

2012 Profile of HIV in Out-State Michigan

Focus on High-Prevalence Counties: Kent

Data from enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS)

Overview and risk:

Kent County has the second highest HIV infection prevalence rate in Out-State Michigan at 168 cases per 100,000 population. Statewide, this is the third highest rate. Kent has the highest estimated number of cases in Out-State Michigan at 1,330 persons as of January 1, 2012 (table 4, pages 212-213).

Of the 1,011 persons reported to be living with HIV in Kent County, 57 percent are men who have sex with men (MSM), including MSM who also inject drugs (MSM/IDU). This is compared to 53 percent statewide. The proportion who are MSM differs by race, however, with 89 percent of white males reporting MSM or MSM/IDU compared to just 52 percent among black males. Twelve percent of persons living with HIV in Kent County are IDU (including MSM/IDU) compared to 14 percent statewide. Twenty-two percent of those living with HIV in Kent County have heterosexual risk (18 percent female, 4 percent male) compared to 17 percent statewide (14 percent female, 4 percent male; see table 11, page 220 for Kent County data and table 3, page 101 of the statewide chapter for statewide data). Heterosexuals and MSM therefore make up a greater proportion of the risk among HIV-positive persons in Kent County than they do statewide, and IDU are less prominent.

Race/ethnicity and sex:

Persons living with HIV in Kent County are 48 percent white and 36 percent black (table 11). However, the rate among black persons is six times higher than the rate among white persons (644 cases per 100,000 vs. 106 cases per 100,000, respectively; data not shown in tables). Statewide, a larger proportion of cases are black than are white (56 percent vs. 36 percent, respectively). The rate among black persons for the entire state is 8.5 times the rate among white persons (642 per 100,000 vs. 75 per 100,000, respectively; table 3 of statewide chapter). Thirteen percent of persons living with HIV in Kent County are Hispanic compared to five percent statewide (table 11). The prevalence rate among Hispanics in Kent is over twice that of white persons (228 vs. 107 per 100,000, respectively; data not shown in tables). The statewide rate among Hispanics is comparable at 207 cases per 100,000 population (table 3 of statewide chapter).

Of the 1,011 persons living with HIV in Kent County, 77 percent are male and 23 percent are female (table 11). This is similar to the distribution statewide (78 percent male and 22 percent female; table 3 of statewide chapter).

Foreign-born persons:

Statewide, there are 880 persons living with HIV who were born in a country other than the US (figure 87, page 90). Of these, 191 persons (22 percent) are currently living in Kent County. This is the highest proportion of foreign-born persons in any county of the state, including the City of Detroit. Forty-nine percent were born in Africa compared to 41 percent of the foreign-born persons statewide. Forty percent were born in South and Central America (including Mexico), compared to 35 percent statewide. Three percent of the foreign-born individuals living with HIV in Kent County were born in Asia compared to 11 percent statewide. Eight percent were born in countries outside of Africa, South and Central America, or Asia compared to 13 percent statewide (see figure 87 on page 90 for statewide foreign-born distribution; Kent County data not shown in tables).