

HIV Testing, 2015



HIV Testing in Utah

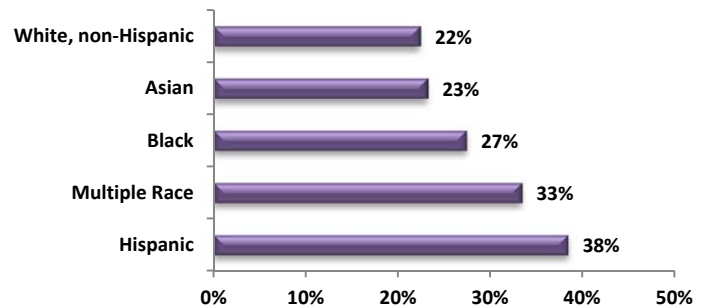
HIV testing in Utah continues to be low among the general population. In 2015, data from Utah’s Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) estimated that only 24.2% of adults had ever been tested for HIV. Salt Lake County health district had the highest percentage in the state at 28.4% compared to Bear River (17.6%) and Utah County (17.9%) health districts. More respondents in urban areas reported ever having an HIV test. In addition, rates of HIV diagnoses across the state did not seem to indicate that the percentage of ever being tested for HIV directly related to the diagnosis rates (Table 1). Efforts statewide to increase HIV testing should be a priority to diagnose early infection and link patients to care.

Table 1: HIV Testing & Diagnosis Rates by Local Health District, Utah, 2015

District	% Ever Tested	Rate per 100,000
Bear River	17.6	1.1
Central Utah	18.4	1.3
Davis County	22.8	3.3
Salt Lake County	28.4	6.8
San Juan County	33.1	0.0
Southeast Utah	26.0	7.3
Southwest Utah	22.7	4.1
Summit County	26.6	2.5
Tooele County	26.1	1.6
TriCounty	24.6	1.7
Utah County	17.9	2.1
Wasatch County	27.4	0.0
Weber-Morgan	27.4	1.6
State of Utah	24.2	4.0

Asians (23%), and non-Hispanic Whites (22%) (Figure 2). The high percentage of Hispanics with AIDS at the time of HIV diagnosis suggests that interventions to encourage earlier HIV testing, which are tailored to their needs, should be a priority. Early identification of new HIV infections results in reduced transmission in the community and better health outcomes for infected individuals.

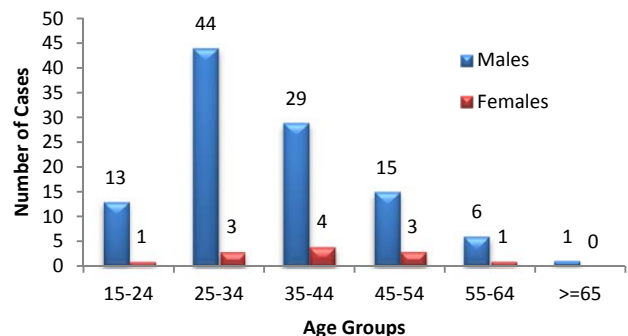
Figure 2: Percent of New Cases with AIDS at HIV Diagnosis by Race/Ethnicity, Utah, 2011-2015



Age and Gender

HIV infection can affect individuals of all ages. During 2015, male cases continued to account for the majority (90%) of total cases. Men younger than age 35 accounted for 53% of newly diagnosed male cases (Figure 3). In contrast, female cases were distributed more evenly across age groups with most cases seen in women aged 25-54 years. Targeting young men for HIV testing should be a priority in Utah to ensure early detection and treatment.

Figure 3: HIV Diagnoses by Age and Gender, Utah, 2015



Racial Disparities and AIDS at Diagnosis

Early detection of HIV infection is an important step to managing the disease as well as preventing it from spreading. Individuals who have progressed to AIDS at the time of their HIV diagnosis indicate missed prevention opportunities. From 2011-2015, the highest percentage of persons with AIDS at diagnosis of HIV (38%) occurred in Hispanics, followed by Multiple Races (33%), Blacks (27%),