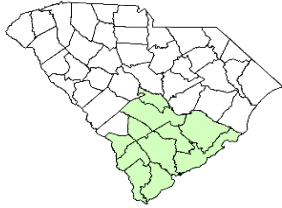




Fact Sheet

South Carolina Department of Public Health – www.dph.sc.gov

2023 HIV/AIDS summary: Lowcountry Public Health Region



New HIV infections (including AIDS cases), 2021-2022

Lowcountry Public Health Region includes eleven counties: Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, and Orangeburg.

HIV in the Lowcountry Public Health Region (PHR) For the two-year period 2021-2022, 378 people were newly diagnosed with HIV. This represents 25 percent of the total cases diagnosed in South Carolina.

By gender assigned at birth, 78 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases were men; 22 percent were among women. All references to women and men in this fact sheet indicate gender assigned at birth.

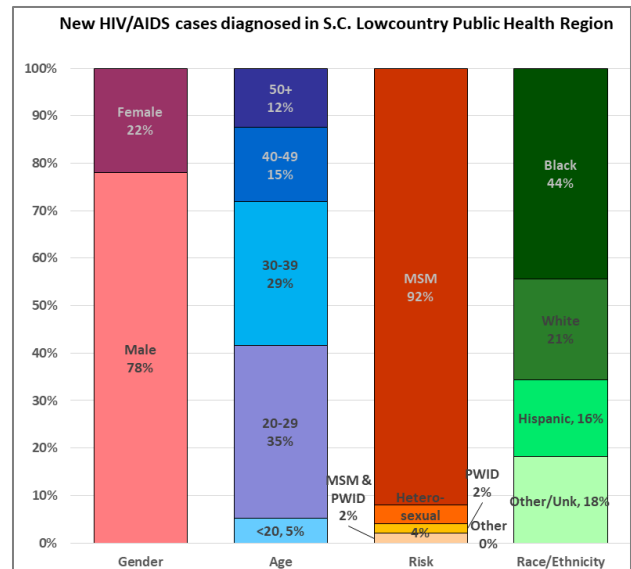
By age, the greatest proportion of new HIV/AIDS cases were among people ages 20-29 (35 percent), 29 percent were among people ages 30-39, 15 percent were among people ages 40-49, and 12 percent were ages 50 and up. Five percent of new cases were under the age of 20.

By risk, among the 220 people who reported a risk, men who have sex with men (MSM) represent the largest proportion of recent acquires (92 percent), followed by those indicating heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV (4 percent); two percent were people who inject drugs (PWID); and two percent were the combined risk of MSM and PWID.

By race/ethnicity, among people newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the Lowcountry PHR, 44 percent were African American; 21 percent were white; and 16 percent were Hispanic. In 2021-2022, African Americans had two times the cases than whites in the Lowcountry PHR.

Among women recently diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the Lowcountry PHR, most were African American (51 percent); 19 percent were White; and eight percent were Hispanic. Of the 12 women reporting risk, 83 percent indicated heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV; 17 percent were people who inject drugs.

Among men recently diagnosed in the Lowcountry PHR, 42 percent were African American; 22 percent were white; and 12 percent were Hispanic. Of the 288 men reporting risk, 96 percent were men who have sex with men, one percent were exposed through heterosexual sex; One percent were people who inject drugs; Two percent were both MSM and PWID.



Total People Living with HIV/AIDS through December 2022

As of December 2022, there were 4,611 residents of the Lowcountry Public Health Region living with a diagnosis of HIV (including AIDS). This represents 23 percent of the S.C. total. Of these, 3,312 were men and 1,299 were women. Most people (2,271) were ages 50 and over; 808 were ages 40-49; 1,007 were ages 30-39; 458 were ages 20-29; 67 were children and teens under 20 years of age.

As with new infections, African Americans are disproportionately impacted. Most of the people living with HIV in the Lowcountry Public Health Region were African American men (44 percent), 22 percent were White men, 20 percent were African American women and five percent were White women. nine percent of people living with HIV were Hispanic/Latino (men & women).

Of the 3,676 people living with HIV who reported a risk, 59 percent reported a risk of men who have sex with men; followed by men and women exposed through heterosexual sex (28 percent); people who inject drugs (six percent); and the combined risk of men who have sex with men and people who inject drugs (four percent).

S.C. HIV Prevention Program Priority Populations

Care, treatment and prevention services for persons living with HIV/AIDS are a top priority for the State of South Carolina's HIV Program.

Among remaining priority populations for HIV prevention services:		
S.C. HIV Prevention Program Priority Populations ^(1,2)	2021/2022 Diagnosed HIV/AIDS Cases by Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (237 Total) *	People Living with HIV/AIDS, 2022 By Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (3,769 Total)
2. African American MSM	41%	28%
3. African American WSM	1%	12%
4. African American MSW	0%	5%
5. White MSM	18%	17%
6. PWID	2%	6%
7. ♦Hispanic/Latino ³	25%	9%

***Caution: Due to small numbers, must interpret recent case proportions with caution.**

NOTES:

1. Populations: MSM = Men who have Sex with Men; PWID = People who Inject Drugs; WSM = Women who have Sex with Men; MSW = Men who have Sex with Women.
2. Priority Populations are a subset of the Epi Profile data and are not directly comparable to incidence and prevalence counts/percentages.
3. Ethnicity, in and of itself, is not a risk factor for HIV; however, in the context of Priority Populations, Hispanic/Latino is included as a 'Risk' for reporting purposes.

Source: SCDPH, STD/HIV Section 11/2024

For more information visit: <https://dph.sc.gov/professionals/public-health-data/hiv-aids-stds-data-and-reports> or call the S.C. AIDS/STD Hotline toll free at 1-800-322-AIDS