

2012 Profile of HIV in Michigan (Statewide)

Special Populations: Incarcerated Persons

Data from enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS) & Michigan Department of Corrections

Overview:

From 1989 to present, a cumulative total of 1,939 prisoners have been confirmed with HIV infection. Some were diagnosed prior to incarceration, many were first diagnosed upon intake to prison, and others were diagnosed while in prison. A total of 793 HIV-positive inmates (41 percent) are known to have died either while in or after release from prison. This section describes the 363 HIV-positive inmates known to be incarcerated at state facilities as of January 2012.

General Michigan prison population:

As of January 1, 2012, there were 42,737 prisoners in Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) facilities, 938 (two percent) of whom were less than 20 years old. Since 1989, all prisoners have been tested for HIV infection and other infectious diseases upon intake to state correctional facilities. Currently, 0.8 percent of all prisoners are HIV-positive; among prisoners under 20 years of age, the proportion is currently lower (0.1 percent). Between 2010 and 2012, the proportion of persons living with HIV in the overall prison population did not change (0.9 percent vs. 0.8 percent, respectively), while the proportion among prisoners less than 20 years old decreased from 3.6 percent to 0.1 percent (data not shown in tables).

Race/ethnicity and sex:

Ninety-three percent of currently incarcerated HIV-positive persons are male. Most (77 percent) HIV-positive prisoners are black, 18 percent are white, two percent are Hispanic, and two percent are of other or unknown race. Of the 341 HIV-positive male prisoners, the majority (78 percent) are black. Among the 22 females currently living with HIV in prison, 55 percent are black and 36 percent are white (table 20, page 114).

Age at HIV diagnosis:

The majority of HIV-positive males currently in prison and living with HIV were diagnosed between the ages of 25 and 39 years (61 percent), consistent with the statewide HIV-positive population. Females had a higher proportion who were diagnosed in their twenties than did males, who were more likely to be diagnosed in their thirties (table 21, page 115).

Risk:

Forty-seven percent of HIV-positive black male prisoners reported a risk of male-male sex (MSM), including those who reported male-male sex and injected drugs (MSM/IDU) (figure 79). The proportion who were MSM/IDU was 12 percent, which is over twice as high as the proportion who are MSM/IDU in the statewide HIV-positive black male population (5 percent). Twenty-seven percent had injected drugs (including MSM/IDU), which is also higher than their counterparts in the statewide HIV-positive black male population (15 percent) (table 11, page 105). Eleven percent reported heterosexual contact with partners with known risks for HIV (HCFR). Twenty-six percent had undetermined risk.

Figure 80 shows that among HIV-positive white male prisoners, 54 percent reported male-male sex (including MSM/IDU). Thirty-three percent injected drugs (including MSM/IDU), which is over three times higher than the statewide HIV-positive white male population (10 percent). Another seven percent indicated they had heterosexual contact with partners with known risks for HIV (HCFR). Seventeen percent had undetermined risk (table 20, page 114).

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Figure 79: Black males living with HIV infection in prison by risk transmission category, January 2012 (n = 267)

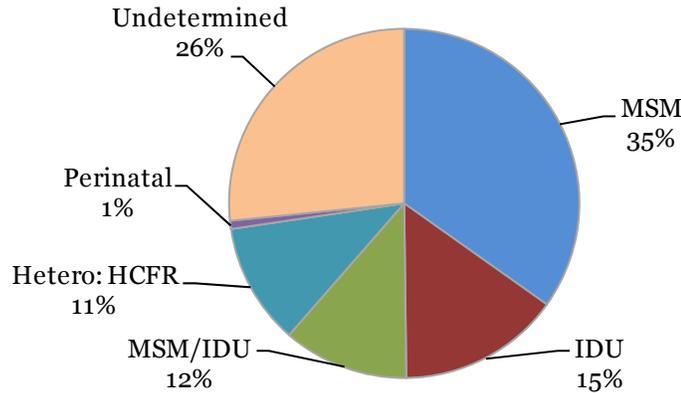


Figure 80: White males living with HIV infection in prison by risk transmission category, January 2012 (n = 59)

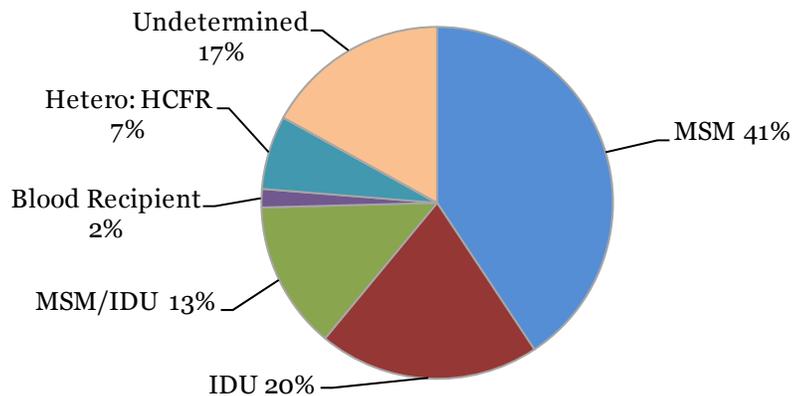
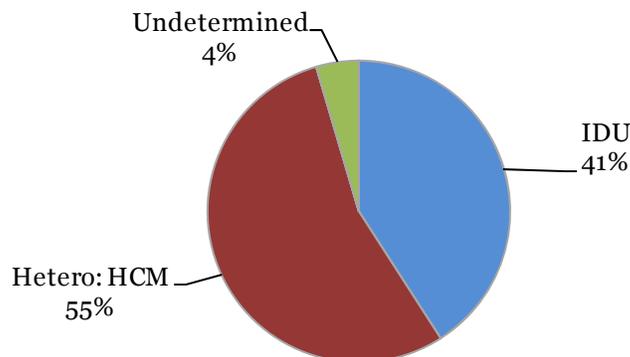


Figure 81 shows that most HIV-positive female prisoners (55 percent) had a risk of heterosexual contact. Forty-one percent were injection drug users (IDU). This is over twice as high as the proportion of IDU cases among HIV-positive females statewide (table 11, page 105).

Figure 81: Females living with HIV infection in prison by risk transmission category, January 2012 (n = 22)



2012 Profile of HIV in Michigan (Statewide)

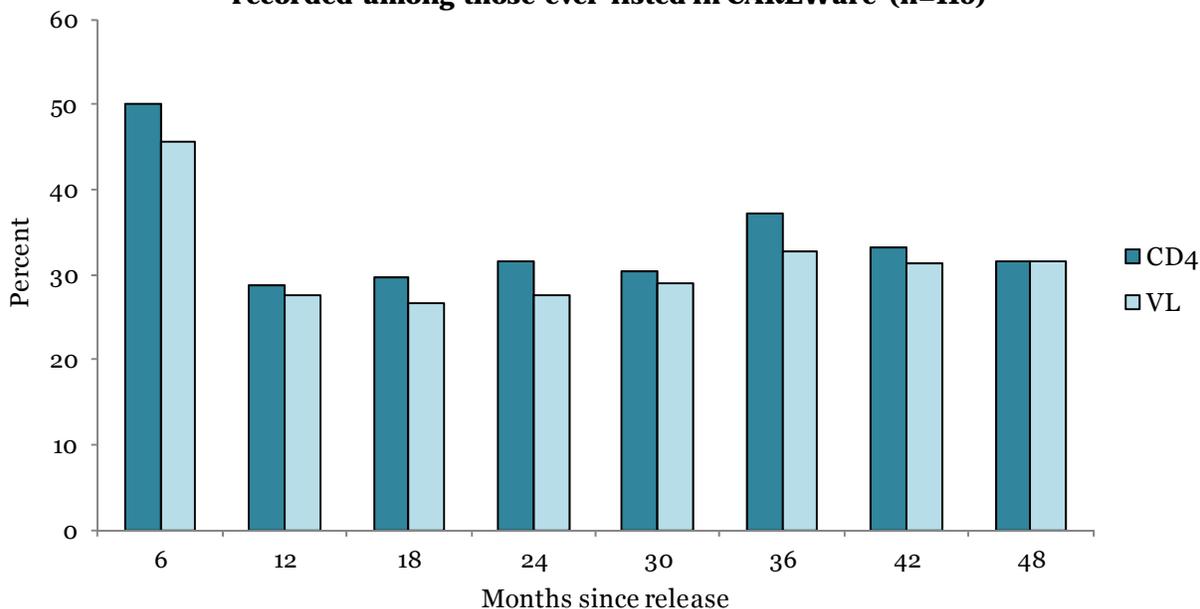
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Data from the Evaluation of the AIDS Partnership Michigan Community Re-entry Program

In 2011, the state commissioned an evaluation of its centralized intake re-entry program, which is designed to facilitate linkage to care for HIV-positive prisoners who are about to be released from prison. The evaluation used data from a variety of sources to determine how well the ex-offenders who had used the program were faring three or more years after release. The evaluation focused on the health statuses (in 2011) of 190 ex-offenders who were released from prison between May 2003 and May 2008. Data sources used include CAREWare, vital records, and face-to-face interviews with 60 HIV-positive ex-offenders throughout the state.

Among the 190 persons who had used the centralized re-entry program, 23 percent were re-incarcerated at the time the study was conducted and 17 percent were deceased. Receiving care routinely was defined as having CD4 counts and viral loads monitored once every six months. Data from CAREWare indicate that the majority of the ex-offenders who have not died or are not re-incarcerated have not received routine HIV care since they were released.

Figure 82: Proportion of re-entry clients with CD4 and viral loads recorded among those ever listed in CAREWare (n=119)



Note: Persons who were re-incarcerated or died were removed from the denominators of the six month intervals after the event occurred.

Figure 82 shows the proportion of clients who were ever listed in CAREWare (63 percent of total) who had a CD4 and viral load recorded within each six month period after their date of release, taking into account timing of re-incarcerations and deaths. As these data show, among those with a clinical record in CAREWare, engagement in care declined after the first six months following release, with roughly 27-38 percent of ex-offenders engaged in care after the initial six month period. Regarding actual lab values, only 16-39 percent of the viral loads recorded were undetectable at each time period.

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**Data from the Evaluation of the AIDS Partnership Michigan
Community Re-entry Program**

Sixty ex-offenders participated in face-to-face interviews. Most were black (85 percent; 13 percent white, 2 percent Latino) and male (96 percent; 2 percent female, 2 percent transgender). A majority identified as heterosexual (65 percent; 17 percent gay, 13 percent bisexual, 5 percent other). Their average level of educational attainment was high school (22 percent less than high school, 33 percent high school, 40 percent some college, 3 percent associates' degree, 2 percent college degree). The average age was 46.7 years old. The average length of most recent incarceration was 6.1 years. A majority resided in the Detroit Metropolitan Area (62 percent).

Employment, income, and housing were major obstacles to care. At the time of the interview, 82 percent were unemployed. Among those who worked, only 46 percent were employed full time. The median monthly household income from all sources was \$874; 75 percent of the population earned less than \$1,299 per month. Sixty-five percent had been homeless at least once since their release. Respondents reported that their first homeless episode lasted, on average, 375 days. Forty-seven percent were not satisfied with their current housing, typically because it was too costly, located in an inconvenient or dangerous area, or in poor condition.

Most respondents (85 percent) had a place they could go to access routine care, with a majority of individuals citing public and Veterans' Administration (VA) clinics (92 percent). Eighty percent indicated they had CD4 and viral loads checked within the prior six months. However, CAREWare data indicated that 27 percent had no tests ever recorded and 66 percent had no CD4 or viral load values recorded in the six month period preceding their interview. Eighty-seven percent had a prescription for highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART), but 59 percent reported forgetting to take their medications. On average, respondents reported they took 82 percent of their medication. Side effects and worrying that others would discover they were HIV-positive were leading concerns about taking medications. Taking medications was described as depressing and as a reminder that they were not "normal like everyone else".

Disclosure was a major concern. Thirty-one percent had not told health professionals other than those involved in their HIV care that they were HIV-positive. Although most were sexually active (71 percent), half had not told their sexual partners about their status. Some had not told their spouse. Among those who were sexually active in the prior 90 days, 27 percent reported they had not used condoms consistently for vaginal sex and 50 percent reported not they had not used condoms consistently for anal sex; 36 percent said they never used condoms for anal sex.

Although problems with housing, employment, and transportation were cited as factors that interfered with daily functioning by a sizeable minority of respondents, mental illness was the top-listed problem that interfered with daily functioning, with 58 percent citing mental health as an issue. On the CES-D, a validated measure of depression, 63 percent scored above the clinical cutoff for distress. In the general population, 20 percent of people would be expected to score in this range.