HIV and Transgender People
California, 2019

Although rates among transgender people are not available, HIV prevalence among transgender people in the US is estimated to be 9.2% overall (14.1% among trans women and 3.2% among trans men). By comparison, HIV prevalence in California is about 0.3%, which means HIV rates among transgender people are about 31 times higher. In 2019, 92% of transgender people who received an HIV diagnosis in California were trans women.

Demographics of New Diagnoses (N=120)

- **Race**
  - American Indian/Alaska Native: 2%
  - Asian: 6%
  - Black/African American: 20%
  - Latinx: 55%
  - White: 16%
  - Multiple races: 1%

- **Age**
  - 25-34: 50%
  - 35-44: 18%
  - 45-54: 11%
  - 55+: 3%

- **Transmission Category**
  - Injection drug use (IDU): 2%
  - Sexual contact: 93%
  - Unknown/Other: 5%

Number and Rate* Trends of New Diagnoses Among Transgender People

- Number of New Diagnoses (N=120)
- Rate of New Diagnoses (0.00 to 0.40)

Health Outcomes Among New Diagnoses

- Diagnosed: 100%
- Linked to care in 1 month: 83%
- Retained in HIV care: 76%
- Achieved viral suppression (VS) in 6 months: 67%
- Achieved VS in 12 months: 76%

Note: *Rate is calculated as the number of new diagnoses divided by the total number of diagnoses.
From 2010 to 2019 the overall rate* of new HIV diagnoses increased by 52% among transgender people

146%↑ in the rate* of new HIV diagnoses among transgender people 25-34 years old

94%↑ in the rate* of new HIV diagnoses among transgender Whites

3%↓ in the rate* of new HIV diagnoses among transgender people 13-24 years old

DECREASES IN RATES AMONG:
- Persons aged 13-24 (3%↓)

INCREASES IN RATES AMONG:
- Persons aged 25-34 (146%↑)
- Persons aged 35-44 (28%↑)
- Whites (94%↑), Latinx (57%↑), and Black/African Americans (16%↑)

HEALTH OUTCOMES
### Transgender People newly diagnosed with HIV infection, linkage to care (LTC) within one month of diagnosis, and viral suppression (VS) within 6 months of diagnosis — California, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic group</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>%Total</th>
<th>LTC</th>
<th>%LTC</th>
<th>VS</th>
<th>%VS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transgender adult or adolescent (＞12 years old at diagnosis)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual contact only</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>90.2%</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDU (regardless of sexual contact)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown risk</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race/Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinx</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>55.0%</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>87.9%</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>69.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaka Native</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>71.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native/Hawiian/Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>68.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple races</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age at diagnosis (in years)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 to 24</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>52.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>86.7%</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>76.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>68.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>92.3%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥55</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>120</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>70.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Transgender people who have sex with men are placed in the transmission category of transgender sexual contact. Persons who inject drugs are in the transmission category IDU, regardless of sexual contact.
Technical Notes

The information presented in this report is based on HIV surveillance data reported to the Office of AIDS through December 31, 2020, allowing for a minimum of 12 months’ reporting delay. For living HIV cases, persons are presumed to reside in California if the most recent available address is located in the state. For new diagnoses, persons are included if they were living in California at the time of diagnosis.

The term HIV infection is defined as any diagnosis of HIV infection that met the CDC surveillance case definition, regardless of the stage of disease (stage 0, 1, 2, 3 [AIDS], or unknown) at time of initial diagnosis. This report does not include estimates of the number of persons who are infected with HIV, but not yet diagnosed. Because persons test at differing times after becoming infected, the number of persons with newly diagnosed HIV infection is not necessarily representative of persons newly infected with HIV (HIV incidence).

**Age:** For newly diagnosed persons, the age group is based on the date of diagnosis.

**Gender:** Persons were classified as being transgender if a case report form affirming their transgender status was present in HIV surveillance data by December 31, 2020.

**Race and ethnicity:** Latinx persons can be of any race.

**Transmission category:** Transmission category is the term for classifying cases based on a person’s reported HIV risk factors. The classification results from selecting the single risk factor most likely to have been responsible for transmission, even if multiple risk factors were reported.

Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men are in the transmission category of MMSC. Transgender people who report sexual contact are placed in the transmission category of TGSC, regardless of IDU, unless otherwise noted. Transgender persons who do not report sexual contact but who inject drugs are in the transmission category IDU, unless otherwise noted. Persons whose transmission category is classified as heterosexual contact are cisgender persons who reported engaging in heterosexual intercourse with a person of the opposite sex-at-birth. The heterosexual categories exclude men who report ever having had sexual contact with both men and women—these persons are classified as MMSC. Cases of HIV infection reported without a risk factor listed in the hierarchy of transmission categories are classified as “unknown risk”. Other includes exposure to blood transfusion or blood products, receiving a transplant, and other unspecified risks.

**Rates**: Traditionally, disease rates take the form of “X number of cases per 100,000” of the population group specified. However, for some populations, such as transgender people, it can be difficult to accurately estimate population denominators. For that reason, the rates* reported on this fact sheet represent the number of transgender cases per 100,000 persons within the specified race/ethnicity and/or age group. Even though this is not a true rate, it is used to assess trends among a particular group. Rates per 100,000 persons are based on population estimates from the State of California, Department of Finance, Report P-3: State and County Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity, Detailed Age, and Gender, 2010-2060 (Sacramento, California, Jan 2020).
**Linked to Care:** Persons who had at least one CD4, viral load, or HIV-1 genotype test within the specified time period after diagnosis were considered to be linked to care during that time period.

**Viral Suppression:** Persons whose most recent HIV viral load test result within the reported time period following diagnosis was ≤ 200 copies/ml were considered to be virally suppressed.