

# 2021 Vermont HIV Annual Report

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The 2021 Vermont HIV Annual Report presents HIV surveillance data collected through the end of calendar year 2021.

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## Newly Reported HIV in Vermont

During 2021, there were 11 new reports of HIV for which no report could be identified in another jurisdiction. These cases were investigated to verify that they were not previously diagnosed in another jurisdiction.

Over the ten-year period between 2012-2021, there were 108 new reports of HIV among Vermont residents. Newly reported cases of HIV have been seen across all age groups with the highest percentage, 16.8% (n=18), among people 35-39 years of age at the time of report.

## Prevalence and Demographics

At the end of December 2021, there were 728 people living with diagnosed HIV infection (PLWDHI) in Vermont, 422 of whom were residing in Vermont at the time of HIV diagnosis. The 728 PLWDHI reflects cases reported to the Health Department under the [Reportable and Communicable Diseases Rule](#) that had reported HIV-related lab results (evidence of care) within the last five years. The 728 cases were residents of Vermont at the end of 2021, regardless of where they lived at the time of their HIV diagnosis.

Of the PLWDHI in Vermont in 2021, 397 had received a stage 3 (AIDS) diagnosis and 331 had been diagnosed with HIV infection only. The rate of HIV in Vermont at the end of 2021 was 112.5 cases per 100,000 based on [2021 Census population estimates](#).

### Race and Ethnicity

While 74.6% (n=543) of Vermont's PLWDHI population are white non-Hispanic, people of color have a far higher rate of HIV infection based on 2018 census population estimates. Though people of color account for just over 7% of Vermont's general population, they account for 25.4% of the state's PLWDHI population (n=185).

## 2021 HIV Surveillance by the Numbers

### People living with HIV

728

### Newly reported cases of HIV

11

### Viral suppression among people living with diagnosed HIV infection

94%

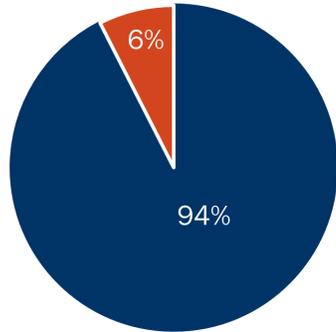
### Men who have sex with men cases among newly reported HIV

58%



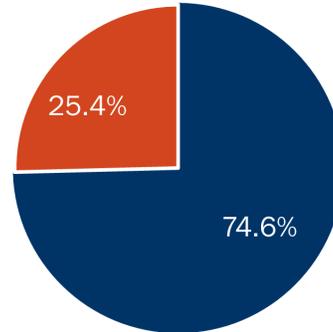
## Vermont General Population and PLWDHI Comparison by Race and Ethnicity, 2021

### Vermont General Population



- White, not Hispanic or Latino
- People of Color

### Vermont PLWDHI Population

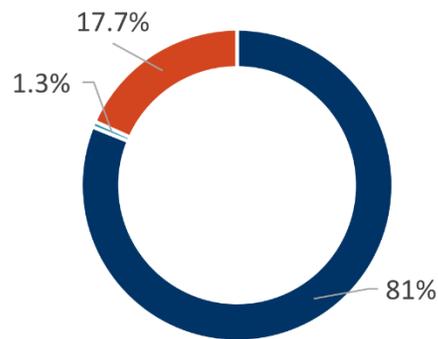


- White, not Hispanic or Latino
- People of Color

### Gender

In 2021, more than 80% of individuals living with diagnosed HIV infection were cisgender males (sex at birth was male with male current gender). The number of cisgender males living with HIV in Vermont exceeds the number of cisgender females living with the infection by a ratio of four to one. The case rate for males is 91 per 100,000 and for cisgender females it is 20 per 100,000. Transgender individuals comprise about 1.3% of the population of people living with diagnosed HIV infection in Vermont.

### Vermont PLWDHI Population by Gender, 2021

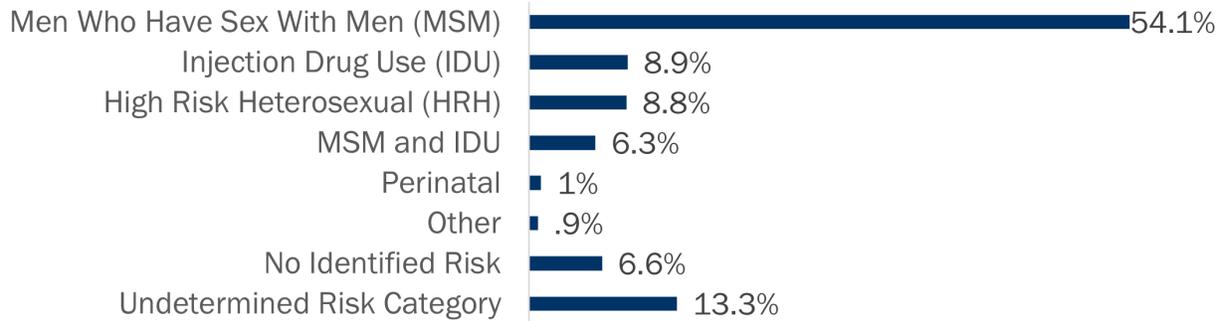


- Male
- Transgender
- Female

### Transmission Category

Most HIV infection in Vermont has occurred among men who have sex with men (MSM), as evidenced below. In 2021, MSM was the most common transmission category at 54.1% of PLWDHI in Vermont, with the next most common being no reported risk at 12.6%. These categories were followed by injection drug use (IDU) and then heterosexual contact.

## PLWDHI Residing in Vermont in 2021 - Transmission Category



## HIV Linkage to Care and Viral Suppression

The [National HIV/AIDS Strategy](#) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) established three national goals for HIV prevention and care: reducing new infections, improving health outcomes, and reducing HIV-related disparities. One indicator used to monitor progress towards these goals is to “increase linkage to care within one month of diagnosis to 95%.” All newly reported cases in 2021 were linked to care within 30 days of diagnosis.

Another indicator aims to “increase viral suppression among people with diagnosed HIV to 95%.” A person living with diagnosed HIV infection is considered virally suppressed if their viral load is less than 200 per milliliter. In Vermont, 94% of people known to be living with HIV with evidence of care in the last five years have achieved viral suppression. The percentage of PLWDHI who were both receiving care and were virally suppressed in 2021 is 77%. When looking at PLWDHI who had care in 2021, that percentage remains 94%.

### Viral Suppression among Vermont PLWDHI vs. National HIV/AIDS Strategy 2025 Goal

