

2010 Profile of HIV/AIDS in Michigan

Special Populations: Arab-Americans

Data from HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS)

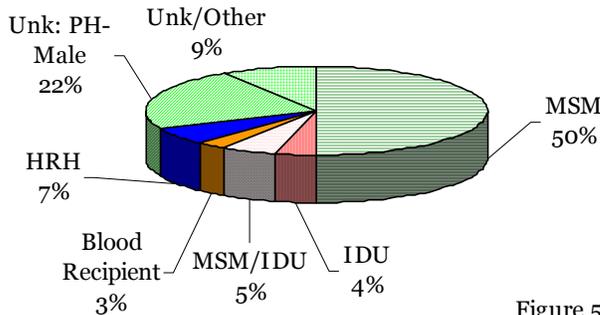
Arabic is considered an ethnicity and not a racial category and has not been routinely collected by the HIV surveillance system. Consequently, the numbers presented here are an underestimate. Beginning in the year 2001 and at the request of an Arabic community-based organization, a question was added about Arabic ethnicity on the HIV/AIDS Case Report Form that reads “Does this patient consider him or herself Arabic?”.

In Michigan the largest concentration of Arab-Americans is in Southeastern Michigan where most of these HIV/AIDS cases were diagnosed. A total of 110 persons of Arabic descent have ever been diagnosed with HIV and confidentially reported to MDCH. Of these, 83 persons are living; 45 percent are living with HIV, not AIDS and 54 percent have progressed to AIDS. The counties where persons of Arabic descent were living when initially diagnosed with HIV include Wayne (34 percent), Oakland (19 percent), Macomb (13 percent) and 27 percent were diagnosed while living in another state or have an unknown residence at diagnosis. The remaining seven percent are among Kent, St. Clair, Ingham, Kalamazoo and Chippewa counties.

The age at HIV diagnosis (including those with AIDS) is similar to the age distribution for all cases in Michigan, with six percent ages 0-19, 10 percent 20-24, 20 percent 25-29, 34 percent 30-39, 22 percent 40-49, four percent 50 –59, and four percent age 60 and older.

For more data on Arab-Americans living with HIV in Michigan, please see Tables 20 & 21, pages 3-101–102.

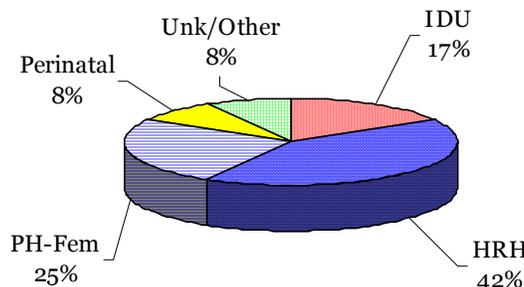
Figure 57: Males of Arabic Descent, Living with HIV/AIDS in Michigan, by Mode of Transmission (N = 71)



Eighty-six percent of the cases are among males and 14 percent are among females. Figure 57 shows that among the 71 male cases, over half (55 percent) were attributed to MSM (including MSM/IDU) and nine percent reported injection drug use. Thirty-one percent have an unknown mode of transmission.

Figure 58 shows that among the 12 females, over two-thirds were infected heterosexually (overall, 42 percent HRH and 25 percent PH-Fem) and 17 percent reported a risk of injection drug use. Eight percent were infected perinatally and another eight percent had no reported mode of transmission.

Figure 58: Females of Arabic Descent, Living with HIV/AIDS in Michigan, by Mode of Transmission (N = 12)



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Special Populations: Arab-Americans: Focus on Identifying Community Need

Data from Census Bureau & ACCESS, Community Health & Research Center

Within the US, the largest concentration of Arab-Americans lives in Dearborn, Michigan. This group constitutes five percent of the Michigan population and 30 percent of the Dearborn population. Because approximately 40 percent of this group was born outside of the US, there are many barriers to services.

From October 2003 through July 2005 the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) conducted 15 rounds of focus groups on men in the Arab-American community identifying as gay or bisexual. Approximately 95 percent of attendees were Arab/Chaldean and were residents of Detroit, Dearborn and other areas of Metro Detroit, however a few were residents of Toledo, OH and Toronto, ON. The ages of the attendees ranged from 13 to 58. The majority of attendees were older than 25 from October 2002 through September 2004, however from October 2004 through July 2005 the majority were men under 25 years.

These focus groups allowed participants to freely discuss concerns surrounding being a gay or bisexual male in the Arab community. About 80 percent of attendees rarely negotiated safer sex practices with their partners, stating that barriers to this are a lack of negotiating skills and exchanging sex for money, drugs or gifts. The attendees were also afraid of getting tested for HIV for fear of the results and backlash from family and community. This discussion uncovered a belief that if men only have sex with other Arabic/Chaldean men, they have no risk for contracting HIV.

Additionally, these participants discussed their desire for more social networks among gay Arab males, which they felt would allow for more opportunities to deliver prevention, education and counseling on risky behaviors.

Table 20: Demographic Information on Arab-American HIV/AIDS Cases Currently Living in Michigan, 2010

	REPORTED PREVALENCE							
	HIV, not AIDS		AIDS		TOTAL		CONCURRENT AIDS	
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of AIDS cases
SEX								
Males	29	78%	42	91%	71	86%	21	50%
Females	8	22%	4	9%	12	14%	1	25%
RISK*								
Male-Male Sex	17	46%	21	46%	38	46%	9	43%
Injection Drug Use	3	8%	2	4%	5	6%	1	50%
MSM/IDU	1	3%	3	7%	4	5%	2	67%
Blood Products	1	3%	1	2%	2	2%	1	100%
Heterosexual	6	16%	7	15%	13	16%	1	14%
HRH	4	11%	6	13%	10	12%	0	0%
PH-Female	2	5%	1	2%	3	4%	1	100%
Perinatal	1	3%	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%
Undetermined	8	22%	12	26%	20	24%	8	67%
PH-Male	4	11%	8	17%	12	14%	6	75%
Unknown	4	11%	4	9%	8	10%	2	50%
AGE AT HIV DIAGNOSIS								
0 - 12 years	1	3%	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%
13 - 19 years	3	8%	1	2%	4	5%	0	0%
20 - 24 years	3	8%	5	11%	8	10%	0	0%
25 - 29 years	11	30%	6	13%	17	20%	2	33%
30 - 39 years	11	30%	17	37%	28	34%	9	53%
40 years and older	7	19%	17	37%	24	29%	11	65%
Unspecified	1	3%	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%
AREA OF RESIDENCE AT DIAGNOSIS								
Detroit Metro Area	35	95%	43	93%	78	94%	22	51%
Out-State	2	5%	3	7%	5	6%	0	0%
TOTAL	37	100%	46	100%	83	100%	22	48%

*See page 1-3 for descriptions of prevalence estimate calculations and pages 6-7,8 for risk category groupings. Risk categories used in Michigan are newly defined as of July 2007.

Table 21: Sex, Risk and Age at HIV Diagnosis Among Arab-American HIV/AIDS Cases Currently Living in Michigan, 2010

MALES	0 - 19 years		20 - 29 years		30 years and older		Male Subtotal	
Male-Male sex	1	25%	13	72%	24	49%	38	54%
Injecting Drug Use	0	0%	0	0%	3	6%	3	4%
Male-Male Sex/IDU	0	0%	0	0%	4	8%	4	6%
Blood Products	1	25%	1	6%	0	0%	2	3%
Heterosexual*	0	0%	1	6%	4	8%	5	7%
Perinatal	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Undetermined	2	50%	3	17%	14	29%	19	27%
<i>PH-Male</i>	2	50%	2	11%	8	16%	12	17%
<i>Unknown</i>	0	0%	1	6%	6	12%	7	10%
Male Subtotal	4	6%	18	25%	49	69%	71	100%
FEMALES	0 - 19 years		20 - 29 years		30 years and older		Female Subtotal	
Injecting Drug Use	0	0%	1	14%	1	33%	2	18%
Blood Products	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Heterosexual	0	0%	6	86%	2	67%	8	73%
<i>HRH</i>	0	0%	4	57%	1	33%	5	45%
<i>PH-Female</i>	0	0%	2	29%	1	33%	3	27%
Perinatal	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	9%
Undetermined*	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Female Subtotal[^]	1	9%	7	64%	3	27%	11	100%
TOTAL	0 - 19 years		20 - 29 years		30 years and older		Age Total	
Male-Male sex	1	20%	13	52%	24	46%	38	46%
Injecting Drug Use	0	0%	1	4%	4	8%	5	6%
Male-Male Sex/IDU	0	0%	0	0%	4	8%	4	5%
Blood Products	1	20%	1	4%	0	0%	2	2%
Heterosexual	0	0%	7	28%	6	12%	13	16%
<i>HRH</i>	0	0%	5	20%	5	10%	10	12%
<i>PH-Female</i>	0	0%	2	8%	1	2%	3	4%
Perinatal	1	20%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
Undetermined	2	40%	3	12%	14	27%	19	23%
<i>PH-Male</i>	2	40%	2	8%	8	15%	12	15%
<i>Unknown</i>	0	0%	1	4%	6	12%	7	9%
AGE TOTAL[^]	5	6%	25	30%	52	63%	82	100%

*In the male subset all cases in the heterosexual category are HRH because the PH-Female category is not applicable to males. Likewise, in the female subset, all cases in the undetermined category are of unknown risk because the PH-Male category is not applicable to females.

[^] Not included in this table are the following cases with unknown age at diagnosis: one female with unknown risk.