HIV in American Indians in Wisconsin

Socio-demographic highlights (2014)

• Wisconsin has 11 federally recognized American Indian tribal governments, including six bands of Lake Superior Chippewa (sometimes referred to as Ojibwe).¹
• Nearly 72,000 American Indians lived in Wisconsin in 2014; 22% were of Hispanic origin.²
• Wisconsin counties with the largest American Indian populations include: Milwaukee (16% of the total American Indian population); Brown (12%); Shawano, Menominee and Outagamie (5% each); Sawyer, Dane, and Vilas (4% each); and Ashland (3%).²
• American Indians in Wisconsin are younger (median age, 28.7) than Whites (median age, 41.2).²
• 1 in 3 (34.5%) American Indians in Wisconsin live on reservation land.³
• 1 in 4 (27.3%) American Indians live in poverty, compared to 1 in 10 (9.6%) Whites.
• Median household income for American Indians in 2014 was $35,504, compared to $56,083 for Whites.³
• 1 in 7 (13.8%) American Indians ages 25 or older have a bachelor’s degree or more education, compared to 29.9% of Whites.³

Wisconsin HIV highlights

• 70 American Indians were diagnosed with HIV in Wisconsin during 1985-2014.
• Male-to-male sexual contact accounted for more than half (55%) of HIV diagnoses in males.
• Injection drug use exposure accounted for 38% of diagnoses in females and 18% of diagnoses in males, higher percentages than in other racial/ethnic groups.
• An estimated 50 American Indians are living with HIV in Wisconsin, including about 10 who are unaware of their HIV status.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Indian communities in the United States bear a proportional burden of HIV infection based on their population size. In 2010, American Indians accounted for less than 1% of both the total population and of new HIV infections.5

As in other racial groups, males accounted for the majority of HIV diagnoses in American Indians. Male-to-male sexual contact accounted for the majority of new infections in males, whereas most HIV infections in females were attributed to heterosexual contact.

In 2013, compared to other racial/ethnic groups nationally, American Indian males and females had the highest percentages of reported HIV infection attributable to injection drug use.

HIV Diagnoses in Wisconsin

- Nine American Indians were diagnosed with HIV statewide during 2010-2014.
- The diagnosis rate among American Indians is higher than that of Whites, although the rate for American Indians should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers.

### New HIV diagnoses by race/ethnicity, Wisconsin, 2010-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Annual rate per 100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian†</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

†Estimate is statistically unreliable due to case count <12.

Because of the relatively small number of diagnoses in the recent period, the rest of this summary is based on the 70 American Indians diagnosed with HIV in Wisconsin from 1985 to 2014.


For additional data regarding HIV in Wisconsin, see: [https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aids-hiv/data.htm](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aids-hiv/data.htm)