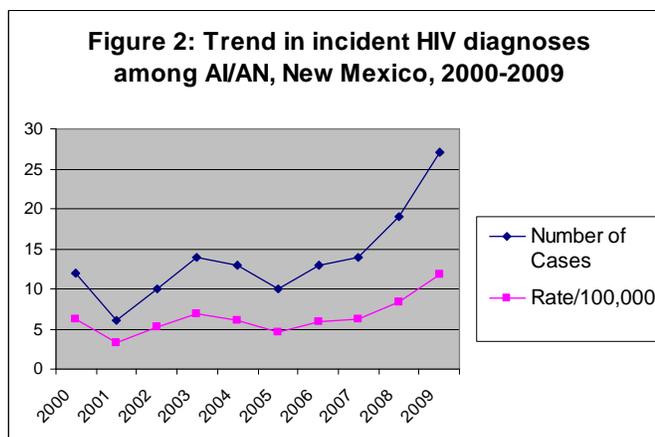
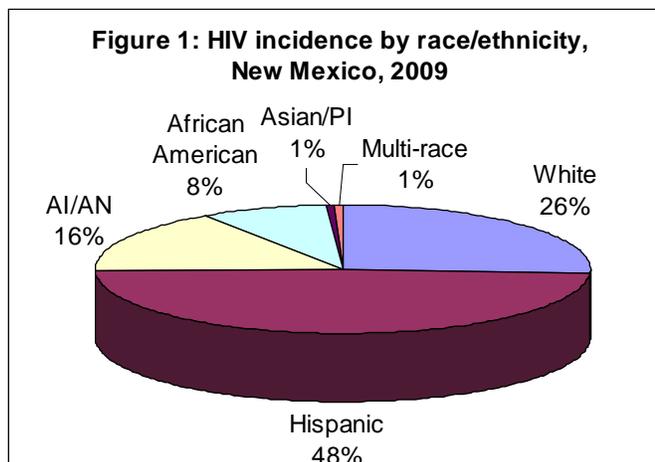


**FACT SHEET**

***HIV/AIDS among American Indians/Alaska Natives in New Mexico, August 2010***

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- American Indians and Alaska Natives\* (AI/AN) make up about 11% of New Mexico's population.<sup>1</sup> In 2009, they accounted for 16% of newly reported HIV/AIDS cases (Figure 1).
- There have been a cumulative total of 456 cases of HIV/AIDS among AI/AN reported to the NM Department of Health since 1981, including 148 who have died.
- Of the 3,328 people currently known to be living with HIV/AIDS in New Mexico, 7% are AI/AN.
- AI/AN have the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate of new HIV diagnoses (11.8 per 100,000 population) of all racial/ethnic groups in the state (second only to African Americans).
- The incidence of new HIV diagnoses among AI/AN has more than doubled over the last four years (Figure 2).



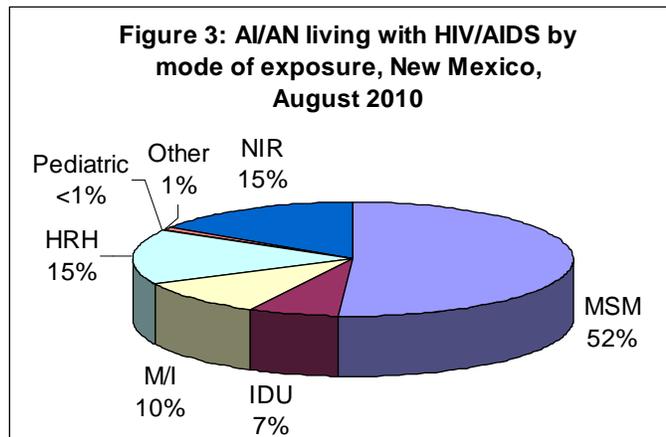
- One-fifth (20%) of AI/AN persons living with HIV/AIDS in New Mexico are reported to be co-infected with hepatitis C (HCV), while 27% have an unknown HCV status. Statewide, 16% of all people living with HIV/AIDS are known to be co-infected with HCV; 43% have an unknown HCV status.

**HIV AMONG AI/AN IN NEW MEXICO**

The majority of AI/AN both newly reported with HIV in 2009 and those who are currently living with HIV/AIDS reside in the Northwest region of the state, followed by Bernalillo County and the Northeast. Like other racial/ethnic groups, the mode of exposure most commonly reported among AI/AN living with HIV/AIDS in New Mexico is men who have sex with men (MSM, 62%);

Figure 3 shows how this includes MSM (52%) and MSM who inject non-prescribed drugs (MI, 10%).

- Among AI/AN women living with HIV/AIDS in New Mexico, nearly half (47%) reported high risk heterosexual (HRH) sex as their mode of exposure (sex with a bisexual male, an IV drug user, a transfusion/transplant recipient, or someone with a documented HIV infection), which is similar to all women statewide (50%), the same as White women (47%), and less than Hispanic women (56%).
- Fifteen percent of AI/AN women living with HIV/AIDS reported IDU compared to 23% for all women statewide, 28% for White women, and 19% for Hispanic women.
- More AI/AN women have no identified risk (NIR) reported as their mode of exposure than any other racial/ethnic group. Thirty-six percent of AI/AN women in NM have an NIR mode of exposure, while this is true of only 22% and 18% of White and Hispanic women respectively.



## PREVENTION

The New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) HIV Prevention Program funds three community-based providers to deliver HIV prevention interventions specific to AI/AN living in urban areas, pueblos, and the Navajo Nation. A variety of interventions are offered, including HIV Counseling, Testing and Referral Services (CTRS) and evidence-based models such as the Many Men/Many Voices (3MV) program for gay/bisexual men.

New Mexico organizations have created their own evidence-based models or adapted those promoted by CDC to fit the American Indian populations in their regions. For example, Navajo AIDS Network (NAN) in Gallup has adapted the “SISTA” model, originally designed for African American women, to be culturally appropriate for transgender female Navajos and other American Indians. Santa Fe Mountain Center has developed their own curriculum entitled “Native Pride” as a culturally specific approach for gay/bisexual men from New Mexico’s pueblos.

\*This analysis includes both Hispanic and non-Hispanic American Indians/Alaska Natives.

## REFERENCES

1. New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research population data for 2008.