

HIV infection among Blacks and African Americans in Oregon

Background

From 1981 through 2017, 6% (646/10,373) of cases of all HIV diagnoses in Oregon were among Blacks or African Americans; approximately 32% (209/646) have died. Among Blacks and African Americans estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Oregon at the end of 2017, 31% (171/562) were born outside the United States in several different African countries.

Recent trends (2008–2017)

During 2008–2017, 8% (184/2,425) of all newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases were Blacks or African Americans. The mean annual rate of new HIV diagnoses among Blacks and African Americans was almost five times the rate for Whites (26.6 vs. 5.4 per 100,000 Oregon residents) (Figure 1). Among the 184 Blacks or African Americans diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Oregon during 2008–2017, 39% (73/184) were born in another country. Of these, 51% (37/73) were male and 49% (36/73) were female. The proportion of foreign-born cases has fluctuated between 1984 and 2017, as shown in Figure 2. The location where people acquire HIV is rarely known with certainty.

Among the 133 Black or African American men recently diagnosed with HIV infection, 64% (85/133) acknowledged having had sex with other men, which is proportionally fewer than White men who reported sex with other men (82%, 1,201/1,477). Eight percent (11/133) of recently diagnosed Black or African American men reported heterosexual contact compared to 2% (34/1,477) of White men (Table 1).

Fifty-one Black or African American women were diagnosed with HIV in Oregon during 2008–2017. Sixty-three percent (32/51) of Black or African American women reported a heterosexual exposure (27%; 14/51). Only three Black or African American women (6%, 3/51) acknowledged injection drug use compared to 28% (50/178) of White women and 10% (4/40) of Hispanic women. A similar proportion of Black or African American women (27%, 14/51) reported not knowing their risk of infection compared to Whites (30%, 54/178) and Hispanics (30%, 12/40).

Blacks and African Americans facts at a glance

- Approximately 7% (562/7,557) of people estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Oregon at the end of 2017 were Black or African American.
- Thirty percent of Blacks living with HIV in Oregon were born outside the United States.

Diagnosed with HIV infection in Oregon, 2008–2017

- Blacks and African Americans were almost five times more likely than Whites to be diagnosed with HIV infection.
- Among Blacks and African Americans recently diagnosed, 72% (133/184) were male.
- Black and African American men were less likely than White men to report having had sex with other men (64% vs. 82%).

Figure 1 Rates of HIV diagnosis by race/ethnicity per 100,000 population, Oregon 2008–2017

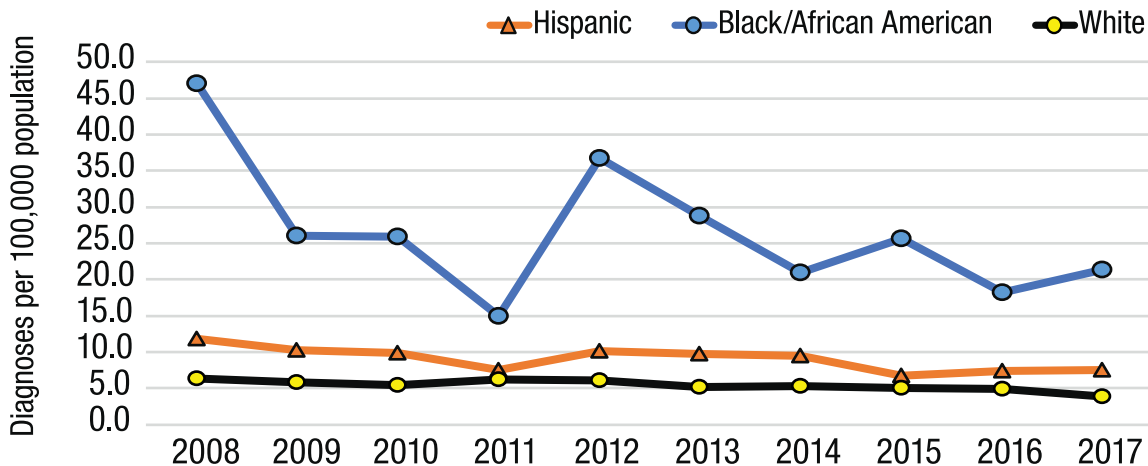


Figure 2 Black/African Americans diagnosed in Oregon, 1981–2017

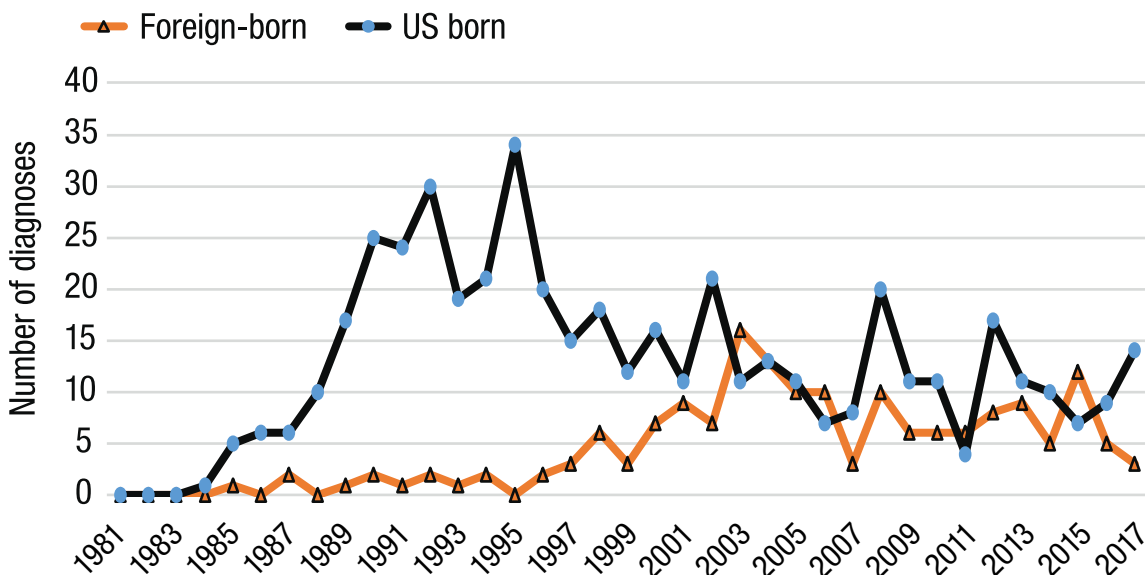


Table 1 HIV transmission* by sex and race/ethnicity, Oregon 2008–2017

	Black		Hispanic		White	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Male transmission						
Men who have sex with men (MSM)	71	53%	285	73%	1,028	70%
Injection drug use (IDU)	5	4%	9	2%	86	6%
MSM/IDU	14	11%	20	5%	173	12%
Heterosexual	11	8%	10	3%	34	2%
Unknown	27	20%	66	17%	156	11%
Pediatric	5	4%	1	0%	0	0%
Total	133	100%	391	100%	1,477	100%
Female transmission						
IDU	3	6%	4	10%	50	28%
Heterosexual	32	63%	23	58%	74	42%
Unknown	14	27%	12	30%	54	30%
Pediatric	2	4%	1	3%	0	0%
Total	51	100%	40	100%	178	100%

* Transmission category (sometimes known as “risk category”) has been assigned based on a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention schema.

Epidemiologic resources:

Oregon Health Authority, HIV/AIDS epidemiology: <https://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/CommunicableDisease/DiseaseSurveillanceData/HIVData/Pages/index.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/hiv.

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