

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

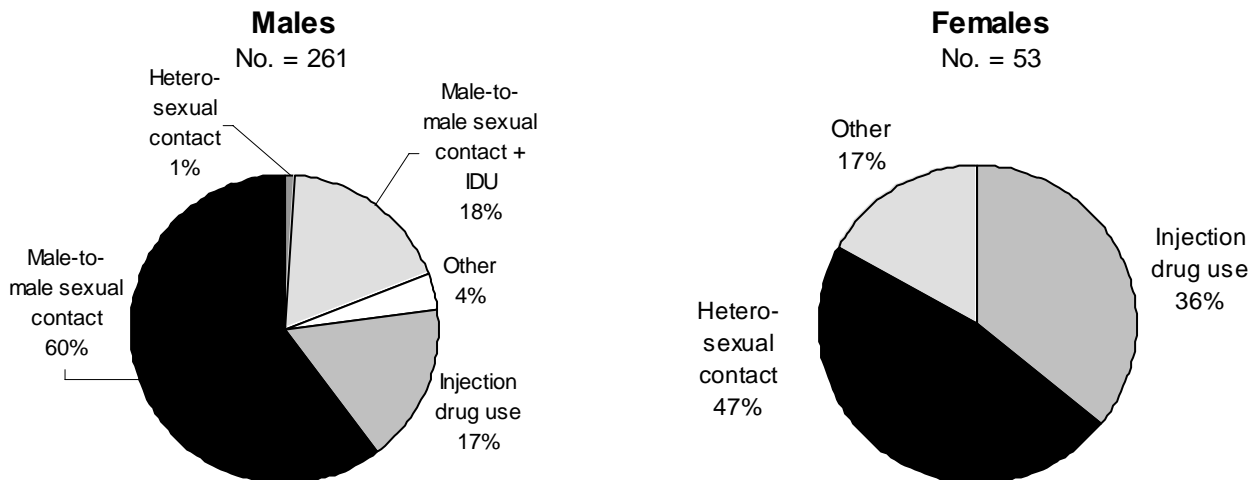
Statistics

- In 2005, American Indians represented 7.1% of all new AIDS reported cases (1).
- American Indians and Alaska Natives represent 8% of Oklahoma's population, and they make up approximately 7% of all HIV and AIDS cases in Oklahoma (2).
- Through 2004, 314 AIDS cases and 153 HIV cases have been reported for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) (2).
- As of December 31, 2004, 185 AI/ANs were reported living with HIV/AIDS (2).

Primary Mode of Transmission

As shown in the graphs below, the primary mode of transmission was male-to-male sexual contact for males and heterosexual contact for females.

Reported AIDS cases by transmission category, cumulative through 2004



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.

- American Indian and Alaska Native females have disproportionately high rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea. In 2004, there were 1271 cases of AI/AN chlamydia cases were reported, 88% of which were female (3).
- Substance abuse increases the likelihood of engaging in risk behaviors associated with HIV transmission. Among those admitted to substance abuse treatment centers in Oklahoma, AI/ANs represented 11% of all admissions in 2004 (4).
- Poverty increases an individual's vulnerability to HIV infection. Approximately 22% of AI/ANs in Oklahoma live below the poverty level, compared to 15% of the state's general population. Consequently, access to healthcare, HIV testing and prevention services, education is limited (5).

Surveillance

- Oklahoma implemented confidential name-based HIV reporting in June 1988; thus, the state's HIV data is included in the Centers for Disease Prevention's Annual HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report.

Ryan White Care Act

- Oklahoma is among the states with the greatest proportion of AI/AN AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) clients. In 2004, 7% of Oklahoma's ADAP clients were AI/AN, and 9% of clients receiving other Title II services were AI/AN in 2001 (6,7).

Resources

- Oklahoma State Department of Health. Epidemiology in HIV/STD Service: <http://www.health.state.ok.us/program/hivstd/index.html>.
- National Native American AIDS Prevention Center: www.nnaapc.org; 303-542-2036.

References

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7. 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.