

HIV transmission risk categories

This document defines risk categories used in HIV Surveillance reports. Michigan bases risk categories on CDC's transmission risk hierarchy. For surveillance purposes, persons with more than one reported risk factor are classified in the transmission category listed first in the hierarchy and therefore counted only once. In Michigan, the most notable difference is the use of gender identity rather than sex assigned at birth. For risk transmission purposes, gender identity is broken into two groups: 1) Cis – when sex assigned at birth matches current gender identity or no current binary gender identity is reported, and 2) Transgender – if a gender identity not matching sex assigned at birth was ever reported. Cis gender persons are further stratified into men and women, and transgender persons are not usually stratified as numbers in reports would be too small to be meaningful.

This document is split into two sections: **Risk hierarchy based on gender identity**, and **HIV transmission risk categories displayed in HIV reports**. These sections contain the same information presented in two ways. The first explains transmission risk in order of the hierarchy, and the second displays risks in the format they appear in the HIV Surveillance reports.

Hierarchy based on gender identity

If an individual acquired HIV perinatally (birthing-person to child), or was diagnosed before the age of 13, transmission risk is “Perinatal or Pediatric”. If an individual acquired HIV at age 13 or later, the risk hierarchy is as follows:

Cis men and transgender persons

1. Sex with men and/or injection drug use
 - Cis men and transgender persons who report sex with men only are included under “Sex w men”.
 - Cis men and transgender persons who report injection drug use only are included under “PWID” (persons who inject drugs)
 - Cis men and transgender persons who report both sex with men and injection drug use are included under “Sex w men & PWID”.
2. Sex with women
 - Cis men and transgender persons who did not report sex with men or injection drug use and reported sex with an HIV positive woman (documented) or woman at high risk for HIV are included under “Sex w women”. High risk women include PWID or a person with hemophilia or coagulation disorder. Additional cis men are captured in this category based on the discretion of the surveillance associate reporting the case. For example, men who do not report sex with men or injection drug use and report exchange sex with multiple women are included in this group.
3. Other
 - NOTE: In some reports “Other risk” includes perinatal and pediatric acquisitions. Please read footnotes. Non-perinatal/pediatric other risks include persons who did not report any of the above risks, and another risk can be confirmed. Possible other risks include, received clotting factor or transfusion of blood or blood components, a transplant of tissue or organs or artificial insemination, or occupational exposure. These are extremely rare.
4. Unknown risk

- No reported risk, or lacking documentation of risks requiring confirmation.

Cis women

1. Injection drug use
 - Cis women who report injection drug use are included under “PWID” (persons who inject drugs)
2. Sex with men
 - Cis women who do not report injection drug use and reported sex with a man are included under “Sex w men”. Note: unlike the “Sex with women” category for men and transgender persons, Sex with men does not require the man be HIV positive or at high risk for HIV.
3. Other
 - NOTE: In some reports “Other risk” includes perinatal and pediatric acquisitions. Please read footnotes. Non-perinatal/pediatric other risks include persons who did not report any of the above risks, and another risk can be confirmed. Possible other risks include, received clotting factor or transfusion of blood or blood components, a transplant of tissue or organs or artificial insemination, or occupational exposure. These are extremely rare.
4. Unknown risk
 - No reported risk, or lacking documentation of risks requiring confirmation.

HIV transmission risk categories displayed in HIV reports

The categories displayed in HIV reports are based on the hierarchy above. This section of the document aims to clarify who is included in which group as they are displayed.

Sex w men

- Cis men. Includes cis men, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who reported sex with men and did not report injection drug use.
- Cis women. Includes cis women, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who reported sex with men and did not report injection drug use.
- Transgender. Includes transgender persons, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who reported sex with men and did not report injection drug use.

PWID (persons who inject drugs)

- Cis men. Includes cis men, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who reported injection drug use and did not report sex with men.
- Cis women. Includes cis women, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who reported injection drug use. Whether sex with men was reported is irrelevant.
- Transgender. Includes transgender persons, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who reported injection drug use and did not report sex with men.

Sex w men & PWID

- Cis men. Includes cis men, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who reported sex with men and injection drug use.
- Cis women. Not included. If injection drug use is reported, women are categorized as PWID, and sexual behavior is ignored.

- Transgender. Includes transgender persons, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who reported sex with men injection drug use.

Sex w women

- Cis men. Includes cis men, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who did not report sex with men or injection drug use, reported sex with an HIV positive woman (documented) or woman at high risk for HIV. High risk women include PWID or a person with hemophilia or coagulation disorder. Additional cis men are captured in this category based on the discretion of the surveillance associate reporting the case. For example, men who do not report sex with men or injection drug use and report exchange sex with multiple women are included in this group.
- Cis women. Not included. In the extremely rare case HIV is transmitted between two women, the risk categorization is "Other".
- Transgender. Includes transgender persons, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who did not report sex with men or injection drug use, and reported sex with an HIV positive woman (documented) or woman at high risk for HIV. High risk women include PWID or a person with hemophilia or coagulation disorder.

Perinatal or Pediatric

- Same for all gender groups. Includes perinatal transmissions (birthing person to child) or transmissions that occurred before the age of 13 (pediatric). Most pediatric transmissions include children who received blood transfusions or children who were presumed but not confirmed to be perinatal. Unconfirmed perinatal transmissions most commonly occur among infants born outside of Michigan and HIV status of the mother is unknown.

Other risk

- Cis men. Includes cis men, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who did not report sex with men, injection drug use, or sex with an HIV positive women (documented) or women at high risk for HIV, and other risk is documented. High risk women include PWID or a person with hemophilia or coagulation disorder.
- Cis women. Includes cis women, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who did not report injection drug use or sex with men, and other risk is documented.
- Transgender. Includes transgender persons, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who did not report sex with men, injection drug use, or sex with an HIV positive women (documented) or women at high risk for HIV, and other risk is documented. High risk women include PWID or a person with hemophilia or coagulation disorder.

Unknown risk

- Cis men. Includes cis men, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who did not report sex with men, injection drug use, sex with an HIV positive women (documented) or women at high risk for HIV, or any other documented risk. High risk women include PWID or a person with hemophilia or coagulation disorder. In other words, no risk was reported, sex with women was reported but woman's HIV status or risk was unknown, or an undocumented/unconfirmed "other risk" was reported.
- Cis women. Includes cis women, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who did not report injection drug use, sex with men, or any other documented risk. In other words, no risk was reported, or an undocumented/unconfirmed "other risk" was reported.
- Transgender. Includes transgender persons, who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who did not report sex with men, injection drug use, sex with an HIV positive women or women at high risk

for HIV, or any other documented risk. In other words, no risk was reported, sex with women was reported but woman's HIV status or risk was unknown, or an undocumented/unconfirmed "other risk" was reported.

The above categories are all mutually exclusive. The following two risk categories are based on sex assigned at birth (not gender identity) and are only included in the tables to assist agencies with grant reporting requirements. These individuals are included in the Sex w men and Sex w men & PWID groups above.

MSM (men who have sex with men)

- Includes all males (based on sex at birth) who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who reported sex with men and did not report injection drug use.

MSM/PWID

- Includes all males (based on sex at birth) who acquired HIV at age 13 or older, who reported sex with men and injection drug use.