Injection Drug Use and HIV/AIDS

National

- **Estimated number living with HIV/AIDS:** Injection drug use was estimated to account for 18.5% of living HIV/AIDS cases in the United States in 2006, or approximately 278,000 individuals, which including people who remain undiagnosed.¹

- **Estimated new infections:** Injection drug use represented an estimated 12% of new HIV infections in the U.S. in 2006, or approximately 6,600 new infections.²

- **Living with AIDS:** There were an estimated 92,547 individuals living with HIV/AIDS for who injection drug use was their likely mode of transmission at the end of 2006. This represents 20.6% of reported living cases.³

- **New reported cases:** In 2006, 5,239 people were newly diagnosed with AIDS who listed injection drug use.⁴

- **Survival rate:** Injection drug users had the lowest survival rate (time from diagnoses to death) of all-risk populations, according to the CDC 2005 Surveillance Report.⁵

Illinois⁶

**Race/ethnicity among injection-related HIV cases, 2006**

- Caucasian 22%
- African American 65%
- Latino 13%

**Race:**

In 2006, African Americans represented 65% of injection-related HIV diagnoses, Caucasians represented 22%, and Latinos represented 13%.
Reported HIV diagnoses among Injection Drug Users by gender, 2006

- Men accounted for 63% of injection-related HIV diagnoses in 2006, or 71 people.
- Women represented 37% of reported diagnoses, or 42 people.

Risk factors for female HIV diagnoses, 2006

Women’s risk for HIV: In 2006, 24% of reported HIV diagnoses among women were attributed to injection drug use. This represents 42 of the 178 women reported as diagnosed with HIV in Illinois.

Risk factors for male HIV, 2006

- Men’s risk for HIV: In 2006, 8% of reported HIV diagnoses among men were attributed to injection drug use, or 71 of the 874 men reported with HIV, and 3% among MSM who also injected drugs (22 men).
Reported HIV diagnoses among Illinois Injection Drug Users, 2001-2006

Trend in reported cases: Reported HIV cases among injection drug users in Illinois declined 62.7% from 2001-2006. This is the largest decline of any risk group.

Reported HIV diagnoses by mode of transmission in Illinois, 2006

New reported cases: In 2006, 113 injection drug users were reported as diagnosed with HIV in Illinois. Injection drug use represented 11% of reported HIV diagnoses in 2006, and gay men/MSM who were also injection drug users represented an additional 2%.

Reported HIV diagnoses by mode of transmission and geography in Illinois, 2006

Geography: In 2006, 70% of injection-related HIV diagnoses with HIV occurred in Chicago, 8% lived in Cook County outside of Chicago, 8% in the Collar Counties, and 15% in the remainder of the state.
Chicago

- **Reported living with HIV/AIDS**: 20.6% of people living with HIV/AIDS in Chicago were infected via injection drug use, or 4,407 individuals. An additional 5.9% were MSM/IDUs.7

- **Reported HIV diagnoses**: In Chicago in 2006 there were 198 new HIV diagnoses reported among injection drug users. Injection drug user accounted for 12.7% of new HIV diagnoses, slightly higher than the 11% reported at the state level.8

- **Reported AIDS diagnoses**: There were 145 new AIDS cases reported among injection drug users in Chicago in 2006. Injection drug use as a mode of transmission accounted for 19.2% of new reported Chicago cases.9

- **Reported HIV diagnoses among injection drug users by gender**: In 2006, 69% of injection drug users diagnosed with HIV were males (142 cases). 31% of injection drug users diagnosed with HIV were women (66 women).10

- **Race/ethnicity of IDUs reported as diagnosed with HIV**: In 2006, 19% of African Americans, 12% of Latinos, and 3.5% of Caucasians reported injection-related HIV/AIDS diagnoses.

- **Age of IDUs reported as diagnosed with HIV**: Chicagoans diagnosed with HIV in 2006 reporting injection drug use were significantly older than people infected via other modes of transmission. 79% of IDU cases were older than 40, compared to one-third of MSM and 42% of heterosexuals.

- **Risk among women by race and ethnicity**: Chicago Latina women have substantially higher rates than African American women of reported HIV infections resulting from injection drug use, with 33.3% of Latina women infected via IDU compared to 18.9% of African American women.11 Note, however, that the small number of reporting HIV diagnoses among Latinas may overstate IDU as a risk factor in this population.

**Note**: The City of Chicago Department of Public Health redistributes cases with unknown risk proportionately to cases with known risk. However, the data reported for the State of Illinois does not redistribute cases by risk. As a result, numbers for the City of Chicago may be higher than for the state of Illinois. However, the percentage of cases remains consistent.

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**NOTE**: Charts do not show cases with unknown risk, perinatal, or blood transfusion. In some cases, Asian and Pacific Islanders and individuals of “other” race/ethnicities are not shown because of extremely small numbers.

6 Illinois data is from a Special data request received July 2008, Illinois Department of Public Health, HIV/AIDS Section.