

2012 Profile of HIV in Out-State Michigan

Focus on High-Prevalence Counties: Berrien

Data from enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS)

Overview and risk:

Berrien County has the fourth highest HIV infection prevalence rate in Out-State Michigan at 161 cases per 100,000 population. Statewide, this is the fifth highest rate. An estimated 330 persons were living with HIV in Berrien county as of January 1, 2012 (table 4, pages 212-213).

Of the 253 persons reported to be living with HIV in Berrien County, 40 percent are men who have sex with men (MSM), including MSM who also inject drugs (MSM/IDU). This is lower than the statewide prevalence of 53 percent and is largely attributable to the differing proportions of MSM and MSM/IDU by race. While 86 percent of white males are MSM or MSM/IDU, only 44 percent of black males and 40 percent of Hispanic males report MSM or MSM/IDU. Black and Hispanic males have higher proportions of undetermined risk (32 percent and 47 percent, respectively). Twelve percent of persons living with HIV in Berrien County are IDU (including MSM/IDU) compared to 14 percent statewide. Twenty-eight percent of those living with HIV in Berrien County have heterosexual risk (22 percent female, 7 percent male) compared to 17 percent statewide (14 percent female, 4 percent male; see table 13, page 222 for Berrien County data and table 3, page 101 of the statewide chapter for statewide data). Heterosexuals therefore make up a greater proportion of the risk among HIV-positive persons in Berrien County than they do statewide, and MSM and MSM/IDU are less prominent.

Race/ethnicity and sex:

Persons living with HIV in Berrien County are 34 percent white and 58 percent black (table 13). The rate among black persons is almost nine times higher than the rate among white persons (623 cases per 100,000 vs. 71 cases per 100,000, respectively; data not shown in tables). This racial distribution is more similar to that found statewide than to other Out-State counties (56 percent black and 36 percent white statewide). 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). Seven percent of persons living with HIV in Berrien County are Hispanic compared to five percent statewide (table 13). The prevalence rate among Hispanics in Berrien is over three times that of white persons (241 vs. 71 per 100,000, respectively; data not shown in tables). The statewide rate among Hispanics is slightly lower at 207 cases per 100,000 population (table 3 of statewide chapter).

Of the 253 persons living with HIV in Berrien County, 68 percent are male and 32 percent are female (table 13). This is a larger proportion of females than is seen 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, 59 persons (7 percent) are currently living in Berrien County. Seventy-five percent were born in Africa compared to 41 percent of the foreign-born persons statewide. Seventeen percent were born in South and Central America (including Mexico), compared to 35 percent statewide. None of the foreign-born individuals living with HIV in Berrien 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; Berrien County data not shown in tables).