

HIV/AIDS among American Indians (AI) and Alaska Natives (AN) in Arizona

Statistics

- In 2005, American Indians accounted for 4.5% of all new AIDS cases in Arizona (1)
- From 1999-2003, American Indians and Alaska Natives had the highest rate of emergent HIV/AIDS cases, compared to other racial/ethnic groups (2).
- Through June 2003, 265 AIDS cases and 165 HIV cases have been reported for AI/ANs (3).
- As of December 31, 2004, there were 365 AI/ANs living with HIV/AIDS. Approximately 82% of those cases were AI/AN males (4).

Primary Mode of Transmission

- Among the AI/ANs living with HIV/AIDS, male-to-male sexual contact represented the largest risk category for males, followed by heterosexual contact for females (4).

Risk Factors

There are multiple risk factors that contribute to high rates of HIV. Of these, two health risk factors, substance abuse and sexually transmitted diseases, and one general risk factor, poverty, is highlighted, since all three are universally prominent in most AI and AN and communities.

- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) increase the risk of HIV transmission. The number of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis cases reported for AI/ANs in Arizona is significantly greater than the number of STIs reported in many other states. In Arizona, AI/ANs have the highest rate of chlamydia, and the 2nd and 3rd highest rates of syphilis and gonorrhea, respectively. In 2004, 2459 cases of chlamydia and 42 cases of syphilis were reported for AI/ANs. The number of chlamydia cases among AI/AN females was almost 5 times greater than that of AI/AN males (5).
- Substance abuse increases the likelihood of engaging in risk behaviors. In 2003, 816 American Indian and Alaska Native hospital discharges were related to drug dependencies (6).
- Poverty increases an individual's vulnerability to HIV infection. Approximately 37% of AI/ANs in Arizona live below the poverty level, compared to 14% of the state's general population (7). Consequently, access to healthcare, HIV testing and prevention services, and education are limited.

Surveillance

- Arizona is among the 33 areas whose data is included in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, because they have been reporting HIV by name since January 1987. HIV data from states that implemented confidential name-based HIV reporting after 1999 were excluded from the analysis of HIV/AIDS cases in the most recent report (8).
-

Ryan White CARE Act

- Although AI/ANs made up 4% of Arizona's living HIV/AIDS cases, they only represent 1% of the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) clients in 2004 (9). However, nearly 6% of clients receiving other Title II services in Arizona were AI/AN in 2001 (10).

Additional Resources

- Arizona Department of Health Services. HIV Epidemiology Program. Office of HIV/AIDS. http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/hiv/hiv_epi.htm.
- Arizona Department of Health Services. STD Control Program: <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/oids/std/index.htm>.
- National Native American AIDS Prevention Center: www.nnaapc.org; 303-542-2036.

References

1. Kaiser State Health Facts. 50 State Comparisons: Distribution of new AIDS cases by race/ethnicity, 2006. Available at: <http://www.statehealthfacts.kff.org>. Accessed March 16, 2007.
2. Arizona Department of Health Services. HIV/AIDS 2005 Annual Report. Office of HIV/AIDS Services. HIV Statistics and Report, 2005.
3. Arizona Department of Health Services. Arizona HIV/AIDS semi-annual surveillance report. Office of HIV/AIDS Services. Vol. 10:1, 2003.
4. Arizona Department of Health Services. American Indian/Alaska Native dataset, 2004. Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control Services. HIV/AIDS Services, 2004.
5. Arizona Department of Health Services. Arizona health status and vital statistics, 2004. Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control Services. STD Control Program, 2004.
6. Arizona Department of Health Services. Hospital inpatient discharge statistics for drug-related discharges, 2003. Available at: <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/hip/for/substance/>. Accessed October 28, 2005.
7. US Census Bureau. Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000. Available at: http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/QTTable?_bm=y&context=qt®=DEC_2000_SFAIAN_DP3:001|01A&qz_name=DEC_2000_SFAIAN_DP3&ds_name=DEC_2000_SFAIAN&-CONTEXT=qt&-tree_id=406&geo_id=04000US04&-search_results=01000US&-format=&-lang=en. Accessed October 25, 2005.
8. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2003 (Vol. 15). Atlanta: US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2004.
9. NASTAD & Kaiser Family Foundation. National ADAP Monitoring Project: Annual Report, 2005. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/National-ADAP-Monitoring-Project-Annual-Report-2005.pdf>. Accessed October 20, 2005.
10. Health Resources and Services Administration. Demographic Characteristics of Clients Receiving Services Funded by Ryan White Care Act Title II Programs 2001 Report. HIV/AIDS Bureau. Available at: http://hab.hrsa.gov/data/hab2001/new_reports.cfm. Accessed October 26, 2005.