

## New HIV infections (including AIDS cases), 2019-2020

**HIV in S.C.** For the two-year period 2019-2020, 1,495 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in S.C. which is slightly lower than the 1,519 diagnosed in 2017-2018.

**By gender**, 80 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases occur among men; 20 percent were among women.

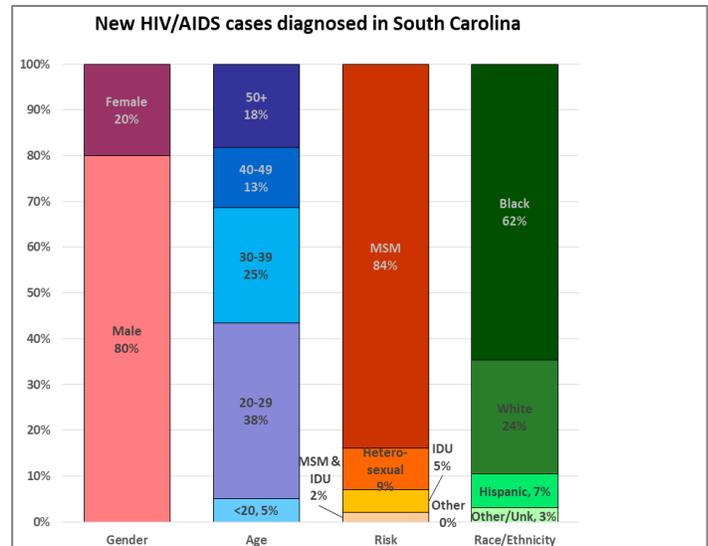
**By age**, the majority (38 percent) of new HIV/AIDS cases were among people ages 20-29, 25 percent were among people age 30-39, 13 percent were among people age 40-49, and 18 percent were age 50 and up. Five percent of new cases were under the age of 20.

**By risk**, among the 905 people with a reported risk, men who have sex with men (MSM) represent the largest proportion (84 percent) of newly diagnosed; followed by nine percent indicating heterosexual sex (men who have sex with women / women who have sex with men) as their exposure to HIV. Forty-one people (five percent of total with reported risk) were infected through injection drug use (IDU). Of the people who reported a risk, two percent indicated the combined risks of MSM and IDU.

**By race/ethnicity**, among people newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in S.C., 62 percent were African American; 24 percent were white; seven percent were Hispanic. In 2019-2020, African Americans had a case rate 6.5 times greater than whites in S.C.

**Among women** recently diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in S.C., most were African American (63 percent); 22 percent were white; five percent were Hispanic. Of the 80 women reporting risk, 75 percent indicated heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV and 19 percent reported injection drug use.

**Among men** recently diagnosed in S.C., 61 percent were African American; 24 percent were white; and seven percent were Hispanic. Of the 826 men reporting risk, 92 percent were men who have sex with men, two percent were exposed through heterosexual sex; three percent reported injection drug use; and three percent were both men who have sex with men and injection drug users.



## Total People Living with HIV/AIDS through December 2020

As of December 2020, there were 19,437 residents of South Carolina living with a diagnosis of HIV (including AIDS). Of these, 14,018 were men and 5,419 were women. Most people (9,895) were ages 50 and over; 3,700 were ages 40-49; 3,703 were ages 30-39; 1,957 were ages 20-29; and 182 were children and teens under 20 years of age.

Similar to new infections, African Americans are disproportionately impacted. Most of the people living with HIV in S.C. were African American men (47 percent), 22 percent were African American women, 21 percent were white men and five percent were white women. Six percent of people living with HIV were Hispanic/Latino (men & women).

Of the 15,117 people living with HIV who reported a risk, 57 percent reported a risk of men who have sex with men; followed by men and women exposed through heterosexual sex (29 percent); injection drug use (eight percent); and four percent the combined risk of men who have sex with men and injection drug use.

### S.C. HIV Prevention Program Priority Populations

Care, treatment and prevention services for persons living with HIV/AIDS are a top priority for the State of South Carolina's HIV Program.

<b>Among remaining priority populations for HIV prevention services:</b>		
<b>S.C. HIV Prevention Program Priority Populations <sup>(1,2)</sup></b>	<b>2019/2020 Diagnosed HIV/AIDS Cases by Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (941 Total) *</b>	<b>People Living with HIV/AIDS, 2020 By Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (15,413 Total)</b>
2. African American MSM	52%	33%
3. African American WSM	4%	15%
4. African American MSW	2%	7%
5. White MSM	19%	18%
6. IDU	4%	8%
7. ♦Hispanic/Latino <sup>3</sup>	11%	6%

**\*Caution: Due to small numbers, must interpret recent case proportions with caution.**

**NOTES:**

1. Populations: MSM = Men who have Sex with Men; IDU = Injecting Drug User; WSM = Women who have Sex with Men; MSW = Men who have Sex with Women.
2. Priority Populations are a subset of the Epi Profile data and are not directly comparable to incidence and prevalence counts/percentages.
3. Ethnicity, in and of itself, is not a risk factor for HIV; however, in the context of Priority Populations, Hispanic/Latino is included as a 'Risk' for reporting purposes.

Source: SCDHEC, STD/HIV Division 12/2021