

Prevalence of Undiagnosed HIV in the Indianapolis-Carmel Metropolitan Statistical Area

Marion County Public Health Department, Epidemiology Request DR2370

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The [Marion County Public Health Department's Ryan White HIV Services Program](#) oversees Ryan White Part A, C, and Minority AIDS Initiative grants in the Indianapolis-Carmel Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). These programs serve the needs of persons newly infected or living with HIV and out of care and/or uninsured or medically underserved.

Prevalence of Undiagnosed HIV: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) most recent HIV surveillance report provides evidence of a decrease in the prevalence of U.S. residents living with undiagnosed HIV, from 14% to 12.8%.¹ However, prevalence varies widely by demographic and transmission category. CDC estimates were applied to the MSA and are presented in [Table 1](#). Please refer to this table for references made within the following paragraphs.

Differences by Gender: The prevalence of undiagnosed HIV among males was found to be somewhat higher than among females.¹ Research shows, however, that the prevalence of undiagnosed HIV among male-to-female transgender individuals is at least twice that of males or females.²

Differences by Race/Ethnicity: Differences are more apparent when estimating prevalence of undiagnosed HIV by race/ethnicity. Non-Hispanic Whites are thought to have the lowest prevalence of undiagnosed HIV, followed by individuals of multiple race, Black/African Americans, and Hispanic/Latinos.¹ The race/ethnicities of those most likely to be living with undiagnosed HIV are American Indian/Alaska Natives, Asians, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders.¹

Differences by Age: Age is the demographic characteristic by which most variance was found. Surveillance data clearly demonstrate a strong inverse relationship between undiagnosed HIV and age. This seems logical considering that the older we become the more opportunities we have to receive HIV screening or to develop symptoms from long asymptomatic HIV infection. Surprisingly, however, is that nearly half of 13-24 year olds living with HIV are thought to be undiagnosed and unaware of their status.¹ Prevalence of undiagnosed HIV among 25-34 year olds (26.3%) is more than twice the overall rate.^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} In fact, prevalence is estimated to be in the double digits until one reaches 45 years of age.

Differences by Transmission Category: Men who engage in high-risk heterosexual contact (with those at high risk of HIV infection) have the highest prevalence of undiagnosed HIV, followed closely by men who engage in sexual contact with other men (MSM) and women who engage in high-risk heterosexual contact. Injection drug users and people with other risk factors (hemophilia, blood transfusions, perinatal, undisclosed/unreported) have the lowest prevalence of undiagnosed HIV.

While this decrease in the prevalence of undiagnosed HIV is a step in the right direction, nearly one in eight people living with HIV continue to be undiagnosed and unaware of their status. It is the goal of the Ryan White HIV Services Program that surveillance data such as the CDC's will be used by programs to target intensive outreach services to those individuals with the greatest risk of living with HIV while unaware of their status and out of care.

Table 1: Estimated HIV Prevalence in the Indianapolis-Carmel MSA: December 31, 2014

Gender	Diagnosed	Undiagnosed		Est. Total
	N	%	N	%
Male	4,312	13.3	662	4,974
Female	1,032	11.4	133	1,165
Transgender (MTF)	51	Est. 25%	17	68
Race/Ethnicity				
American Indian/Alaska Native	<5	18.9	<5	<10
Asian	121	20.6	32	153
Black/African American	2,288	13.7	364	2,652
Hispanic/Latino	395	14.7	69	464
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<5	23.1	<5	<10

White	2,443	10.2	278	2,721
Multiple races	160	12.3	23	183
Age (Yr.)				
13-19	39	44.2	31	70
20-24	212	44.2	168	380
25-34	951	26.3	340	1,291
35-44	1,206	13.2	184	1,390
45-54	1,809	7.9	156	1,965
55-64	918	6.0	59	977
65+	253	3.3	9	262
Transmission Category				
MSM	3,093	14.8	538	3,631
IDU (Male)	167	5.0	9	176
IDU (Female)	117	6.0	8	125
MSM + IDU	287	6.4	20	307
High-risk heterosexual (Male)	384	16.4	76	460
High-risk heterosexual (Female)	832	13.3	128	960
Other	531	3.8	21	552
Total	5,411	12.8	795	6,206

Sources:

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). [Monitoring selected national HIV prevention and care objectives by using HIV surveillance data - United States and 6 dependent areas - 2013.](#)

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). [HIV among transgender people.](#)