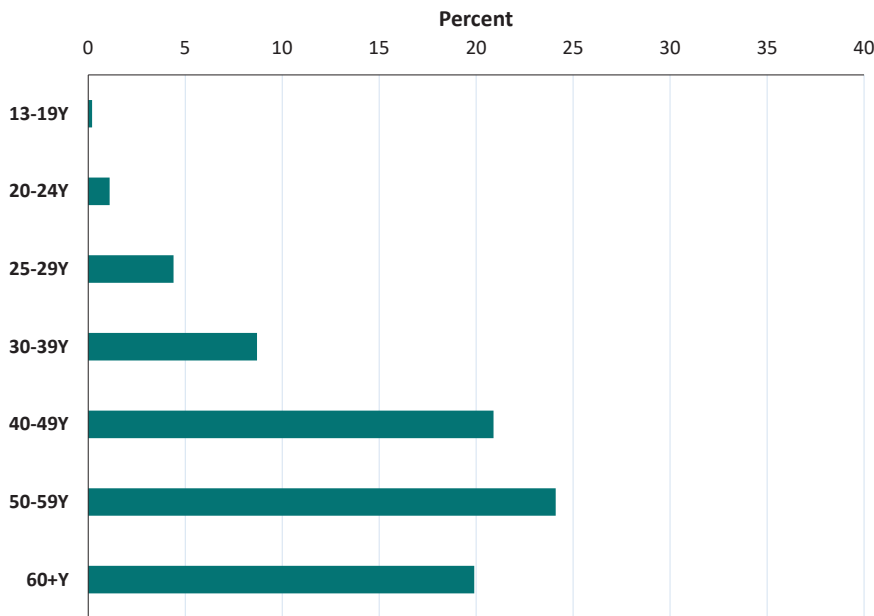


Figure 13. Proportion of PLWH by Age Group, Suburban Cook County, through 2021.

- Although most new HIV diagnoses were made in persons in their 20s and 30s (see Figure 7), 2 of every 3 PLWH are 40 years old or older.

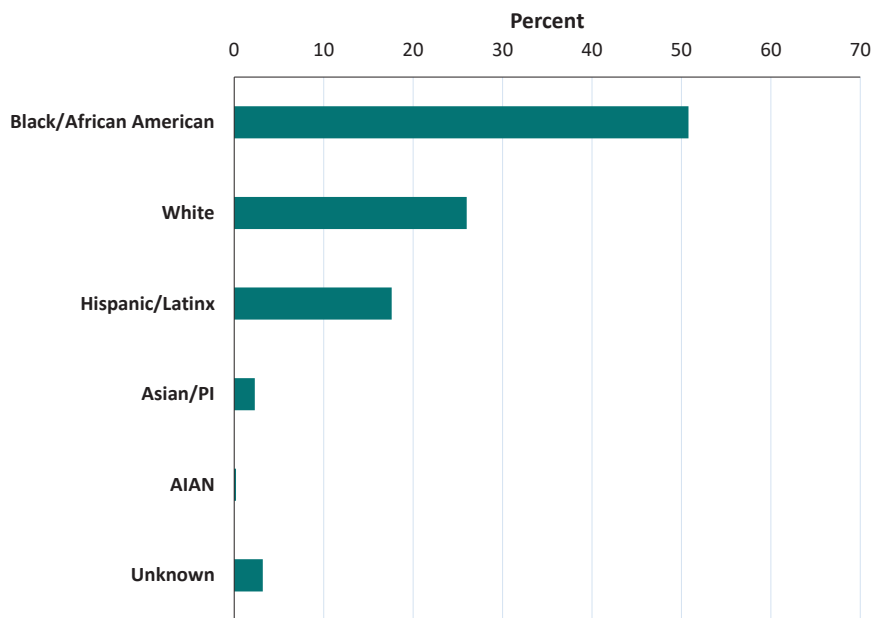


Figure 14. Proportion of PLWH by Race/Ethnicity, Suburban Cook County, through 2021.

- About half of all PLWH in suburban Cook County are Black/African American persons.
- Recall this group is only about 16% of the population of CCDPH’s jurisdiction.

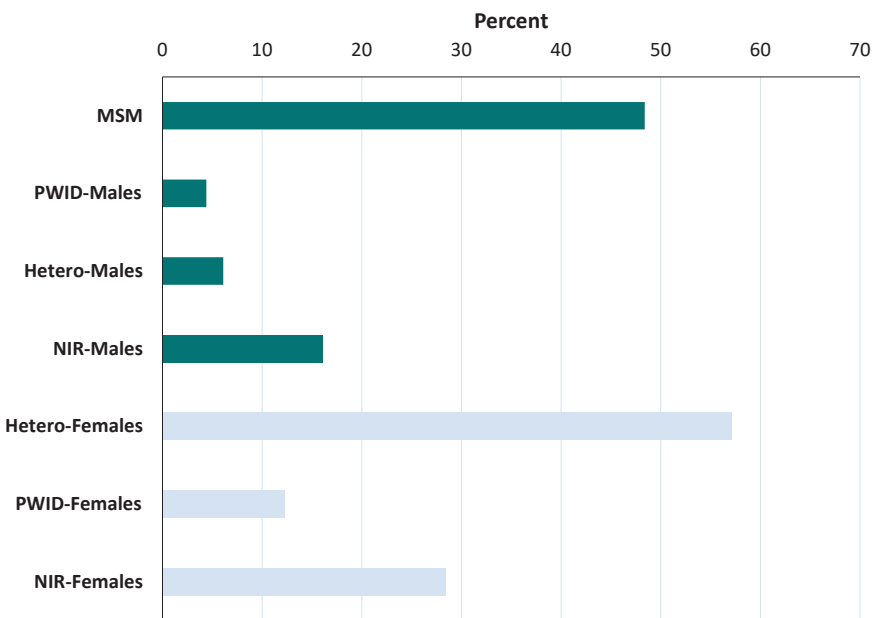


Figure 15. Proportion of PLWH by Select Modes of Transmission and Sex (at Birth), Suburban Cook County, through 2021.

- Almost half 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.

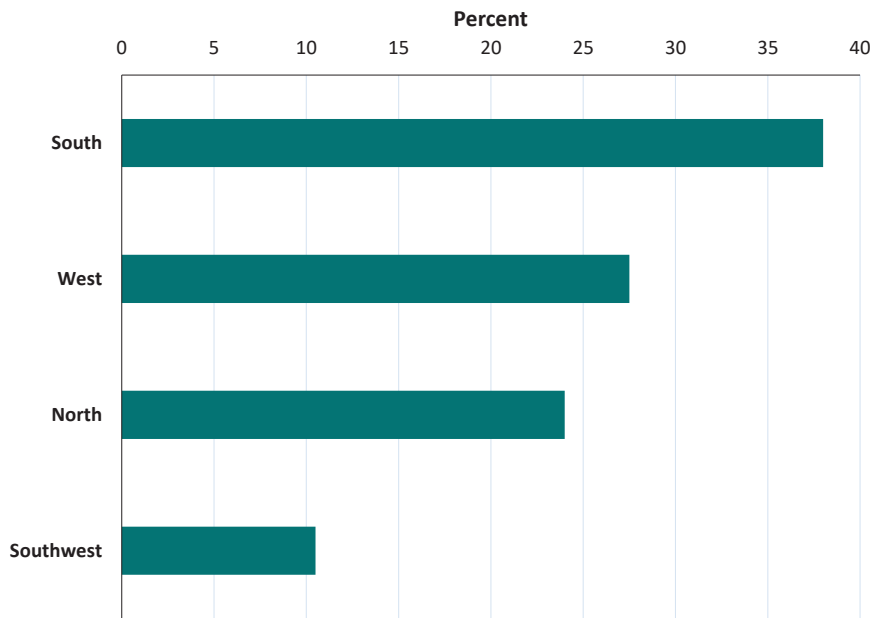


Figure 16. Proportion of PLWH by Public Health District, Suburban Cook County, through 2021.

- PLWH live mostly in the South (38%) and West (28%) districts.

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. Municipalities, Public Health Districts, and Reference Numbers in Suburban Cook County

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

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 December 15, 2022. 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.