

## **Comparison of Virginia and National Trends in HIV/AIDS Diagnoses among MSM, 2001-2006**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released on June 27, 2008, an MMWR article entitled “Trends in HIV/AIDS Diagnoses Among Men Who Have Sex With Men<sup>1</sup> – 33 states, 2001-2006.” This report included only the 33 states with named HIV reporting during that time frame. The information below is presented as a general comparison<sup>2</sup> of Virginia data with national data for HIV/AIDS cases diagnosed between 2001 and 2006.

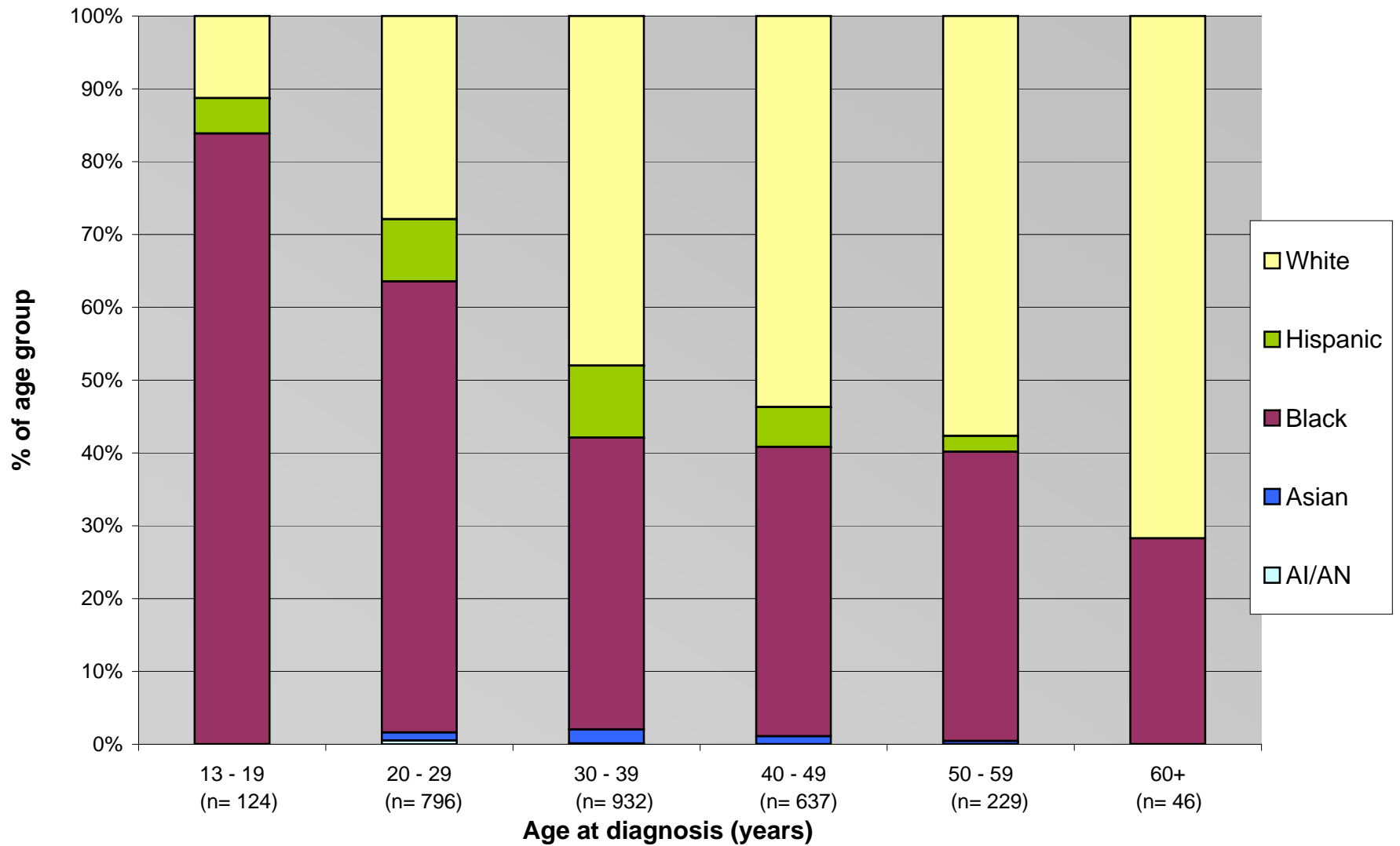
- Of the 6,781 HIV/AIDS cases diagnosed in Virginia, between 2001 and 2006, a total of 2,378 (35%) were among men who have sex with men (MSM). Nationally, 46% of HIV/AIDS cases in the 33 states were among MSM.
- MSM accounted for 50% (2,378) of Virginia diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases among males. Nationally MSM accounted for 63% (97,577) of cases among males.
- Between 2001 and 2006, Virginia Northern and Eastern regions accounted for 34% and 29%, respectively, of diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases among MSM.
- Men aged 25-44 years accounted for 63% (1,492) of Virginia HIV/AIDS cases diagnosed among MSM between 2001 and 2006. Nationally, men aged 25-44 years accounted for 64% of cases among MSM.
- Between 2001 and 2006, Blacks accounted for 48% (n=1,137) of Virginia diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases among MSM. Nationally, Blacks accounted for 36% of cases.
- For the same period, substantial decreases in diagnoses were observed in all transmission categories except MSM; 66% decrease for Intravenous drug use (IVDU); 57% for heterosexual, 48% for MSM/IVDU, and 21% for multi-heterosexual. MSM, on the other hand, showed a 1.8% increase. Nationally, decreases in diagnoses were observed in all transmission categories except MSM; where the number of diagnoses increased by 8% (from 16,081 in 2001 to 17,465 in 2006).
- From 2001 to 2006, while the increase in the number of Virginia diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases among all Black MSM was about 6% (from 180 in 2001 to 190 in 2006), the number of diagnosed cases among Black MSM aged 13-24 doubled (from 39 cases in 2001 to 78 in 2006). Nationally, a 12.4% increase in the number of HIV/AIDS diagnoses among all black MSM was observed, with an increase of 93.1% among black MSM aged 13-24 years.
- Between 2001 and 2006, about four times as many Virginia diagnoses occurred in Black MSM aged 13-24 years (325) compared to their White counterparts (83). Nationally, approximately twice as many (7,658) diagnoses occurred in black MSM aged 13-24 years as in their white counterparts (3,221).

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<sup>1</sup> According to CDC report, transmission categories are discrete; MSM is distinct from MSM/INDU.

<sup>2</sup> Comparison with National figures may be limited as the CDC uses statistical techniques to adjust/redistribute cases among risk categories, i.e. statistical formulas are used to reassign subjects without an identified risk factor into specific risk group, including MSM. Such adjustment has been conducted for 25% of HIV (not AIDS) cases reported to CDC. Similar statistical formulas are also used to adjust for delay in reporting of cases to CDC. Both adjustments methods are not used in Virginia data.

### HIV/AIDS Cases Diagnosed Among MSM in Virginia - By Age at Diagnosis (2001-2007)



**HIV/AIDS diagnosed among MSM in Virginia by Diagnosis Year and Age at Diagnosis (2001-2007)**

