

HIV infection among American Indians and Alaska Natives in Oregon

Diagnosed with HIV infection in Oregon, 2008–2017

- The average rate of new HIV diagnoses among people who identified as non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native was similar to that of Whites (4.5 vs. 5.4 per 100,000 Oregon residents).
- Of people who only identified as non-Hispanic, AI/AN represented less than 1% (23/2,425) of diagnoses during 2008–2017. Another 22 cases identified as AI/AN and another race/ethnicity.
- Females accounted for 40% of recent diagnoses among AI/AN compared to 11% among Whites.

Of all Oregon residents known to be living with HIV (regardless of year or residence diagnosis) at the end of 2017:

- Two percent (157/7,557) identified as AI/AN of the 157%:
 - » Seventy-two (46%) identified as AI/AN alone and 85 (54%) identified as AI/AN combined with another race or with Hispanic ethnicity.
 - » Seventy-nine percent (124/157) were male and 21% (33/157) were female.
 - » Thirty-eight percent (59/157) reported injection drug use at time of diagnosis compared to 18% of non-Hispanic Whites.

Recent trends (2008–2017)

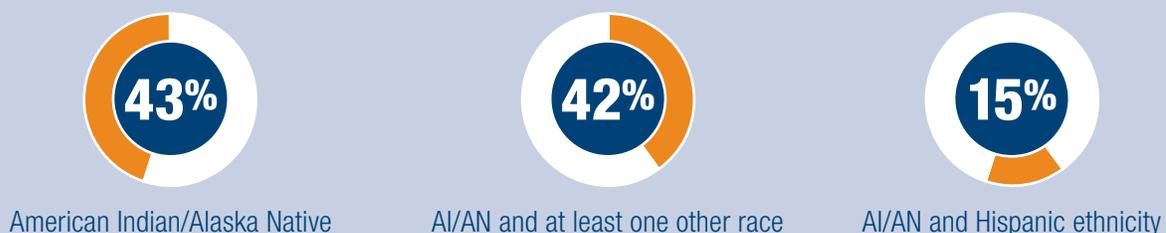
During 2008–2017, 2% (53/2,425) of HIV cases diagnosed in Oregon occurred among people identified as AI/AN. Twenty-three (43%) were identified as AI/AN alone, 22 (42%) identified as AI/AN and another race, and eight (15%) also identified as Hispanic (Figure 1).

HIV and American Indians/Alaska Natives facts at a glance

- Roughly 2% (157/7,557) of people estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Oregon at the end of 2017 identified as American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) alone or in combination with another race or ethnicity. Of these, 46% (72/157) identified as AI/AN alone and 54% (85/157) identified with at least one other race or with Hispanic ethnicity.*
- Thirty-eight percent (59/157) of people estimated to be living in Oregon with HIV/AIDS who identified as AI/AN reported injection drug use at time of diagnosis.

* Throughout this fact sheet AI/AN identify will include people identified in our records as AI/AN alone or in combination with one or more other races or ethnicities.

Figure 1 New HIV diagnoses with American Indian/Alaska Native listed alone or in combination with other race/ethnicities, Oregon, 2008–2017 (n= 53)



If we compare rates of diagnoses among AI/AN and Whites using US Census estimates, we may be underestimating HIV among persons who consider themselves AI/AN but are counted as two or more races or as Hispanic, where Hispanic ethnicity trumps any racial category. Using US Census estimates, the average rate of new HIV diagnoses among people who identified AI/AN was similar to that of Whites (4.5 vs. 5.4 per 100,000 Oregon residents).

The average age at diagnosis of people identified as AI/AN was 35 years compared to 39 years among non-Hispanic Whites. Delayed diagnosis (as measured by diagnosis of AIDS within a year of HIV diagnosis) was comparable between AI/AN and non-Hispanic Whites (36% vs. 37% had an AIDS diagnosis within 12 months of HIV diagnosis). Proportionally, more AI/AN reported injection drug use (32%) than any other racial groups (non-Hispanic White, 19%; Hispanic, 8%; non-Hispanic Black/African American, 12%; non-Hispanic Asian, 6%).

Among recently diagnosed cases of HIV infection, 74% (29/39) of cases diagnosed among AI/AN identified men reported ever having had sex with another man (Figure 2). Female cases accounted for 26% (14/53) of the recent diagnoses among AI/AN identified people compared to 11% (172/1,609) among non-Hispanic Whites. Fifty percent (7/14) of recently diagnosed AI/AN identified women reported injection drug use compared to 28% (49/172) of non-Hispanic White females (Figure 3).

Figure 2 Reported male transmission risk among American Indians/Alaska Natives in Oregon diagnosed, 2008–2017 (n= 39)



Figure 3 Reported female transmission risk among American Indians/Alaska Natives in Oregon diagnosed 2008–2017 (n= 39)



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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