

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines youth as persons 13 to 24 years of age. Youth may engage in high risk behaviors such as alcohol and drug use and unsafe sex. Engaging in risky behaviors during this age can increase the chance of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV disease through adulthood.^{1,2}

The CDC states that 9,731 youth were diagnosed with HIV disease in the United States (US) in 2014. Around 22% of all new HIV diagnoses in 2014 in the US were among youth. From 2005 to 2014, new diagnoses among Black, non-Hispanic (NH) and White, NH youth men who have sex with men (MSM) increased by 87%. However, rates among Black and White youth MSM have not changed in recent years. In 2014, 80% of all new youth HIV diagnoses in the US were gay and bisexual males. Youth are also the least likely of any age group to be linked to HIV care.

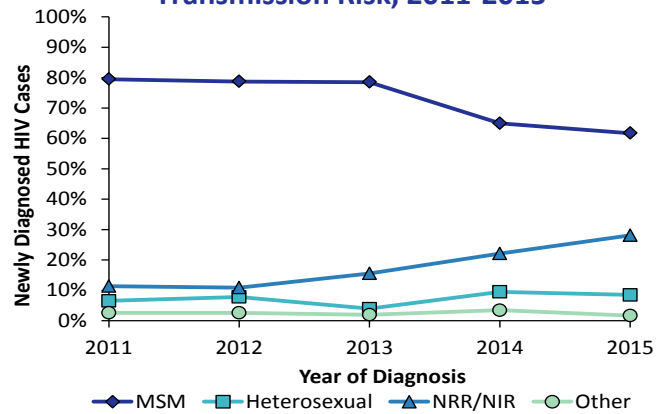
In 2015, 9 out of 10 new youth HIV cases were males in Virginia



NEW HIV DISEASE DIAGNOSES

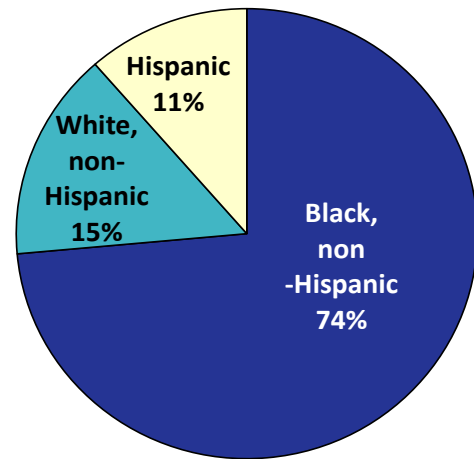
In Virginia, the average number of new HIV diagnoses among youth was 235 per year from 2011 to 2015. On average, 25% of the total new HIV diagnoses in Virginia each year were among youth. New HIV diagnoses among youth in Virginia remained stable from 2011 to 2015. In 2015, there were 235 new HIV diagnoses among youth in Virginia. Around 90% of all new youth HIV cases in 2015 were males. From 2011 to 2015, 18% of new HIV diagnoses among youth were White, NH, and 8% were Hispanic/Latino. Black, NH youth represented 74% of new youth HIV cases, even though only 23% of the youth population in Virginia is Black.

Figure 1: New HIV Diagnoses among Youth by Transmission Risk, 2011-2015



At an average of 73%, male-to-male sexual contact was the highest risk group among newly diagnosed youth from 2011 to 2015. However, new cases among youth MSM have decreased over time (Figure 1). During the same time period, new cases due to heterosexual contact increased. By race/ethnicity, among youth MSM diagnosed with HIV in 2015, 74% were Black, 15% were White, and 11% were Hispanic/Latino (Figure 2).

Figure 2: HIV Diagnoses among MSM 13-24 Years 13-24 by Race/Ethnicity, 2015



The Commonwealth is divided into five health regions: Central, Eastern, Northern, Northwest, and Southwest. Almost 44% of all new youth HIV cases were diagnosed in the Central Region. The lowest percentage of new HIV diagnoses among youth in 2015 was in the Southwest at 6%.

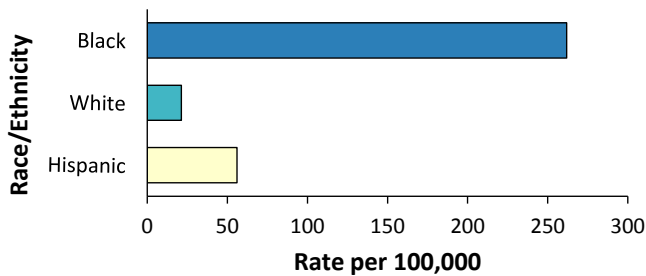
HIV/AIDS PREVALENCE

There were 940 youth living with HIV disease in Virginia as of December 31, 2015. Over 17% of youth had progressed to an AIDS-defining condition. Nearly 80% of all youth persons living with HIV (PLWH) in Virginia were male.

Prevalence Rates†

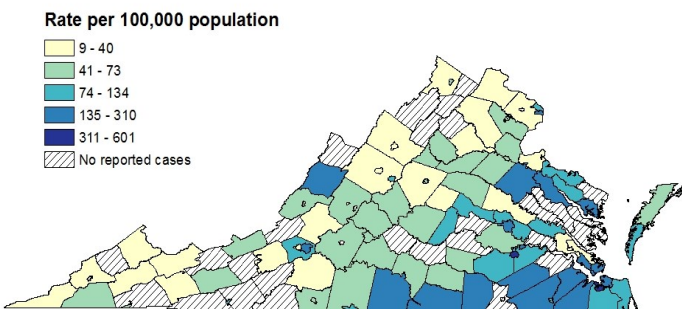
The US Census does not calculate population data for the 13-24 age group, so all rates are calculated for 15-24 year olds. At the end of 2015, the rate of PLWH ages 15 to 24 was 81 per 100,000. In contrast, the rate of PLWH for all ages was 298 per 100,000. At the end of 2015, male youth were almost four times more likely to be living with HIV than female youth. Minority youth had higher rates of PLWH compared to White youth. Black youth were 12 times and Hispanic/Latino youth were three times more likely to be living with HIV than White youth (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Youth (ages 15-24) PLWH in Virginia by Race/Ethnicity as of December 31, 2015



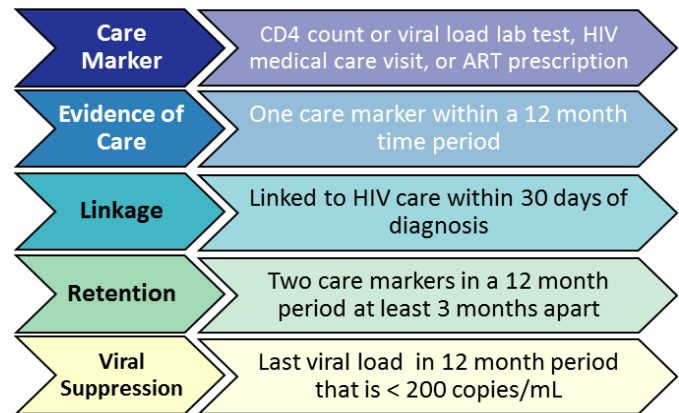
As seen in Figure 4, higher rates of youth PLWH were in the Central, Eastern, and Northern regions of the state. The Northwest and Southwest regions of the state had the lowest rates of youth PLWH at 9 per 100,000.

Figure 4: Youth (ages 15-24) Living with HIV Disease in Virginia as of December 31, 2015



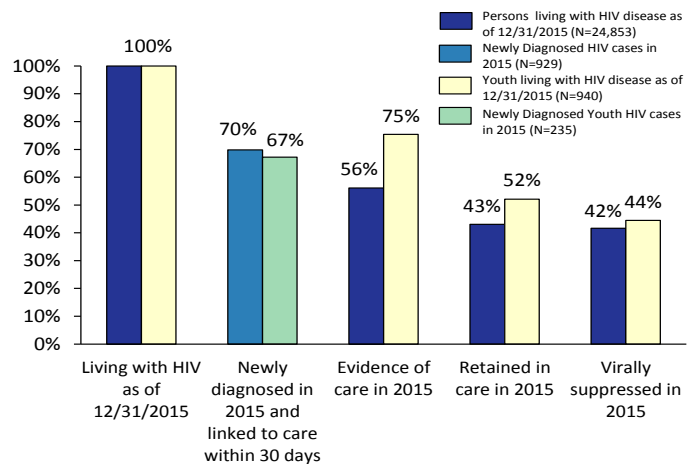
HIV CARE CONTINUUM

Figure 5: HIV Care Continuum Definitions



The HIV Care Continuum (HCC) is a framework for assessing health outcomes among PLWH (Figure 5). At the end of 2015, 940 youth were diagnosed and living with HIV in Virginia. Of the 940 youth PLWH, 75% had a care marker in 2015, 52% were retained in care and 44% were virally suppressed. Of the 235 new HIV cases among youth in 2015, 67% were linked to care within 30 days (Figure 6).

Figure 6: HIV Care Continuum in Virginia and among Youth (ages 13-24), 2015



REFERENCES

1. CDC. "HIV/AIDS among Youth." Accessed April 2016: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/index.html>
2. CDC. "Sexual Risk Behaviors: HIV, STD, & Teen Pregnancy Prevention." Accessed July 2016: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/sexualbehaviors/>

*When describing transmission risk, MSM refers to male-to-male sexual contact or men who have sex with men and NRR/NIR refers to no reported risk or no identified risk information

†All rates are calculated for 15-24 year-olds only due to the lack of population information among the 13-14 age population in Virginia.