



Fact Sheet

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

2025 HIV/AIDS summary: South Carolina

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

HIV in SC: For the two-year period 2023-2024, 1,617 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in SC, which is slightly higher than previous years.

By sex, 80 percent of new HIV cases occur among men; 20 percent were among women. All references to women and men in this fact sheet indicate sex assigned at birth.

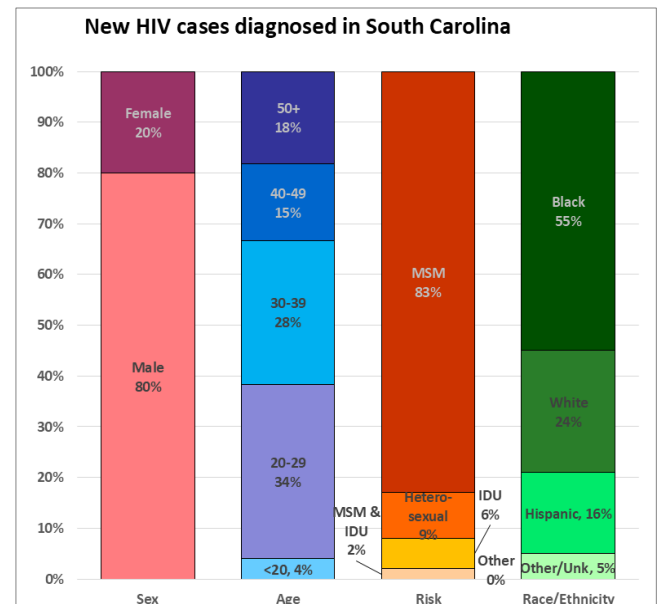
By age, the greatest proportion (34 percent) of new HIV cases were among people ages 20-29, 28 percent were among people ages 30-39, 15 percent were among people ages 40-49, and 18 percent were age 50 and up. Four percent of new cases were under the age of 20.

By risk, among the 880 people with a reported risk, men who have sex with men (MSM) represent the largest proportion (83 percent) of newly diagnosed; followed by nine percent indicating heterosexual sex (men who have sex with women / women who have sex with men) as their exposure to HIV. Of the people who reported a risk, fifty people (six percent) were people who inject drugs (IDU), and two percent indicated the combined risks of MSM and IDU.

By race/ethnicity, among people newly diagnosed with HIV in SC, 55 percent were African American; 24 percent were white; 16 percent were Hispanic. In 2023-2024, African Americans 2.3 times the cases than whites in SC.

Among women recently diagnosed with HIV in SC, most were African American (57 percent), 28 percent were white, and 10 percent were Hispanic. Of the 60 women reporting risk, 68 percent indicated heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV and 32 percent were people who inject drugs.

Among men recently diagnosed in SC, 54 percent were African American; 23 percent were white; and 17 percent were Hispanic. Of the 804 men reporting risk, 89 percent were men who have sex with men, five percent were exposed through heterosexual sex; four percent were people who inject drugs (IDU); and two percent were both men who have sex with men and IDU.



Total People Living with HIV through December 2024

As of December 2024, there were 20,684 residents of South Carolina living with a diagnosis of HIV (including AIDS). Of these, 14,958 were men and 5,726 were women. Most people (10,708) were ages 50 and over; 3,774 were ages 40-49; 4,331 were ages 30-39; 1,764 were ages 20-29; and 107 were children and teens under 20 years of age.

Similar to new infections, African Americans are disproportionately impacted. Most of the people living with HIV in SC were African American men (45 percent), 21 percent were African American women, 21 percent were white men, and five percent were white women. Nine percent of people living with HIV were Hispanic/Latino (men & women).

Of the 15,598 people living with HIV who reported a risk, 61 percent reported a risk of men who have sex with men; followed by men and women exposed through heterosexual sex (26 percent); people who inject drugs (seven percent); and combined risk of men who have sex with men and people who inject drugs (four percent).

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.

Among remaining priority populations for HIV prevention services:		
SC HIV Prevention Program Priority Populations ^(1,2)	2023/2024 Diagnosed HIV Cases by Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (977 Total) *	People Living with HIV, 2024 By Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (16,081 Total)
1. African American MSM	40%	33%
2. African American WSM	3%	13%
3. African American MSW	2%	6%
4. White MSM	16%	17%
5. IDU	5%	7%
6. ♦Hispanic/Latino ³	25%	10%

*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 Drugs 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