

Integrated Epidemiologic
Profile for HIV/AIDS
Prevention and Care Planning in
Vermont

2005



Division of Health Surveillance

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Populations affected by HIV/AIDS

At the end of 2004 there were 231 Vermonters known to be living with AIDS and an additional 199 people living with HIV. It is estimated that another 103 to 116 people in Vermont are living with the virus but are not aware that they have contracted HIV. Chittenden County is the most populous county in Vermont, and 24% of the state's population resides here. Chittenden County is the only Vermont county with more than 100 people with HIV/AIDS per 100,000 residents. Forty-three percent of all Vermonters with HIV/AIDS reside in Chittenden County.

At the end of 2004 there were more cases of HIV/AIDS among men than women in Vermont; men made up 84% of all AIDS cases and 79% of all HIV cases. Although more than eighty percent of all HIV and AIDS cases in Vermont are among whites, the virus disproportionately affects the non-white populations of Vermont. Only 3% of Vermont's population is non-white, but 15% of all HIV/AIDS cases ever reported in the state are among non-whites, and 23% of all HIV/AIDS diagnoses made in 2003-2004 were among non-whites. Nationally, over half of new HIV diagnoses are among individuals younger than 25, but in Vermont it is the 40 to 49 year old age group that has the largest number of new HIV cases.

Exposure, Risk, and Population Trends

Among men in Vermont, MSM is the most commonly listed mode of exposure for contracting HIV (68% of all cases through 2004). Among women, the most commonly listed risk factors are heterosexual contact (44% of all cases through 2004) and IDU (31%). The number of women in Vermont reporting heterosexual contact as the mode of exposure has been rising since 2001.

The number of new HIV diagnoses among whites has decreased since 1999, but has increased for non-whites during this same time. The HIV-related death rate is also higher among non-whites than whites.

Ryan White Funding

All clients who received Title II services in Vermont in 2003 had incomes equal to, or below, the Federal Poverty Line. Four types of organizations provided Title II funded services in Vermont, and more than 328 Vermonters received Title II funded services via these organizations in 2003. The characteristics of the group of people in Vermont receiving Title II funded services from the hospital/university based clinics in 2003 was similar to the group of people living with AIDS in 2003. The majority of people in both groups were men, white, and the primary mode of exposure was MSM. People served under Title II funding were slightly more likely to be black or African American and more likely to report heterosexual transmission as the mode of HIV exposure. The Title II funded program that provides medication assistance (AMAP) has increased from just over one hundred participants in 2000 to 201 participants in 2004. Similarly, the use of the dental care assistance program (DCAP) has been increasing since 2000.

Who Is Not Receiving Medical Care for HIV/AIDS in VT?

During 2004 an estimated 40% of Vermonters living with HIV/AIDS did not receive HIV-related medical care. A greater percentage of men than women experienced this unmet need with young men ages 18-34 experiencing the greatest percentage of unmet need. Information from clients of Vermont's hospital/university based HIV care centers indicates a need for permanent housing among the HIV positive population.

Section One:

Core Epidemiologic Questions

Question

1

What are the sociodemographic characteristics of the general population in Vermont?

Question

2

What is the Scope of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Vermont?

Question

3

What are the indicators of HIV Disease Infection Risk in Vermont?

Question

1

What are the sociodemographic characteristics of the general population in Vermont?

This section provides information on the demographic, social and economic characteristics of Vermont residents. This information is important in understanding the contexts of the HIV epidemic in Vermont. Information on population characteristics, regional differences, employment, education, health and healthcare is included. The Vermont HIV/AIDS service network is also described here.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Vermont's population was estimated to be 621,394 people in 2004
- Racial and ethnic minorities make up 3.2% of Vermont's population
- Vermont's median household income of \$46,543 in 2004 was above the U.S. median income
- Vermont ranks 5th highest in the nation for the percent of residents 16 or older who are currently employed, and in 2004 Vermont had the 6th lowest poverty rate in the nation
- Vermont has been ranked among the healthiest states in the U.S.
- 10% of Vermont residents lacked health insurance in 2002-2003, compared to 16% nationally
- HIV medical care in Vermont is provided primarily through four hospital-based HIV clinics called Comprehensive Care Clinics

