

Facts about... HIV/AIDS Among Foreign-Born Residents

Summary: Twenty percent of HIV-infected residents of King County were born outside the United States and territories, and this proportion has increased over time. Most of the increases were among foreign-born blacks and Hispanics. Foreign-born blacks with HIV are more likely than U.S.-born blacks with HIV to be female, and most were infected heterosexually. Both foreign-born and U.S.-born Hispanics are likely to be males who have sex with men. Because of these differences, these two groups are also described separately in the HIV/AIDS in People of Color Fact Sheet.

Population: Estimates of the foreign-born population by characteristics such as race, ethnicity, sex, and age are imprecise. Small numbers can be heavily impacted by both documented and undocumented immigration, data categories are inconsistent from one year to the next, and Census Bureau surveys often present only incomplete data. According to the 2006 American Community Survey, an estimated 19.3% to 20.5% of King County residents were foreign-born. Foreign-born blacks could be as low as 1.3% and as high as 1.7% of the population. These challenges make calculation of rates problematic.

Status of HIV cases (Table 1 and 2):

- The proportion of HIV-infected King County residents who are foreign-born (912 total) is higher among People of Color. Over one-half of Asian & Pacific Islanders (API) and Hispanics, and one-third of blacks who are HIV-infected were born outside the U.S. Only 2% of whites with HIV are foreign-born. The 86 cases among Native Americans and Alaska Natives are not described below because virtually all are U.S.-born.

Table 1: Place of birth, sex, and race among King County residents living with HIV/AIDS (June 2008)

	White	Black	Hispanic	API	Total ¹
Total Number HIV+	4,299	1,041	593	197	6,283
Foreign-born	2%	35%	52%	66%	15%
U.S.-born	93%	62%	39%	26%	81%
Of Foreign-born, % Female	13%	46%	9%	12%	25%
Of U.S.-born, % Female	5%	20%	6%	10%	7%

¹Total includes 67 people of multiple or unknown race, and 288 persons with unknown birthplace

- The proportion of HIV-infected persons who are female is higher among blacks and among foreign-born persons.
- 46% of HIV-infected foreign-born blacks are female
- 20% of HIV-infected U.S.-born blacks are female
- 9%-13% of HIV-infected foreign-born whites, Hispanics, or API are female
- 5%-10% of HIV-infected U.S.-born whites, Hispanics, or API are female
- The mode of HIV exposure differs substantially between the U.S.-and foreign-born infected people (Table 2). Most foreign-born blacks are infected heterosexually and many have undetermined mode of exposure. Most U.S.-born blacks are men who have sex with men or injection drug users.
- The mode of HIV exposure is similar between U.S. and foreign-born whites, Hispanics, and API (Table 2). Men having sex with men (MSM) is the most common exposure among these groups followed by Injection drug users (IDU).

- Blacks born outside the U.S. make up just 6% of the total HIV-infected population in King County, but 35% of all heterosexually-acquired infections.

Table 2: Mode of HIV exposure by place of birth and race of people living with HIV in King County (June 2008)¹

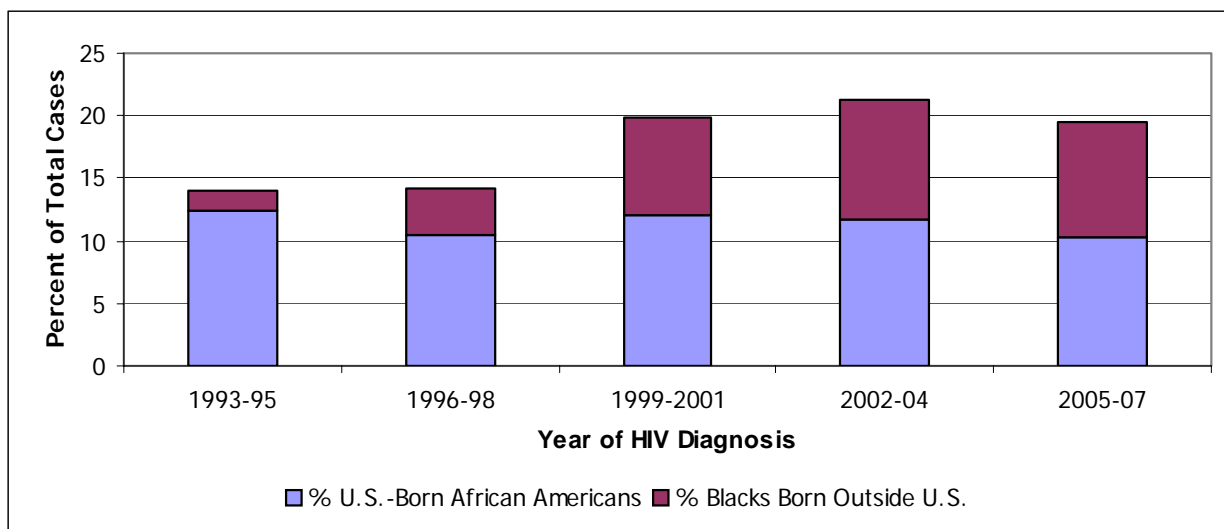
	MSM or IDU	Hetero-sexual	Other exposure ²	Total
US-born whites	93%	4%	3%	4,017
US-born blacks	73%	16%	11%	650
US-born Hispanics	90%	5%	5%	232
US-born API	88%	4%	8%	52
Foreign-born whites	79%	13%	8%	99
Foreign-born blacks	7%	58%	35%	361
Foreign-born Hispanics	70%	14%	16%	311
Foreign-born API	62%	13%	25%	130
Unknown birthplace	83%	4%	13%	288

¹Not shown in this table are 67 US-born persons of multiple race or with missing race, and 86 Native Americans.

²Other exposure includes blood exposure, perinatal exposure, or undetermined mode of transmission.

Trends in HIV/AIDS cases (Figure 1): The proportion of HIV cases among people who are foreign-born has increased from 7% of people diagnosed 1993-1995 to 23% of people diagnosed 2005-2007. Most of this increase was among blacks and Hispanics. Over these same time periods, the proportion of HIV cases among blacks who are foreign-born increased from 2% to 9%, while remaining relatively unchanged at 10-12% for U.S.-born blacks (see Figure 1). Foreign-born Hispanics increased slightly from 3% to 6%, while U.S.-born Hispanics were unchanged at 4%.

Figure 1: Percentage of HIV diagnoses among blacks, by place of birth



Geographic distribution of new diagnoses of HIV (Figure 2): The highest numbers of new diagnoses of HIV among foreign-born persons are among residents of the 98118 zip code, with 22 diagnoses between 2002 and 2008. Several other zip codes throughout western King County have eight or more residents diagnosed during that time period.

Figure 2: Number of new diagnoses of HIV among foreign-born blacks in King County (2002-2008) by zip code

