

HIV/AIDS Briefing Document
Presented to the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities
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A person is **HIV** positive if he or she is infected with the human immunodeficiency virus. HIV infection is usually fatal after the virus damages the body's immune system so that it can no longer fight infections and certain types of cancers. During the course of HIV infection, most people experience a gradual decline in their CD4+ T cell count, which impacts the immune system. The term **AIDS** applies to the most advanced stages of HIV infection. The CDC definition of AIDS includes those with fewer than 200 CD4+ T cells per cubic millimeter of blood or the presence of one or more of 26 opportunistic infections.

CRITERION #1: PREVALENCE / INCIDENCE

- There are at least 10,500 people living with HIV/AIDS in Washington State.
- As people continue to live longer with HIV/AIDS, the number living with the disease has increased 5% per year.
- In 2005, there were 575 newly diagnosed cases of HIV in Washington (including cases diagnosed with both HIV and AIDS), for a crude incidence rate of 9.1 cases per 100,000.
- From 2001 to 2005, the rate of newly diagnosed HIV cases dropped 2.5% per year.

CRITERION #2: SEVERITY

- In 2005, among Washington residents ages 35-44, HIV was the fifth leading cause of death for men (5% of deaths) and the ninth leading cause of death for women (2% of deaths).
- From 2001 -2005, there was an average of 114 deaths per year associated with HIV/AIDS.
- Average estimated lifetime costs for health care associated with HIV exceed \$500,000 per person.

CRITERION #3: DISPARITY

- In Washington State, from 2003-2005 HIV rates were more than six times higher among blacks (46.5 per 100,000) than whites (7.1 per 100,000), while rates among American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander residents were 13.6, 13.1, and 5.2 per 100,000, respectively.
- The Index of Disparity for HIV rates was 286%.
- Blacks make up only 3% of the state's population, yet account for 15% of all male HIV diagnoses and 40% of all HIV diagnoses among women.
- HIV infection rates are higher among foreign-born blacks than among blacks born in the U.S.
- From 2003-2005, HIV rates were significantly higher among men than in women for all age groups.
- From 2001-2005, 72% of all new HIV diagnoses in Washington State were among men who have sex with men.

The Index of Disparity is the average of the difference in rates between the racial/ethnic group with the "best" rate and all other racial/ethnic groups.

Keppel KG et al., Measuring progress in healthy people 2010. Statistical Notes, no 25. NCHS, 2004