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Summary of HIV Infection — Alaska, 1982–2011

From January 1, 1982 through December 31, 2011, 1,458 cases of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection were reported to the Alaska Section of Epidemiology (SOE), 504 (35%) of which were in persons who are known to have subsequently died. During 2011, 61 cases of HIV infection were reported to SOE, two of which were in persons who are known to have died as of December 31, 2011. Of those 61 cases, 24 (39%) were initially diagnosed in Alaska in 2011, including eight that were identified as part of an ongoing outbreak of HIV in the Fairbanks area. This represents a significant increase over the expected number of new diagnoses for this region.¹ The outbreak in Fairbanks primarily involved men having sex with men (MSM), which continues to be the population at greatest risk for HIV both in Alaska and nationally.² This outbreak of HIV is similar in characteristics and risk factors to that of a recent outbreak of syphilis in Alaska,³ and health care providers are strongly encouraged to test MSM for both HIV and syphilis.

Of the 1,458 HIV cases reported from 1982–2011,

- 1168 (80%) were male;
- 819 (56%) were white (Figure 1);
- 1,130 (78%) were initially diagnosed in Alaska; of those, 790 (70%) were diagnosed in the Anchorage/Matanuska-Susitna area (Figure 2);
- the most common exposure category (49%) was MSM (Figure 3);
- the median age was 34 years (range: <1–75 years; Figure 4);
- 993 (68%) had a diagnosis of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS); of those, 540 (54%) are not known to have died.

Of the 61 HIV cases reported in 2011,

- 46 (75%) were male;
- 22 (36%) were white, 9 (15%) were Alaska Native/American Indian, and 14 (23%) were black;
- 33 (54%) were MSM, six of whom had a reported history of injection drug use (MSM/IDU);
- the median age was 31 years (range: 18–58 years);
- 28 (46%) had a diagnosis of AIDS;
- 24 (39%) were initially diagnosed in Alaska; of those, 10 (42%) were diagnosed in the Anchorage/Matanuska-Susitna area, 17 (71%) were male, 7 (29%) were white, 7 (29%) were Alaska Native/American Indian, 5 (21%) were black, and 12 (50%) were MSM.

Figure 1. Percentage of HIV Cases by Race/Ethnicity, 1982–2011 (N=1,458)

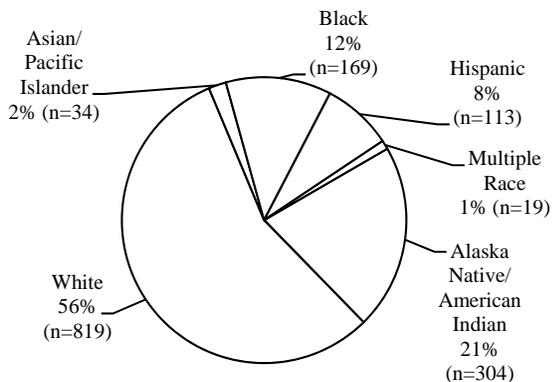


Figure 2. Percentage of HIV Cases by Region of Diagnosis, 1982–2011 (N=1,458)

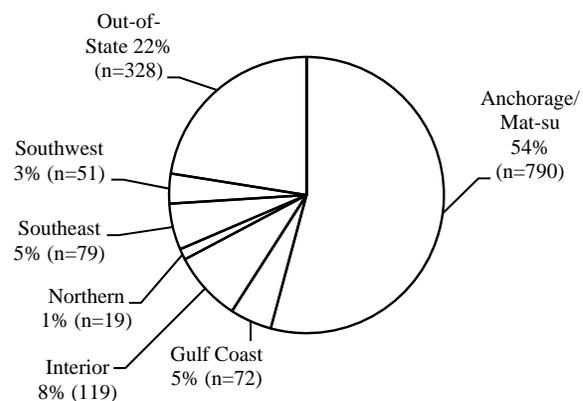


Figure 3. Percentage of HIV Cases by Exposure Category, 1982–2011 (N=1,458)

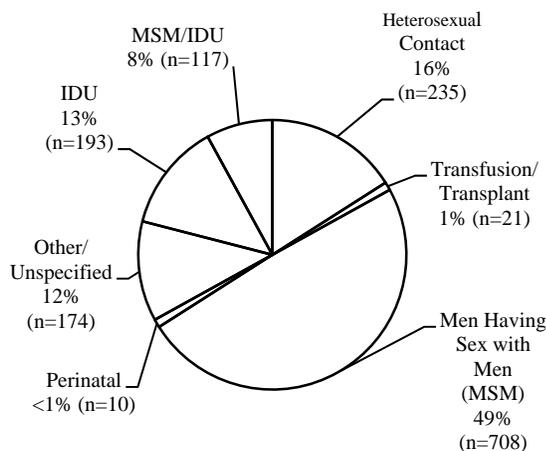
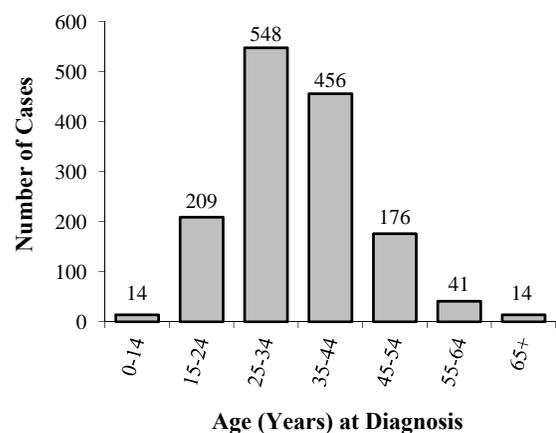


Figure 4. Number of HIV Cases by Age at Diagnosis, 1982–2011 (N=1,458)



References

1. Alaska Epidemiology *Bulletin*. "HIV Outbreak – Fairbanks, 2011-2012". Available at: http://www.epi.alaska.gov/bulletins/docs/b2012_03.pdf
2. CDC MMWR Weekly October 28, 2011 / 60(SS14); 1-34. Available at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6014a1.htm?s_cid=ss6014a1_e
3. Alaska Epidemiology *Bulletin*. "Syphilis Outbreak – Alaska, 2011-2012". Available at: http://www.epi.alaska.gov/bulletins/docs/b2012_04.pdf