

## **HIV/AIDS Rates by Race/Ethnicity in the 18 Highest HIV Prevalence Counties in Michigan: Focus on Hispanics**

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As of April 1, 2003, there are 10,024 people reported as living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in the state of Michigan (0.10% of the population). However, among some racial/ethnic minorities, the rate at which people are acquiring HIV is disproportionate. For example, blacks comprise 14% of the state's population and 56% of the state's HIV/AIDS cases with a rate of 401 HIV/AIDS cases per 100,000 persons. By comparison, whites comprise 79% of the state's population and are 39% of the state's HIV/AIDS cases with a rate of 49 HIV/AIDS cases per 100,000 persons. The percentages of population vs percentage of PLWHA in the other racial/ethnic groups are more comparable. For example, Hispanics comprise 3% of the general population and 3% of PLWHA and have a rate of 105 HIV/AIDS cases per 100,000 persons. Table 1 shows this information for the 18 counties with the 15 or more total living HIV/AIDS cases and five or more black and white living cases (each) in the un-incarcerated population, based on residence at diagnosis.

Of the 18 counties in Michigan with the highest HIV prevalence rates, only 7 counties had enough Hispanic cases to calculate a reliable rate (i.e., 10 or more cases). Six of these had HIV/AIDS rates for Hispanics that are close to or greater than the overall statewide rate of 101 per 100,000 persons. All 7 of these had HIV/AIDS Hispanic rates higher than the county rate for whites living with HIV/AIDS (Table 2 and graph).

When assessing the extent of the epidemic among Hispanics in Michigan, several questions arise:

- 1) How completely and accurately are Hispanics included in the census?
- 2) How much of the migrant population is Hispanic?
- 3) How much HIV infection occurs in the migrant population?
- 4) Do Hispanics in the general population and migrant workers get tested for HIV more or less frequently than blacks or whites?
- 5) To what extent is the Hispanic migrant population integrated with the general Hispanic population in the counties in Michigan with the highest Hispanic rates?
- 6) Are HIV/AIDS cases among Hispanics under reported compared to whites?

In Michigan, a more thorough evaluation of HIV/AIDS in the Hispanic community is necessary for better characterization of the epidemic affecting this population. While racial disparities in health and healthcare are not unusual in US populations, a better understanding of the factors behind them will help to close the gap. Continued support of activities that further characterize HIV disease in specific populations will be the key to understanding these disparities so that recommendations can be made in an effort to eliminate them.

**Table 1**  
**Population of Blacks, Hispanics and Whites in the 18 Counties of Highest HIV Prevalence in Michigan**

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County	Hispanic Population		Black Population		White Population		Total Number HIV +
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Allegan	6040	5.7%	1315	1.2%	96167	91.0%	61
Bay	4308	3.9%	1389	1.3%	104580	94.9%	50
Berrien	4888	3.0%	25729	15.8%	126798	78.1%	165
Eaton	3323	3.2%	5481	5.3%	93549	90.3%	28
Genesee	10152	2.3%	88356	20.3%	323136	74.1%	387
Ingham	16190	5.8%	29712	10.6%	214685	76.9%	279
Jackson	3493	2.2%	12543	7.9%	140267	88.5%	91
Kalamazoo	6311	2.6%	22968	9.6%	199180	83.5%	211
Kent	40183	7.0%	49994	8.7%	461162	80.3%	512
Macomb	12435	1.6%	21151	2.7%	721882	91.6%	370
Muskegon	6001	3.5%	23971	14.1%	135379	79.5%	80
Oakland	28999	2.4%	119708	10.0%	971752	81.4%	1065
Ottawa	16692	7.0%	2380	1.0%	211058	88.6%	65
Saginaw	14075	6.7%	38675	18.4%	151977	72.4%	131
St. Joseph	2488	4.0%	1611	2.6%	58356	93.5%	23
Van Buren	5634	7.4%	3939	5.2%	64466	84.5%	49
Washtenaw	8839	2.7%	39326	12.2%	245033	75.9%	325
Wayne	77207	3.7%	864627	41.9%	1028984	49.9%	5384

**Table 2**  
**Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in the 18 Counties of Highest HIV Prevalence in Michigan\***

1-Apr-03

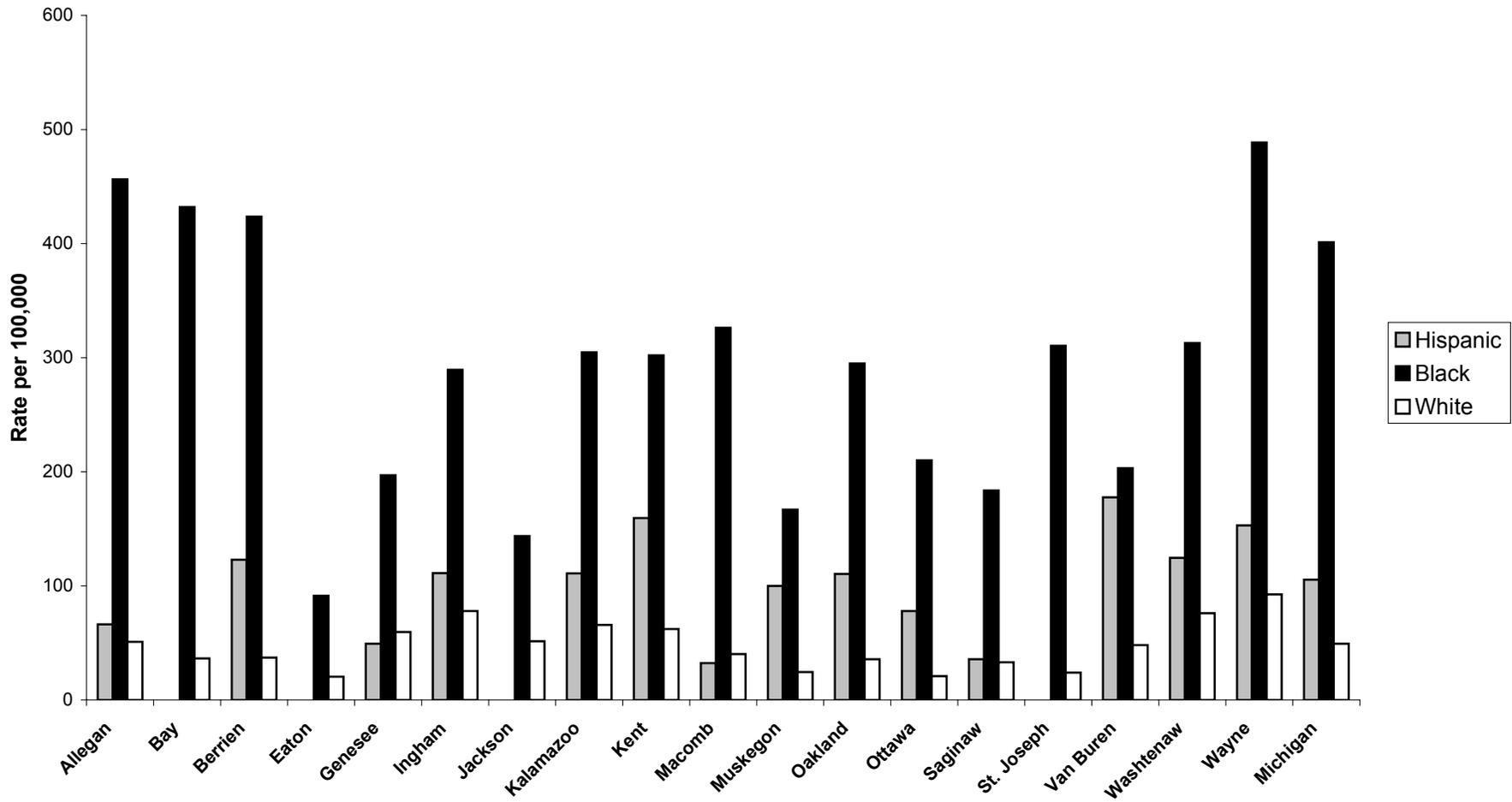
County	HIV Rate for All Races	Number HIV + Hispanic	Percent HIV + Hispanic	**Hispanic rate per 100,000	Number HIV + Black	Percent HIV + Black	Black rate per 100,000	Number HIV + White	Percent HIV + White	White rate per 100,000	Number of PLWHA
Allegan	57.7	<5			6	9.8%		49	80.3%	51.0	<b>61</b>
Bay	45.4	<5			6	12.0%		38	76.0%	36.3	<b>50</b>
Berrien	101.6	6	3.6%		109	66.1%	423.6	47	28.5%	37.1	<b>165</b>
Eaton	27.0	<5			5	17.9%		19	67.9%	20.3	<b>28</b>
Genesee	88.7	5	1.3%		174	45.0%	196.9	192	49.6%	59.4	<b>387</b>
Ingham	99.9	18	6.5%	111.2	86	30.8%	289.4	167	59.9%	77.8	<b>279</b>
Jackson	57.3	<5			18	19.8%	143.5	72	79.1%	51.3	<b>91</b>
Kalamazoo	88.4	7	3.3%		70	33.2%	304.8	131	62.1%	65.8	<b>211</b>
Kent	89.1	64	12.5%	159.3	151	29.5%	302.0	287	56.1%	62.2	<b>512</b>
Macomb	46.9	<5			69	18.6%	326.2	289	78.1%	40.0	<b>370</b>
Muskegon	47.0	6	7.5%		40	50.0%	166.9	33	41.3%	24.4	<b>80</b>
Oakland	89.2	32	3.0%	110.3	353	33.1%	294.9	347	32.6%	35.7	<b>1065</b>
Ottawa	27.3	13	20.0%	77.9	5	7.7%		44	67.7%	20.8	<b>65</b>
Saginaw	62.4	5	3.8%		71	54.2%	183.6	50	38.2%	32.9	<b>131</b>
St. Joseph	36.8	<5			5	21.7%		14	60.9%	24.0	<b>23</b>
Van Buren	64.3	10	20.4%	177.5	8	16.3%		31	63.3%	48.1	<b>49</b>
Washtenaw	100.7	11	3.4%	124.4	123	37.8%	312.8	186	57.2%	75.9	<b>325</b>
Wayne	485.1	118	2.2%	152.8	4226	78.5%	488.8	952	17.7%	92.5	<b>5384</b>
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>100.9</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>5626</b>	<b>56.1%</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>3847</b>	<b>38.4%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>10024</b>

\* *Counties of highest prevalence were determined by selecting counties with 15 or more total living cases and 5 or more Black and White living cases (each) by residence at diagnosis (excludes prison cases).*

\*\* *Rates are only calculated for categories greater than or equal to 10 because small numbers create unstable rates.*

Together, Blacks, Hispanics and Whites comprise 98% of all PLWHA in the state of Michigan (with Blacks comprising 56%, Hispanics comprising 3% and Whites comprising 38%).

## HIV/AIDS Prevalence Rates by Race/Ethnicity in the 18 Counties of Highest HIV Prevalence in Michigan\*



\*Counties of highest prevalence were determined by selecting counties with 15 or more total living cases and 5 or more black and white living cases (each) by residence at diagnosis (excludes prison cases).