New HIV infections (including AIDS cases), 2016-2017

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 (PHR) For the two-year period 2016-2017, 375 people were newly diagnosed with HIV. This represents 24 percent of the total cases diagnosed in South Carolina.

By gender, 76 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases were men; 24 percent were among women.

By age, the majority of new HIV/AIDS cases were among people ages 20-29 (39 percent), 23 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 303 people who reported a risk, men who have sex with men (MSM) represent the largest proportion of recent infections (71 percent), followed by those indicating heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV (26 percent); one 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, 66 percent were African-American; 19 percent were white; and seven percent were Hispanic. In 2016-2017, African-Americans had a case rate 6.1 times greater than whites in the Lowcountry PHR.

Among women recently diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the Lowcountry PHR, most were African-American (67 percent); 19 percent were White; and seven percent were Hispanic. Of the 55 women reporting risk, 96 percent indicated heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV; two percent reported IDU.

Among men recently diagnosed in the Lowcountry PHR, 66 percent were African-American; 20 percent were white; and eight percent were Hispanic. Of the 248 men reporting risk, 87 percent were men who have sex with men, ten percent were exposed through heterosexual sex; one percent reported injecting drug use; one percent were both MSM and IDU.
As of December 2017, there were 4,745 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, 3,397 were men and 1,348 were women. Most people (2,312) were ages 50 and over; 978 were ages 40-49; 816 were ages 30-39; 570 were ages 20-29; 69 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. Six percent of people living with HIV were Hispanic/Latino (men & women).

Of the 3,837 people living with HIV who reported a risk, 54 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 (eight 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.C. HIV Prevention Program Priority Populations (1,2)</th>
<th>2016/2017 Diagnosed HIV/AIDS Cases by Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (308 Total) *</th>
<th>People Living with HIV/AIDS, 2017 By Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (3,914 Total)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. African-American MSM</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. African-American WSM</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. African-American MSW</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. White MSM</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. IDU</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. ♦Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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 11/18

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