

Persons Living with HIV/AIDS

From 2001 to 2006, the estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Virginia has increased. This mirrors the national trend of people living longer with HIV, largely due to advancements in drug therapies. In the 1980s, medications to effectively treat HIV did not exist. Today, there are over 101 HIV/AIDS related drugs that have heavily impacted the morbidity and mortality associated with AIDS. Introduction of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) has led to an increasing number of persons with HIV in the United States living longer lives (HHS,2006). At the end of 2006, an estimated 18,587 people were living with HIV/AIDS in Virginia. The largest proportion of the living cases were men (73%), Black (62%) and ages 30-39 (39%). At the end of 2006, the prevalence rate of HIV among males was 2.5 times higher than females. The prevalence rate of AIDS for males was 3.2 times higher than females.

Gender

At the end of 2006, the rate of people living with HIV/AIDS was 351.0 per 100,000 among men and 125.2 per 100,000 among women. In general, the rate of people living with HIV/AIDS increased 0.3% among men and 0.7% among women from 2005. The majority of living cases of HIV/AIDS were men, as of 2006.

Race

At the end of 2006, Blacks accounted for the majority (62%) of living cases of HIV/AIDS followed by Whites (31%) and Hispanics (6%). The rate of living cases of HIV/AIDS at the end of 2006 among the Black population was 745.1 per 100,000, while the rate for Whites was 104.0 per 100,000. From 2005 to 2006, the rate of Blacks living with HIV/AIDS increased 0.3% and for Whites, there was an increase of 0.6%.

Age

At the end of 2006, in Virginia, people between the ages of 30-39 (39%) made up the largest group of living cases of HIV/AIDS, while people between the ages of 20-29 accounted for 26%, and 40-49 year olds accounted for 23%. Among the youngest age groups, those between 0-12 accounted for 1% and those between ages 13-19 accounted for 2.6% of the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS.

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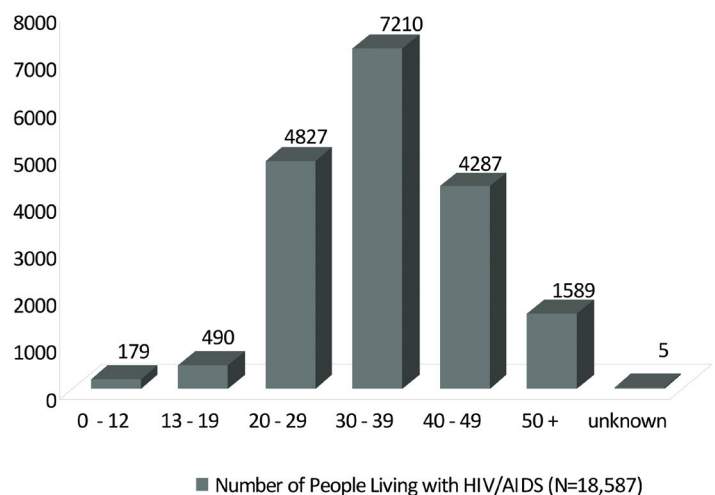
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Risk

The largest proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2006, by risk group, was MSM (38%), followed by those with heterosexual contact (20%), and then injection drug users (13%). From 2005 to 2006, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS has increased 0.3% among MSM and 0.4% among those with heterosexual contact.

Figure 1

Living HIV/AIDS by age group (through December 2006)



REFERENCES

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