Estimate of New HIV Infections in Virginia

- Between 2008-2012 the number of annual HIV infections for adults in Virginia remained relatively stable with new infections ranging from 839 to 1,037 each year.
- Youth and young adults (ages 13-34), men who have sex with men (MSM), and Blacks remain the populations most affected by HIV in Virginia.

National Estimate of New HIV Infections, 2010

- CDC estimates that 47,500 new HIV infections occurred in the United States. Based on this estimate, 19 out of every 100,000 people living in the US were newly infected with HIV.
- Blacks represent 14% of the total population but accounted for 44% (20,900) of all new HIV infections. The rate of new infections among Blacks was almost 8 times that of Whites (69 versus 9 new infections per 100,000 people) and more than twice the rate of Hispanics (69 vs 28).
- Men accounted for 80% of new infections.

How does the HIV Estimation work?

The Serologic Testing Algorithm for Recent HIV Seroconversion (STARHS) method uses a laboratory test (the BED HIV-1 Capture Enzyme) to classify newly diagnosed infections as either long-standing or recent (occurring within approximately the past 5 months).

The STARHS result of the first positive blood sample along with demographic data, HIV testing history and antiretroviral use are used to estimate HIV incidence.

HIV Incidence Estimate Facts

Incidence is defined as the number of new cases of a disease that occur in a population over a certain period of time.

Unlike incidence, prevalence includes all people living with the disease regardless of when they acquired their infection.

The goal of HIV Incidence Surveillance is to provide national and area-specific population based estimates of the number of new HIV infections that occur each year including those not diagnosed.

The HIV incidence estimate provides a more accurate picture of the spread of new HIV infections and helps to more clearly identify groups who are contracting HIV and where to focus prevention efforts.
ESTIMATING HIV INCIDENCE IN VIRGINIA, 2008-2012

Virginia HIV Incidence Estimates (13+ years of age), 2008-2012† 09.2014

Figure 2. Estimated Rate of New HIV Infections in Virginia by sex, 2008-2012

Figure 3. Estimated Rate of New HIV Infections in Virginia by race, 2008-2012

Figure 4. Estimated Rate of New HIV Infections in Virginia by age, 2008-2012

Figure 5. Estimated Percentage of HIV Incidence in Virginia by transmission risk, 2008-2012

†Incidence data are processed by the CDC and finalized datasets are returned to states. Incidence data for 2011 and 2012 have yet to be released at the time of this report.

From 2008-2012:

• Yearly incidence estimations did not differ across years at a statistically significant level.

• Males accounted for 68%, 76%, 81%, 81%, and 83%, in each year respectively, of estimated new cases. By 2012, the estimated new infection rate per 100,000 for males was 5 times that of females.

• Blacks represented 19% of the adult population in Virginia; but accounted for approximately 60% of new infections across each of the five years.

• Approximately 60% of all new infections were estimated to occur in the 13-35 year old population.

• Over the five-year period, the estimated number of new infections in men who have sex with men (MSM) increased; while it appeared that transmission by other means decreased (e.g., injection drug use, heterosexual contact).

References