Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) among Hispanics in New Mexico

Big Picture

Every year over the last five years more than 115 people have been newly diagnosed with HIV in New Mexico. In 2012, 119 adults and adolescents were diagnosed, down from a five year peak of 162 in 2009. Currently there are 2900 adults and adolescents living with the HIV in New Mexico. This equates to 169.5 people living with HIV per 100,000 New Mexicans age 13 or older. By comparison, in 2010, the national rate was 342.2 people living with HIV per 100,000 Americans age 13 or older.1

HIV among Hispanics in New Mexico

How many cases of HIV among Hispanics were there in 2012?
- There were 66 newly diagnosed cases that identified as Hispanic.

How does the HIV rate among Hispanics compare to other racial/ethnic groups?
- Compared to other race/ethnicities, Hispanics had the second highest rate in the state during 2012 (8.8 new cases per 100,000 adults & adolescents).
- In 2012, Hispanics comprised the biggest percentage of newly diagnosed cases of HIV (55%) and the biggest percentage of those living with HIV (44%).

1 Five-year average, 2008-2012, New Mexico Department of Health.
Among those living with HIV, how did Hispanics get infected?

- The majority of Hispanics living with HIV identified as men who have sex with men (MSM) (58%).
- High risk heterosexual sex (HRH) and injection drug use (IDU) account for roughly 12% and 10% respectively of infections among Hispanics living with HIV.

Is there a difference between the way HIV impacts men and women in New Mexico?

- 88% of Hispanics living with HIV in New Mexico are male.
- Among Hispanic females the leading transmission category was high risk heterosexual sex (57%).
- Among Hispanic males the leading transmission category was MSM (66%).

At what age are Hispanics getting diagnosed with HIV?

- Over half of Hispanics newly diagnosed in New Mexico during 2012 were under age 35 and one-in-five was under age 25.
- Although anyone can become infected with HIV at any age, data from 2012 show that young Hispanics should be aware of the risk for HIV infection.

Where do I find resources on HIV testing and HIV Prevention?

- The New Mexico Department of Health HIV, Hepatitis, and STD resource guide, at http://www.nmhivguide.org/index.html, provides links and referrals to statewide services for infectious disease – including testing, prevention, care and support services for HIV, Hepatitis, STD and Harm Reduction.

References