

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Populations affected by HIV/AIDS

At the end of 2007 there were 241 Vermonters known to be living with AIDS and 243 people living with HIV. It is estimated that another 153 to 179 people in Vermont are living with the virus but are not aware that they have contracted HIV. Chittenden County is the most populous county in Vermont (24% of the state's population), and 41% percent of all Vermonters living with HIV/AIDS reside in Chittenden County, and 41% of all new cases of HIV/AIDS diagnosed between 2000 and 2007 live in Chittenden County.

More men than women were living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2007. Eighty-three percent of all people living with HIV/AIDS in Vermont were men. Although nearly eighty percent of all HIV and AIDS cases in Vermont are among whites, the virus disproportionately affects the non-white populations of Vermont. Only 2.5 % of Vermont's total population is non-White, but 16% of new cases of HIV/AIDS diagnosed between 2000 and 2007 were non-White Vermonters.

Nationally, the largest estimated number of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in 2006 were among 40-49 year olds (27% of all new diagnoses) and people ages 30-39 (27% of all new diagnoses). In Vermont, the largest numbers of new HIV and AIDS cases for the years 2000 through 2007 are in the 30-39 (61 cumulative cases, 28% of all new cases) and 40-49 (71 cumulative cases, 33% of all new cases) age groups. Older Vermonters (50+ years old) accounted for a greater proportion of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in 2006-2007 (29% of all new diagnoses) compared to 2000-2001 (12% of new diagnoses).

Exposure, Risk, and Population Trends

For males, the largest proportion of all new HIV or AIDS diagnoses in Vermont (68%) cite MSM as the mode of transmission, similar to US White, non-Hispanic data. Heterosexual sex is cited as the mode of transmission by almost half (48%) of all new HIV diagnoses and almost half (44%) of all new AIDS diagnoses among Vermont women.

Among teens, young MSM continue to put themselves at risk for contracting HIV by engaging in unprotected sex and sex with multiple partners. Only 3.2% of adult Vermonters reported engaging in behaviors that put them at risk for contracting HIV.

More Vermonters are being tested for HIV. In 2006, 2371 tests were conducted through Counseling, Testing, and Referral services (CTR) in Vermont. Females and Vermonters between the ages of 20 and 29 years old were the most tested through CTR.

Ryan White Funding

Five types of organizations provided Part B funded services in Vermont. Over 351 Vermonters received Part B funded services via these organizations in 2007. Like the majority of people living with HIV/AIDS in Vermont, the majority of persons seeking care through Part B funded services were male, white, and reported their primary mode of exposure to HIV as MSM. The Part B funded program that provides medication assistance (AMAP) has increased from 109

participants in 2000 to 233 participants in 2007. The use of the dental care assistance program (DCAP) has increased from 96 claims made to DCAP in 2000 to 213 claims made in 2007.

Who Is Not Receiving Medical Care for HIV/AIDS in VT?

During 2004 an estimated 40% of Vermonters living with HIV/AIDS did not receive HIV-related medical care. A greater percentage of men than women experienced this unmet need, and young men ages 18-34 experienced the greatest percentage of unmet need. Information from clients of Vermont's hospital/university based HIV care centers indicates that 27% of people living with HIV/AIDS in Vermont do not receive care through a Comprehensive Care Clinic, and that there is a need for permanent housing among the HIV positive population.