

# WISCONSIN AIDS/HIV PROGRAM NOTES

February 2010

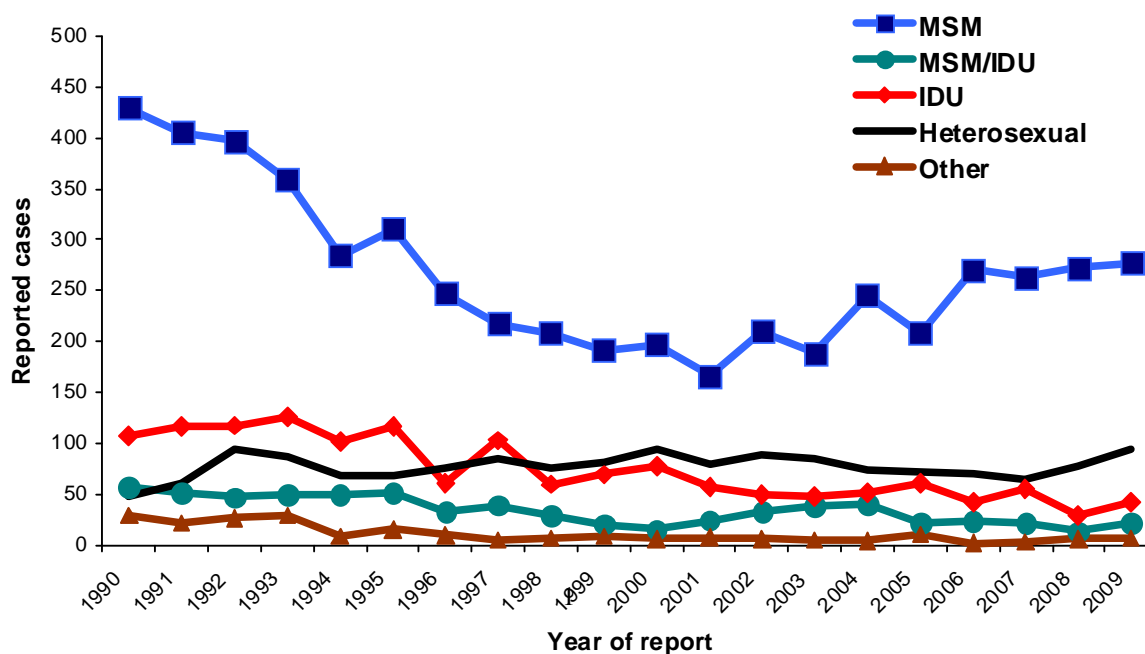
## Release of Annual Wisconsin HIV Surveillance Report

The Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program recently released its annual HIV surveillance report and other information resources that summarize the state's most current AIDS/HIV statistics through 2009. The surveillance data are cumulative and include statistical information reported since 1983, the beginning of the HIV epidemic in Wisconsin.

The surveillance report and supporting materials are located on the website of the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program (<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/aids-hiv/Stats/index.htm>). The information resources were developed in a variety of formats that are intended to be useful to several groups, including public health professionals, clinicians, researchers, planning groups, and interested consumers. An Executive Summary of the recently released surveillance data (published as a PDF at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/aids-hiv/Stats/2009SurvExecSum.pdf>) provides a summary of HIV surveillance trends in Wisconsin. Highlights from the Executive Summary include:

- In the year 2009, 443 new cases of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection were reported in Wisconsin, bringing the total number of cases reported since 1983 (the year the first cases were reported in Wisconsin) to 10,765. Among all reported cases, 7,232 (67%) met the CDC criteria for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS); 3,533 (33%) persons have been reported with HIV infection but did not meet the AIDS case definition at the end of 2009.
- The annual number of reported cases of HIV infection reached a peak between 1990 and 1993 (average: 665 cases) and then declined by 50% to a low of 335 in 2001. The number of reported cases in 2009 represents an increase of 11% compared to 2008 and an increase of 32% since 2001.

Reported cases of HIV infection, by imputed risk exposure and year of report, Wisconsin, 1990-2009



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- Recent increases in HIV infection in Wisconsin are largely attributed to increases in cases of infection among young gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men of all racial/ethnic groups in the Milwaukee Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and in other metropolitan counties. Cases of HIV in heterosexual females, primarily among African Americans in the Milwaukee MSA have also increased. Cases in heterosexual females accounted for 16% of the state's 2009 cases.
- The majority (68%) of cases of HIV infection reported in 2009 occurred among men who have sex with men (MSM). After declining between 1990 and 2001, the number of reported cases among MSM increased 57% between 2001 and 2009.
- The number (n=123) of cases reported in 2009 among younger MSM (ages 13-29) increased 162% over the last decade, while the number reported among MSM age 30 and older remained level over the last decade.
- Among younger MSM, 58% of cases reported in 2009 were from the Milwaukee MSA and 27% were from other metropolitan counties. Reported cases among younger MSM increased 170% in the Milwaukee MSA and increased 247% in other metropolitan counties over the last decade.
- The number of reported cases more than doubled for younger White, African American, and Hispanic MSM in both the Milwaukee MSA and other metropolitan counties over the last decade.
- Females with heterosexual-attributed HIV infection (n=69) make up 16% of cases reported in 2009. After declining during 2002-2007, the number of cases reported in 2009 has almost reached the peak number observed in 2002.
- The most significant increase in reported cases among heterosexual females has been in the Milwaukee MSA, which accounts for 60% of cases reported among heterosexual females in 2009 and has increased 113% in recent years. African American females make up the majority (74%) of cases reported in 2009 among heterosexual females in the Milwaukee MSA.
- Deaths among persons reported with HIV infection in Wisconsin have declined since the early to mid-1990s. Sixty-nine deaths among persons reported with HIV infection in Wisconsin are known to have occurred in 2008; this is 82% less than the 373 deaths in 1993, the peak year.
- As deaths have declined, the number of persons reported with HIV that are presumed to be alive has continually increased. At the end of 2009, 6,971 persons reported with HIV infection in Wisconsin were presumed to be alive (124 cases per 100,000 population), an all time high.

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Increases in cases of HIV infection in Wisconsin are consistent with national trends.<sup>1</sup> According to the most recent HIV data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the number of reported cases of HIV infection increased 23% among MSM (including MSM/IDU), increased 12% among high risk heterosexuals, and decreased 7% among those with a history of injection drug use, from 2004 to 2007.

### **Wisconsin's ongoing response to the HIV epidemic**

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services is committed to responding to the continuing HIV epidemic in Wisconsin through a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention and care services at state and local levels. Major initiatives include:

- Counseling, testing and referral
- Partner notification services
- Prevention education and risk reduction
- Case management
- HIV drug assistance
- Health insurance premium subsidies
- Subsidized medical, dental, mental health, substance use, and client support services
- Community planning
- Surveillance

More detailed information on these activities and services is located on the website of the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program at <http://dhs.wi.gov/aids-hiv/>.

In response to the continued increase in the number of persons living with HIV, the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program is working closely with providers to improve access to and service linkages with medical, dental, mental health, and support services. A statewide network of AIDS service organizations and community-based service providers ensures that persons living with HIV infection have access to HIV-related client assistance and case management services.

In response to the continuing increase of new HIV diagnoses in gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM), the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program has undertaken several initiatives, including:

- Increasing HIV testing targeting gay, bisexual and MSM via:
  - enhanced funding of HIV testing providers serving MSM,
  - focused use of local HIV surveillance data to craft aggressive new HIV testing targets for local service providers in 2010,
  - increased technical support for "social networks testing" and other initiatives aimed at peer groups of young African American and Latino MSM,
  - support of expanded routine HIV testing resulting from proposed statutory changes regarding opt-out informed consent for HIV testing, and
  - collaboration with the Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) at the Medical College of Wisconsin in:

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<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2007*. Vol. 19. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2009:1-63. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/>.

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- developing messages for clinical providers to support annual routine HIV testing for gay & bisexual male clients, and
- surveying local gay & bisexual male populations to determine the best ways to promote annual HIV testing among sexually active MSM.
- Collaborating with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Milwaukee City Health Department on a special investigation project involving newly reported HIV-positive gay & bisexual men in Milwaukee.
- Investigating an increase in cases of HIV among young MSM in the Fox Valley region and collaborating with local public health departments and community organizations in a public health response.
- Increasing funding for programs serving young MSM and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth.
- Convening a "MSM Technology Communication Advisory Group" to assist in the development, implementation and improvement of HIV prevention efforts targeting gay, bisexual and other MSM using the internet, text messaging, social networking, and dating sites that serve MSM.
- Supporting local providers requesting CDC funding for special projects targeting MSM, including a "Popular Opinion Leader" intervention in the Fox Valley region, and group support programs for MSM of color in the Milwaukee area.
- Increasing support for capacity building for care providers serving MSM, through the development and implementation of advanced training sessions on providing culturally competent and appropriate care services to gay & bisexual men.
- Supporting changes to the questions and analysis of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) to improve understanding of behavioral determinants contributing to HIV risk among young gay & bisexual men.
- Supporting structural changes to address health disparities impacting LGBT populations, including young and adult gay & bisexual males.

### **Links to HIV surveillance reports and additional resource information**

A more detailed statistical report and related resources are located on the web include the following:

- A 60-page PDF report titled "Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Comprehensive Surveillance Report: Cases Reported through December 31, 2009" (located at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/aids-hiv/Stats/2009CompSurvReport.pdf>) provides a detailed and comprehensive review of the HIV epidemic in Wisconsin.

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- A 12-page PDF report titled “Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Regional Surveillance Tables: Cases reported through December 31, 2009 (located at [http://dhs.wi.gov/aids-hiv/Stats/RegionalTables\\_2009.pdf](http://dhs.wi.gov/aids-hiv/Stats/RegionalTables_2009.pdf)) summarizes reported cases of HIV infection by Department of Public Health regions and counties within regions.
- PowerPoint slides with annotated notes (located at <http://dhs.wi.gov/aids-hiv/Stats/2009SurvAnnotatPPTSlides.ppt>) graphically summarizing HIV case surveillance data reported through 2009.
- An interactive map of Wisconsin enables website visitors to click on a county location and receive a one-page summary of county-specific HIV case surveillance data. The interactive map is located at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/aids-hiv/map.htm>.

Information regarding national HIV surveillance data is available on the website of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/index.htm>. Additional information regarding HIV prevention and care resources is available from the Wisconsin HIV, STD, Hepatitis C Information and Referral Center at <http://www.irc-wisconsin.org/> and the federal HIV/AIDS information resource website at <http://aids.gov/>.

For further information regarding the HIV epidemic in Wisconsin and a summary of the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program and other resources, visit the Program’s website at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/aids-hiv>.