

2012 Profile of HIV in Out-State Michigan

Description of the Epidemic by Age: 50 years and older

Data from enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS)

Overview:

As of January 2012, there were 405 persons living with HIV infection in Out-State Michigan who were 50 years and older at the time of diagnosis (table 3, page 211). They comprise eight percent of all reported HIV-positive persons, and 81 percent are male. Sixty-five percent are white, 27 percent are black, six percent are Hispanic, and one percent are other/unknown race (table 7, page 216).

Risk-males:

When examining risk, those who were in their fifties at the time of HIV diagnosis have a different risk profile than those who were ages 60 and older. Therefore, the risks of these two populations are discussed separately.

As of January 2012, there were 256 males currently living with HIV in Out-State Michigan who were diagnosed in their 50s (80 percent of all persons 50-59 years at diagnosis; table 7). Of all persons 60 and over at HIV diagnosis, 71 are male (83 percent). Figures 24 and 25 show the risk profiles of males diagnosed in their 50s and at 60 and older, respectively.

Figure 24: Males ages 50-59 at diagnosis currently living with HIV infection in Out-State Michigan, by risk transmission category (n = 256)

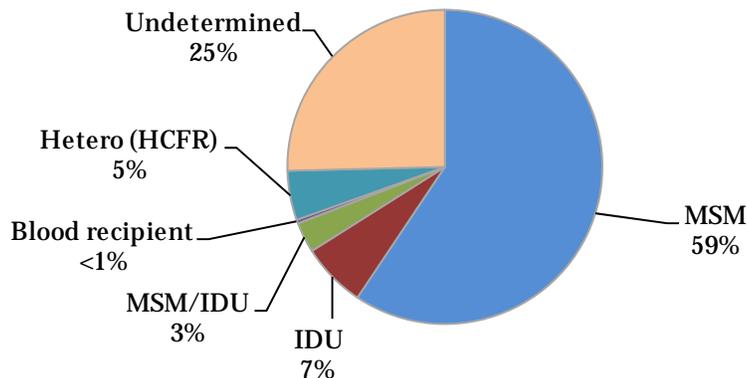
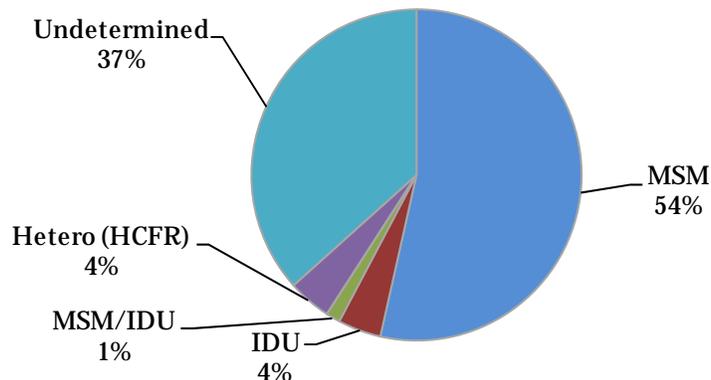


Figure 25: Males ages 60 and older at diagnosis currently living with HIV infection in Out-State Michigan, by risk transmission category (n = 71)



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As with males in all other age groups (excluding 0-12 year olds), male-male sex (MSM) is the most common risk (including those who also inject drugs, or MSM/IDU). However, the proportion who are MSM decreases with increasing age. Both males 50-59 years old and 60 years and older at HIV diagnosis have higher proportions of undetermined risk than males diagnosed at younger ages (25 and 37 percent, respectively). Males who were in their 50s at HIV diagnosis are more likely to be injection drug users (IDU) compared to males 60 years and older (10 percent vs. 5 percent, respectively). This includes males with a dual risk of male-male sex and IDU (MSM/IDU). Five percent of 50-59 year old HIV-positive males and four percent of males 60 and older have heterosexual risk (HCFR)

Risk-females:

Overall, females who were in their 50s at HIV diagnosis have similar risks to females who were 60 years and older at diagnosis (figures 26 and 27). As with HIV-positive females in other age groups, the most common risk is heterosexual contact (HC) (68 percent and 53 percent, respectively). Seven percent of females 60 years and older at diagnosis were recipients of HIV-infected blood products (compared to three in those 50-59 years at diagnosis), and females in their 50s at diagnosis are more likely to be injection drug users (IDU) (19 percent vs. 13 percent, respectively).

Figure 26: Females ages 50-59 at diagnosis currently living with HIV infection in Out-State Michigan, by risk transmission category (n = 63)

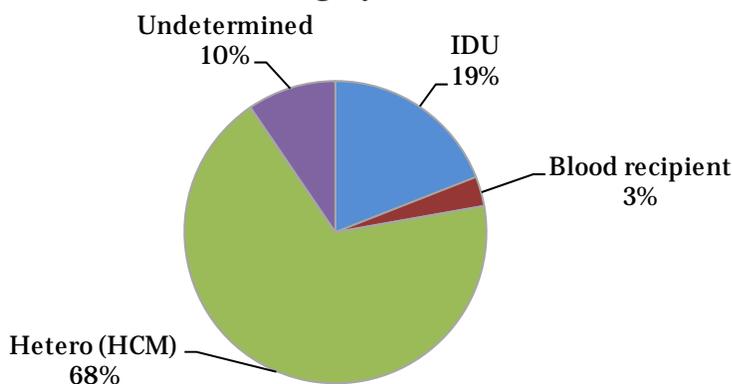
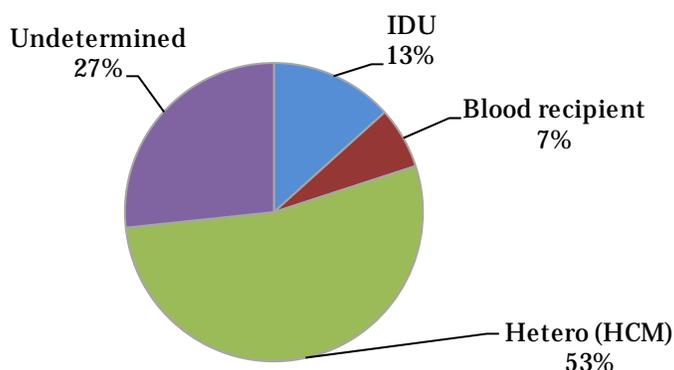


Figure 27: Females ages 60 and older at diagnosis currently living with HIV infection in Out-State Michigan, by risk transmission category (n = 15)



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Data from enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS) & Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS)

STDs:

Gonorrhea and chlamydia are epidemics largely affecting young people in Out-State Michigan, with less than one percent of chlamydia cases and not quite three percent of gonorrhea cases being over 50 years old. Of the gonorrhea cases in this age group, 68 percent are male. In contrast, 18 percent of primary and secondary syphilis cases are over the age of 50. These individuals are more likely to be male (100 percent versus 92 percent) and more likely to be white (93 percent vs. 68 percent) than other syphilis cases (age/sex/race breakdown not shown in tables).

Late diagnoses:

Of the 5,389 persons living with HIV infection in Out-State Michigan, 53 percent (2,877 cases) have progressed to stage 3 infection. Of these, 1,213 (42 percent) were diagnosed with stage 3 infection at the time of their initial HIV diagnoses (late HIV diagnoses). Persons who were in their fifties at HIV diagnosis make up seven percent (195 cases) of persons living with stage 3 infection, of whom 66 percent had late diagnoses. Those who were 60 years and older at diagnosis make up two percent of persons living with stage 3 infection (56 cases), of whom 73 percent had late diagnoses. These two age groups have the highest proportion of late diagnoses of all age groups, suggesting later or less frequent testing in this group (table 3, page 211).

Conclusions:

Although persons 50 years and older represent just eight percent of all prevalent cases, it is important to understand the specific challenges faced by older Michiganders and to ensure that they receive information and services to help protect them from infection. Their advanced age also may mean they face unique health challenges not encountered by HIV-positive persons in younger age groups.