



New HIV infections (including AIDS cases), 2015-2016

Lowcountry Public Health Region includes eleven counties: Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, and Orangeburg.

HIV in the Lowcountry Public Health Region For the two-year period 2015-2016, 378 people were newly diagnosed with HIV. This represents 25 percent of the total cases diagnosed in South Carolina.

By gender, 82 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases were men; 18 percent were among women.

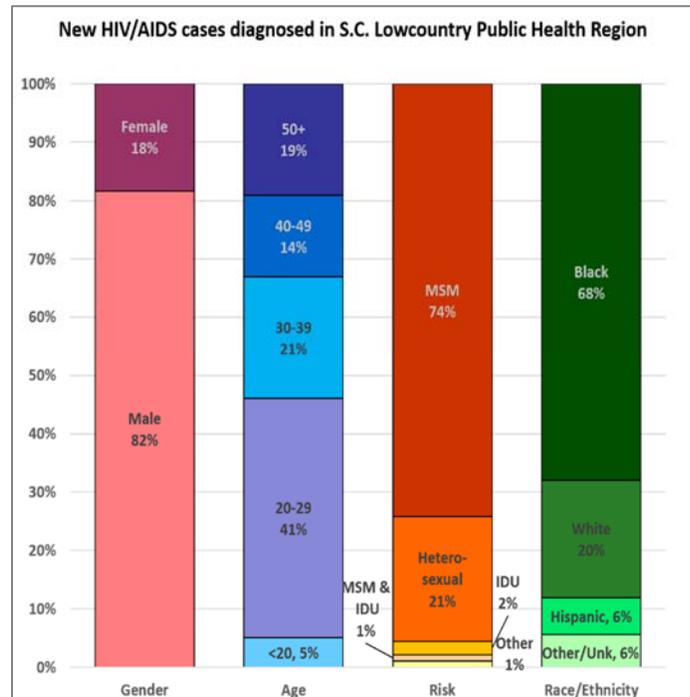
By age, the majority of new HIV/AIDS cases were among people ages 20-29 (41 percent), 21 percent were among people age 30-39, 14 percent were among people age 40-49, and 19 percent were age 50 and up. Five percent of new cases were under the age of 20.

By risk, among the 291 people who reported a risk, men who have sex with men (MSM) represent the largest proportion of recent infections (74 percent), followed by those indicating heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV (21 percent); two percent reported injecting drug use (IDU); and one percent were the combined risk of MSM and IDU.

By race/ethnicity, among people newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the Lowcountry PHR, 68 percent were African-American; 20 percent were white; and six percent were Hispanic. In 2015-2016, African-Americans had a case rate 7.9 times greater than whites in the Lowcountry PHR.

Among women recently diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the Lowcountry PHR, most were African-American (72 percent); 19 percent were White; and seven percent were Hispanic. Of the 42 women reporting risk, 98 percent indicated heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV; two percent reported IDU.

Among men recently diagnosed in the Lowcountry PHR, 67 percent were African-American; 20 percent were white; and six percent were Hispanic. Of the 249 men reporting risk, 87 percent were men who have sex with men, eight percent were exposed through heterosexual sex; two percent reported injecting drug use; one percent were both MSM and IDU.



Total People Living with HIV/AIDS through December 2016

As of December 2016, there were 4,606 residents of the Lowcountry Public Health Region living with a diagnosis of HIV (including AIDS). This represents 24 percent of the S.C. total. Of these, 3,300 were men and 1,306 were women. Most people (2,173) were ages 50 and over; 1,023 were ages 40-49; 759 were ages 30-39; 576 were ages 20-29; 75 were children and teens under 20 years of age.

As with new infections, African-Americans are disproportionately impacted. Most of the people living with HIV in the Lowcountry Public Health Region were African-American men (46 percent), 21 percent were White men, 23 percent were African-American women and four percent were White women. Five percent of people living with HIV were Hispanic/Latino (men & women).

Of the 3,709 people living with HIV who reported a risk, 53 percent reported a risk of men who have sex with men; followed by men and women exposed through heterosexual sex (31 percent); injecting drug use (nine percent); and the combined risk of men who have sex with men and injecting drug use (four percent).

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.

Among remaining priority populations for HIV prevention services:		
S.C. HIV Prevention Program Priority Populations ^(1,2)	2015/2016 Diagnosed HIV/AIDS Cases by Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (300 Total) *	People Living with HIV/AIDS, 2016 By Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (3,783 Total)
2. African-American MSM	48%	31%
3. African-American WSM	10%	16%
4. African-American MSW	6%	9%
5. White MSM	17%	18%
6. IDU	2%	8%
7. ♦Hispanic/Latino ³	7%	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 11/17

For more information, call the S.C. AIDS/STD Hotline toll free at 1-800-322-AIDS