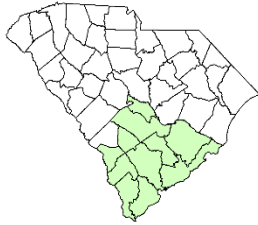


2020 HIV/AIDS summary: Lowcountry Public Health Region

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



Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has launched Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America. The cross-agency initiative leverages critical scientific advances in HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and outbreak response by coordinating programs, resources, and infrastructure of many HHS agencies and offices. The overarching goal of this plan is reaching a 75% reduction in new HIV infections by 2025 and at least a 90% reduction by 2030.

EHE Pillar 1: Diagnose All People with HIV as Early as Possible After Infection

HIV (including AIDS cases) in the Lowcountry Public Health Region (PHR) For the two-year period 2018-2019, 385 people were newly diagnosed with HIV. This represents 25 percent of the total cases newly diagnosed in South Carolina.

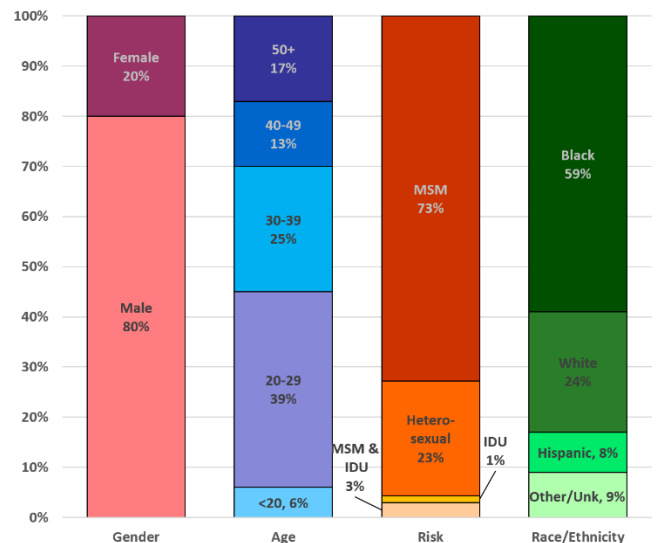
By Sex at birth, 80 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases were men; 20 percent were among women.

By Age, the majority of new HIV/AIDS cases were among people ages 20-29 (39 percent), 25 percent were among people age 30-39, 13 percent were among people age 40-49, and 17 percent were age 50 and up. Six percent of new cases were under the age of 20.

By Risk, among the 280 people who reported a risk, men who have sex with men (MSM) represent the largest proportion of recent infections (73 percent), followed by those indicating heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV (23 percent); 1 percent reported injecting drug use (IDU); and 3 percent were the combined risk of MSM and IDU.

By Race/Ethnicity, among people newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the Lowcountry PHR, 59 percent were African American; 24 percent were white; and 8 percent were Hispanic. In 2018-2019, African Americans had a case rate 6.5 times greater than whites in the Lowcountry PHR.

Among Women recently diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the Lowcountry PHR, most were African American (67 percent); 21 percent were White; and 5 percent were Hispanic. Of the 50 women reporting risk, 100 percent indicated heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV.



Among Men recently diagnosed in the Lowcountry PHR, 57 percent were African American; 25 percent were white; and 9 percent were Hispanic. Of the 230 men reporting risk, 89 percent were men who have sex with men, 6 percent were exposed through heterosexual sex; 1 percent reported injecting drug use; 3 percent were both MSM and IDU.

EHE Pillar 2: Treat the Infection Rapidly and Effectively to Achieve Sustained Viral Suppression

As of December 2019, there were 4,926 residents of the Lowcountry Public Health Region living with a diagnosis of HIV (including AIDS). This represents 24 percent of the S.C. total. Of these, 3,565 were men and 1,361 were women. Most people (2,493) were ages 50 and over; 882 were ages 40-49; 931 were ages 30-39; 552 were ages 20-29; 68 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 (46 percent), 21 percent were White men, 23 percent were African American women and 4 percent were White women. Six percent of people living with HIV were Hispanic/Latino (men and women).

Of the 3,970 people living with HIV who reported a risk, 56 percent reported a risk of men who have sex with men; followed by men and women exposed through heterosexual sex (30 percent); injecting drug use (9 percent); and the combined risk of men who have sex with men and injecting drug use (4 percent).

As of December 2019, on average 75 percent of people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the Lowcountry PHR were linked to care within 30 days; on average 96 percent of newly diagnosed people were linked to care within 90 days; 52 percent of people who received care in the Lowcountry PHR were retained in care; and 57 percent of people receiving care reached viral suppression.

Note: The national and state performance standard for linkage to care is at least 85% of persons newly diagnosed with HIV should be linked to care within 30 days of diagnosis.

EHE Pillar 3: Prevent New HIV Transmissions by Using Proven Interventions

Pillar 3 includes proven interventions such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe services programs (SSPs, where allowable by law). Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a pill taken daily by people who do not have HIV but who are at very high risk for getting HIV. It is highly effective in preventing HIV when taken daily. Based on the most recently available data, CDC estimated in 2018 that there were approximately 10,249 persons in South Carolina who had indications for PrEP. Of the 10,000+ persons, only 1,198 (11.7%) were prescribed PrEP medication.

EHE Pillar 4: Respond Quickly to Potential HIV Outbreaks

Responding quickly to potential HIV outbreaks will get needed prevention and treatment services to people who need them. HIV cluster detection and response (CDR) is an approach that uses data routinely reported to health departments to identify networks of rapid HIV transmission. This information can then be used to identify gaps in prevention and care services that contribute to rapid transmission and ensure that services reach the populations that need them the most.

A cluster or outbreak indicates **gaps in our prevention and care services** that need to be addressed to remove barriers to services and stop transmission. To close this gap, health departments can work to:

-- Understand barriers to care and prevention	-- Provide needed services in targeted areas
-- Develop approaches to overcome barriers	-- Increase testing and outreach in those areas

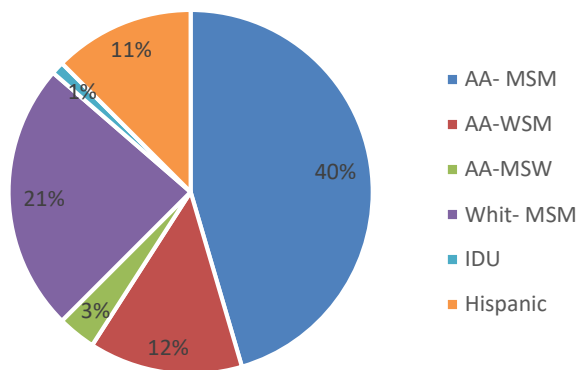
S.C. HIV Program Priority Populations

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

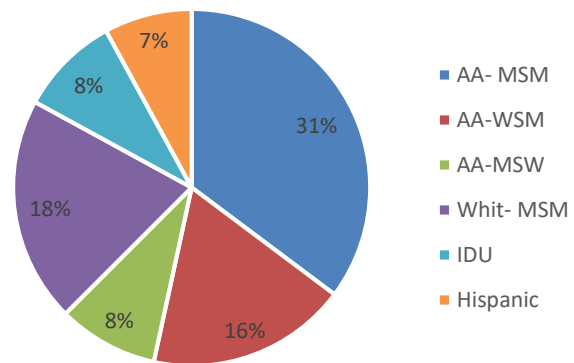
Among remaining priority populations for HIV prevention services:		
S.C. HIV Prevention Program Priority Populations ^(1,2)	2018/2019 Diagnosed HIV/AIDS Cases by Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (286 Total) *	People Living with HIV/AIDS, 2019 By Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (4,049 Total)
2. African American MSM	40%	31%
3. African American WSM	12%	16%
4. African American MSW	3%	8%
5. White MSM	21%	18%
6. IDU	1%	7%
7. ♦Hispanic/Latino ³	11%	7%

* Caution: Due to small numbers, it is important to interpret recent case proportions with caution.

2018-2019 Incidence Priority Populations



2019 Prevalence Priority Populations



NOTES:

1. Populations: MSM = Men who have Sex with Men; IDU = Injecting 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: SCDHEC, STD/HIV Division 11/2020

For more information visit: www.scdhec.gov/health/infectious-diseases/hiv-aids-std-data-and-reports or call the S.C. AIDS/STD Hotline toll free at 1-800-322-AIDS