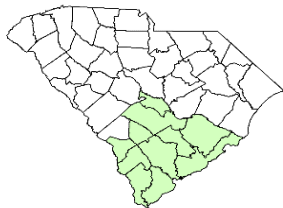




# Fact Sheet

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

2025 HIV/AIDS summary: Lowcountry Public Health Region



## New HIV infections (including AIDS cases), 2023-2024

**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 2023-2024, 373 people were newly diagnosed with HIV. This represents 23 percent of the total cases diagnosed in South Carolina.

**By sex assigned at birth**, 79 percent of new HIV cases were men; 21 percent were women. All references to women and men in this fact sheet indicate sex assigned at birth.

**By age**, the greatest proportion of new HIV cases were among people ages 20-29 (35 percent), 26 percent were among people ages 30-39, 17 percent were among people ages 40-49, and 18 percent were ages 50 and up. Three percent of new cases were under the age of 20.

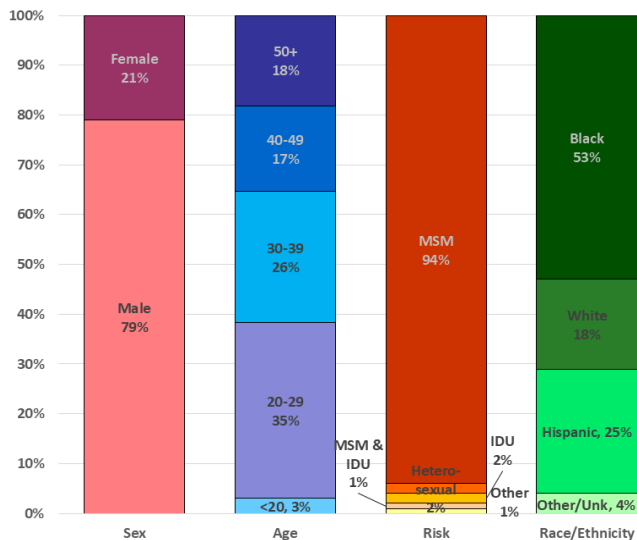
**By risk**, among the 202 people who reported a risk, men who have sex with men (MSM) represent the largest proportion of recent acquires (94 percent), followed by people who inject drugs (IDU) (two percent); two percent were indicating heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV; and one percent were the combined risk of MSM and IDU.

**By race/ethnicity**, among people newly diagnosed with HIV in the Lowcountry PHR, 53 percent were African American; 18 percent were white; and 25 percent were Hispanic. In 2023-2024, African Americans had 2.9 times the cases than whites in the Lowcountry PHR.

**Among women** recently diagnosed with HIV in the Lowcountry PHR, most were African American (58 percent); 16 percent were White; and 18 percent were Hispanic. Of the 4 women reporting risk, 50 percent indicated heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV; 25 percent were people who inject drugs.

**Among men** recently diagnosed in the Lowcountry PHR, 51 percent were African American; 19 percent were white; and 27 percent were Hispanic. Of the 191 men reporting risk, 96 percent were men who have sex with men, one percent was exposed through heterosexual sex; and two percent were people who inject drugs.

New HIV cases diagnosed in SC Lowcountry Public Health Region



## Total People Living with HIV through December 2024

As of December 2024, there were 4,693 residents of the Lowcountry Public Health Region living with a diagnosis of HIV (including AIDS). This represents 23 percent of the SC total. Of these, 3,412 were men and 1,281 were women. Most people (2,322) were ages 50 and over; 865 were ages 40-49; 1,036 were ages 30-39; 438 were ages 20-29; 32 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), 21 percent were White men, 19 percent were African American women, and four percent were White women. Eleven percent of people living with HIV were Hispanic/Latino (men & women).

Of the 3,643 people living with HIV who reported a risk, 62 percent reported a risk of men who have sex with men; followed by men and women exposed through heterosexual sex (27 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).

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### SC HIV Prevention Program Priority Populations

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

<b>Among remaining priority populations for HIV prevention services:</b>		
<b>SC HIV Prevention Program Priority Populations <sup>(1,2)</sup></b>	<b>2023/2024 Diagnosed HIV Cases by Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (238 Total) *</b>	<b>People Living with HIV, 2024 By Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (3,783 Total)</b>
2. African American MSM	40%	29%
3. African American WSM	1%	11%
4. African American MSW	0%	5%
5. White MSM	14%	16%
6. IDU	2%	5%
7. ♦Hispanic/Latino <sup>3</sup>	39%	12%

\*Caution: Due to small numbers, recent case proportions must be interpreted with caution.

#### **NOTES:**

1. Populations: MSM = Men who have Sex with Men; IDU = Injection Drug User; 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 12/2025

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