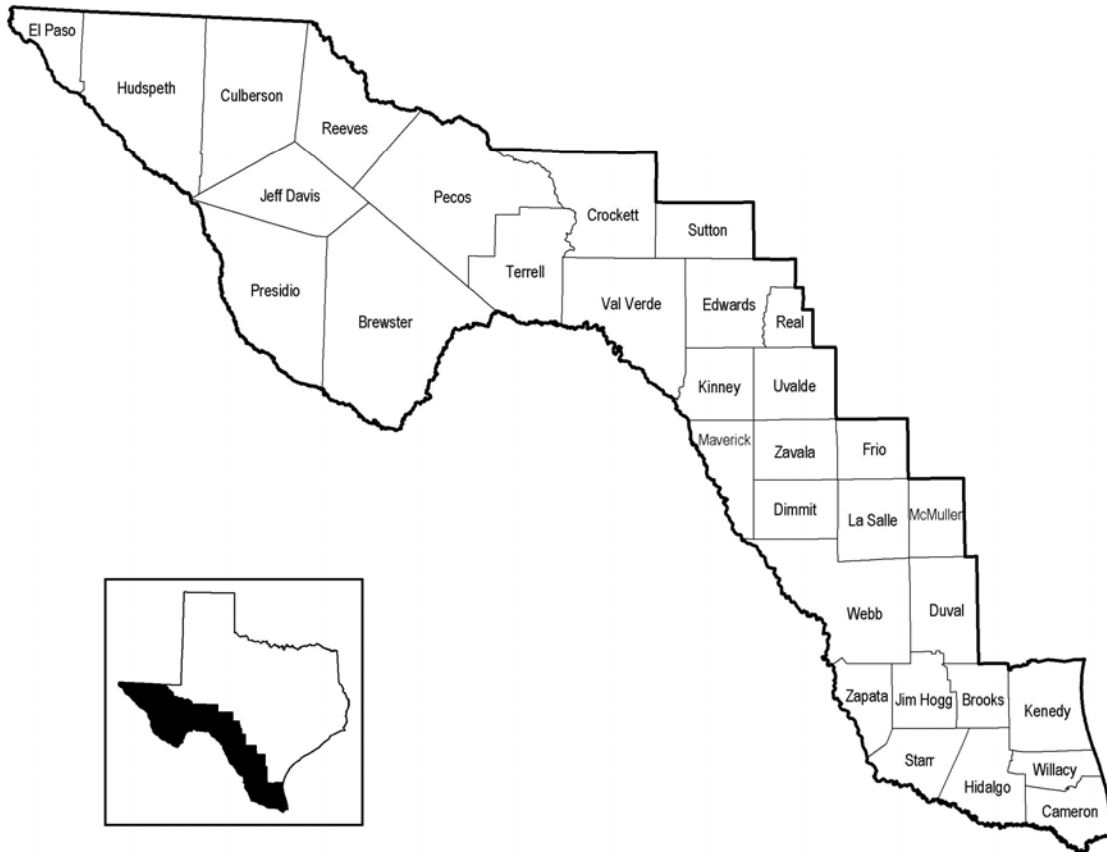




# 2003 Texas HIV/AIDS Border Report

Department of  
State Health Services

HIV/STD Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch



The 32 Texas- Mexico Border Counties

# The 2003 Texas HIV/AIDS Border Report

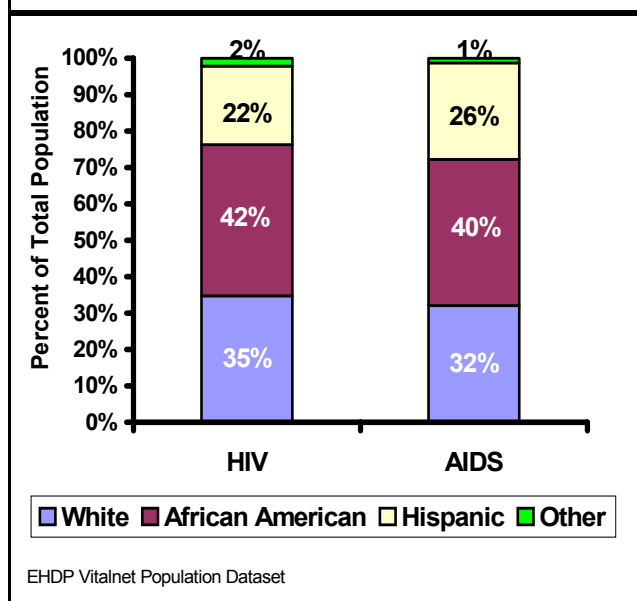
## Texas HIV/AIDS Statistics

Texas reported 4,802 cases of HIV (not AIDS)\* in 2003, for an overall rate of 22.0/100,000 (22.0 cases per 100,000 population). This rate was a 3% increase over the 4,666 cases reported in 2002. As in previous years, the number of male (74%) HIV (not AIDS) cases continues to be reported at more than three times the number of female (26%) cases.

The highest rate of HIV (not AIDS) was among the African American population (79.2/100,000). This was 5 times higher than the White or Hispanic population rates of 14.9 and 14.1/100,000 respectively. Among all races, the highest percent of HIV (not AIDS) occurred in the African American (42%) population followed by White (35%) and Hispanic (22%) populations (Figure 1).

Texas reported 3,689 cases of AIDS in 2003 for an overall rate of 16.9/100,000. This represented a 21% increase over the 2,908 cases reported in 2002. As with HIV, more than three times as many male (78%) cases of AIDS were reported as female (22%).

Figure 1: HIV and AIDS Percentages by Race/Ethnicity in Texas in 2003



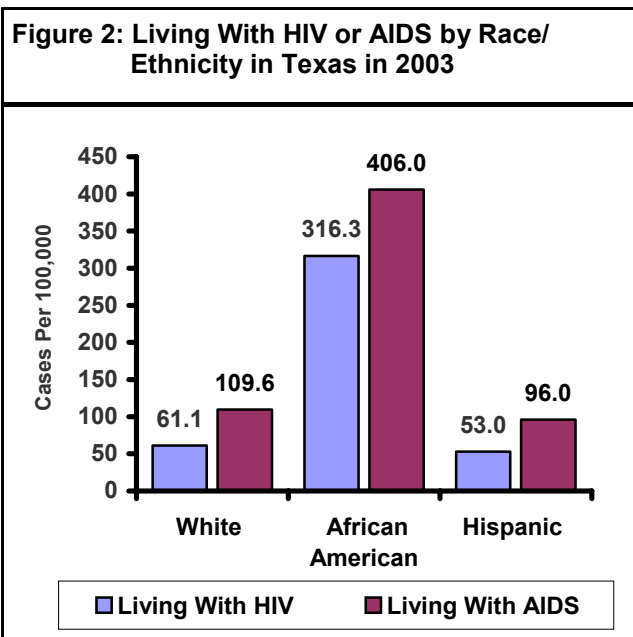
The African American AIDS case rate of 58.9/100,000 reported in 2003 was more than 4 times higher than both the Hispanic case rate of 13.3 and the White case rate of 10.5/100,000. The African American population also constituted the highest percent of AIDS cases among the race/ethnic categories in Texas.

At the end of 2003, 18,959 persons were reported to be living with HIV (not AIDS) and 29,784 were living with AIDS in Texas. The highest rate of people living with HIV occurred among African

\*The term "HIV (not AIDS)" refers to cases that are strictly HIV infections that have not been diagnosed as AIDS. If an HIV case is subsequently reported as AIDS within the year, it will be counted as an AIDS case only.

\*\*The category *Other(s)* includes any racial/ethnic group not listed as well as those cases not specifying race. Therefore, a rate is not calculated.

Americans (5 times higher than rates among Whites or Hispanics). African Americans also experienced the highest rate of people living with AIDS (406.0/100,000, 5 times higher than rates among Whites or Hispanics) (Figure 2).



## The 32 Texas Border County Area

### Demographics

The 32 counties that make up the Texas Border County Area lie within 100 kilometers of the Rio Grande River. This Texas-Mexico border area has unique healthcare and disease control problems due to the fluidity of the population. Individuals in both Texas and Mexico regularly travel across the border to conduct business, visit, and often to seek medical care. Because laws concerning the sale of prescriptions are generally more liberal in Mexico, it is difficult to determine the degree of self-treatment that occurs for various diseases in

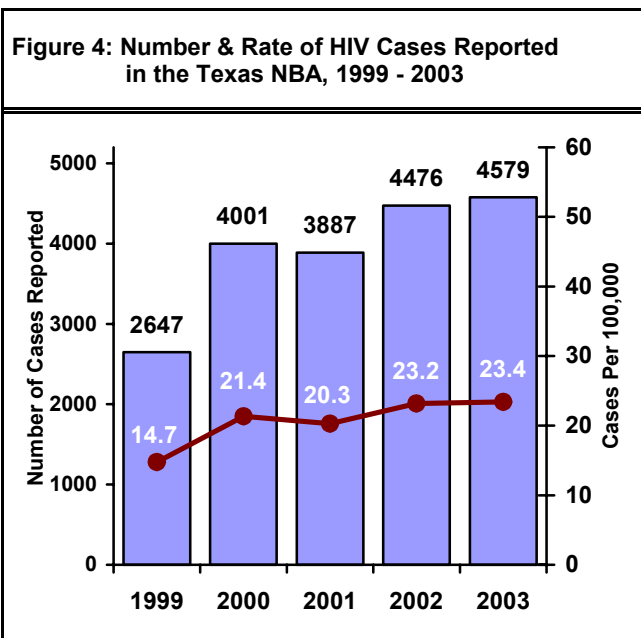
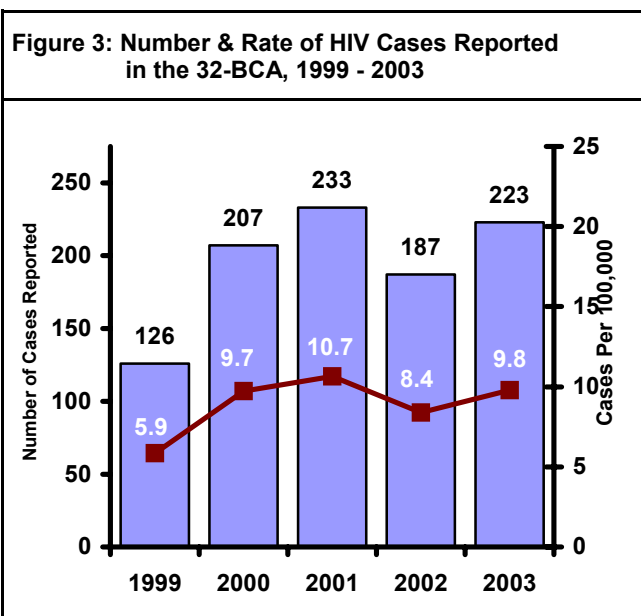
the Texas border area. The border area also has an estimated 400,000 individuals living in extremely impoverished colonias that lack basic government provided services such as sanitary water and sewer systems.

The 32 Border County Area (BCA) includes: Brewster, Brooks, Cameron, Crockett, Culberson, Dimmit, Duval, Edwards, El Paso, Frio, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, McMullen, Pecos, Presidio, Real, Reeves, Sutton, Starr, Terrell, Uvalde, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, Zapata, and Zavala Counties. El Paso (population over 560,000) is the largest urban area and tends to dominate Texas HIV/AIDS border statistics. Other smaller urban areas include Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen, Laredo, and Del Rio. The majority of cases occurring in the mostly rural 32 BCA were reported by the few urban areas in this region.

The percentage of Hispanics among the total population of all 32 counties in the border region in 2003 was 85% (Hispanic population percentage ranged between 55% to 85% for each county). Among the Texas Non Border Area (NBA), the 222 Texas counties that do not include the 32 BCA, the total Hispanic population was 28%. The African American population in the 32 BCA was relatively small at 1% compared to the Texas NBA African American population percentage of 13%.

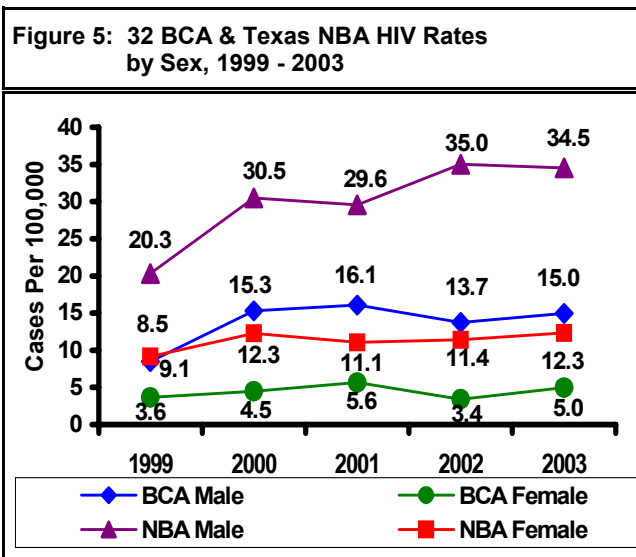
### The 32 Border County Area HIV Statistics

The 32-BCA reported 233 cases of HIV (not AIDS) in 2003 for an overall rate of 9.8 cases per 100,000 population. The number of cases increased 16% over the 187 cases reported in 2002 (Figure 3).



Only a slight increase (<1%) was reported in number of HIV (not AIDS) cases in the Texas NBA between 2002 and 2003 (Figure 4).

In 2003, as in previous years, the rate of male cases continue to be approximately 3 times the number of female cases in both the 32 BCA and the Texas NBA (Figure 5).



When looking at HIV (not AIDS) reported by age groups, the largest number of cases were reported between the ages of 20 and 44 years of age (Table 1).

**Table 1: HIV Counts & \*Rates by Age Groups for the 32 BCA and Texas Non BCA, 1999-2003**

1999-2003 Age Groups	32 BCA		Texas NBA	
	HIV Count	HIV Rate	HIV Count	HIV Rate
0-14	13	0.4	202	0.9
15-19	36	3.8	918	12.7
20-24	147	17.4	2829	39.7
25-29	212	26.2	3959	56.4
30-34	227	30.1	4601	63.9
35-39	184	25.0	4603	61.3
40-44	146	20.6	3229	42.8
45-49	91	14.6	1867	28.0
50+	99	4.2	1832	8.1

\*Rates are averaged over the 5 year time span.

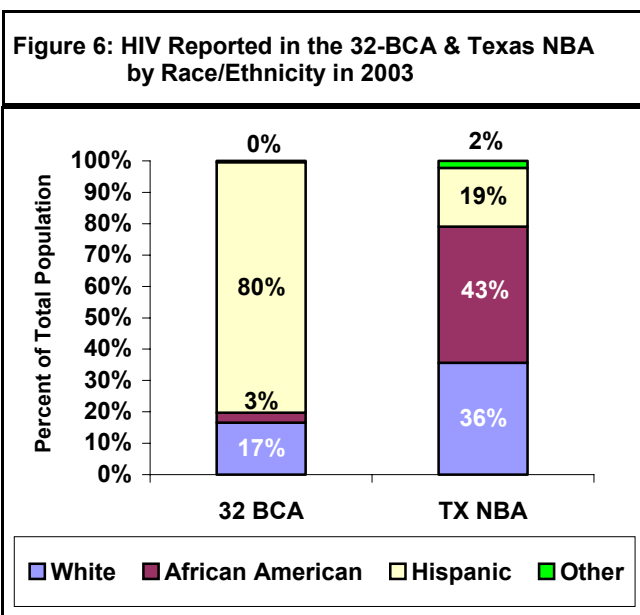
**Table 2: HIV Counts and Rates by Race/Ethnicity in 2003**

Year	32 BCA						Texas NBA					
	White		African American		Hispanic		White		African American		Hispanic	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
1999	14	4.2	6	20.7	103	6.0	887	7.8	1310	57.0	417	9.1
2000	18	6.0	11	40.9	178	10.0	1590	14.5	1738	72.2	643	12.3
2001	28	9.4	8	29.8	196	10.7	1413	12.9	1744	71.1	694	12.8
2002	35	11.8	4	14.7	147	7.8	1727	15.8	1813	73.1	882	14.5
2003	37	12.5	7	25.6	178	9.3	1631	14.9	1987	79.2	858	14.1

The highest percentage of HIV (not AIDS) in the 32 BCA occurred among Hispanics (80%) and was more than 4 times the percentage of cases among Whites (17%) and 26 times more than the percentage of cases among African Americans (3%) (Figure 6).

and the Texas NBA reported the highest rates of HIV (not AIDS) among African Americans (Table 2).

The most common HIV (not AIDS) mode of transmission among both the 32 BCA and the Texas NBA was Male to Male (M/M) sexual contact (35% and 56% respectfully). The second most common mode of transmission was Heterosexual contact (27% and 15% respectfully).



The highest percent of HIV (not AIDS) in the 32 BCA occurred among Hispanics, whereas the highest percentage in the Texas NBA was among African Americans. However, both the 32 BCA

**Table 3. HIV Cases Reported by Mode of Transmission & Percent Increase/Decrease in Number of Cases between 2002 & 2003.**

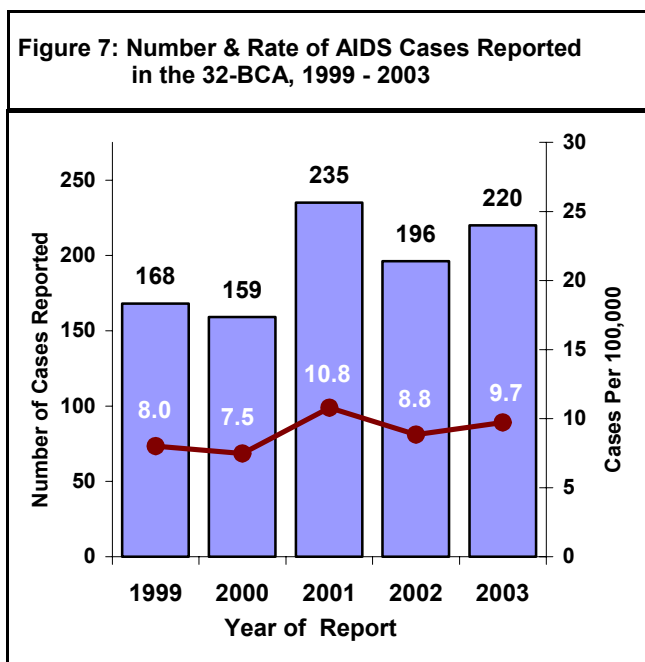
HIV Modes of Transmission	32-BCA			Texas NBA		
	2002	2003	Percent Change	2002	2003	Percent Change
Male-to-Male	89	79	-11%	1852	1648	-11%
Intravenous Drug User	24	29	17%	512	390	-24%
M/M & IDU	6	5	-17%	211	142	-33%
Heterosexual	36	61	41%	708	691	-2%
Not Specified	14	47	70%	912	1653	45%
Pediatric	<3	<3	NA	24	45	47%
Blood	4	<3	NA	16	10	-38%

The number of HIV (not AIDS) cases specified as Heterosexual mode of transmission increased by 41% in the 32 BCA while the same had decreased by 2% in the Texas NBA (Table 3). Cases specified as Intravenous Drug User mode of transmission also increased in the 32 BCA but had

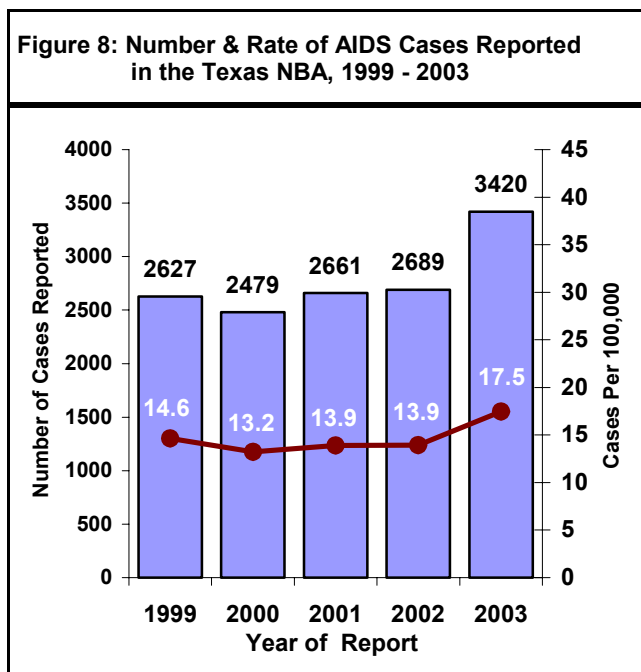
decreased in the Texas NBA. In contrast, Pediatric HIV cases increased 47% in the Texas NBA while there were too few cases reported to measure in the 32 BCA. Cases in which the mode of transmission is Not Specified may be determined after further investigation. As a result, some of the category numbers may change in future reports.

### The 32 Texas Border Counties AIDS Statistics

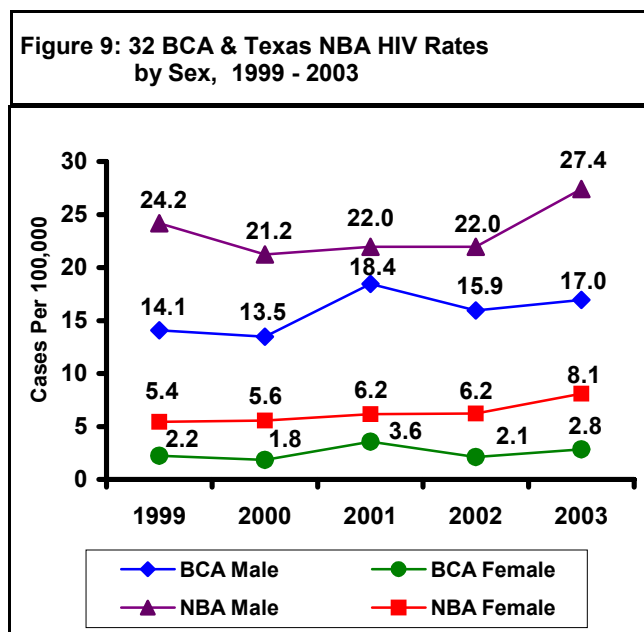
The 32-BCA reported 220 AIDS cases in 2003 for an overall rate of 11.9 cases per 100,000 population. This represented an 11% increase over the 196 cases reported in 2002 (Figure 7).



The Texas NBA reported a 78% increase in the number of cases reported in 2003 (Figure 8).



The rate of male (17.0) AIDS cases reported in the 32 BCA was approximately 6 times higher than the rate of female (2.8) cases reported. In the Texas NBA, the rate of male (27.4) cases was 3 times higher than the female (8.1) AIDS cases reported (Figure 9).



The largest number of AIDS cases occurred among people between 25 and 44 years of age (Table 4).

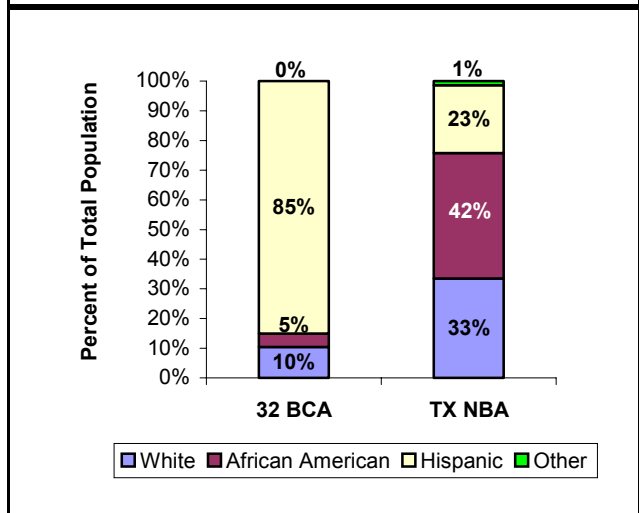
1999-2003	32 BCA		Texas NBA	
Age Groups	AIDS Count	AIDS Rate	AIDS Count	AIDS Rate
0-14	4	0.1	38	0.2
15-19	7	0.7	99	1.4
20-24	34	4.0	663	9.3
25-29	127	15.7	1582	22.5
30-34	190	25.2	2633	36.6
35-39	193	26.3	3298	43.9
40-44	162	22.9	2482	32.9
45-49	105	16.8	1553	23.3
50+	156	6.6	1664	7.3

\* Rates are averaged over the 5 year time span.

The highest percentage of AIDS in the 32 BCA occurred among Hispanics (85%) and was more than 8 times the percentage of cases among Whites (10%) and 17 times more than the percentage of cases among African Americans (5%) (Figure 10).

The highest percent of AIDS in the 32 BCA occurred among Hispanics, whereas the highest percentage in the Texas NBA was among African Americans.

**Figure 10: AIDS Reported in the 32-BCA & Texas NBA by Percentage of Race/Ethnicity in 2003**



Texas NBA reported the highest rates of AIDS among African Americans (Table 5).

The most common AIDS mode of transmission among both the 32 BCA and the Texas NBA was Male to Male (M/M) sexual contact (48% and 39% respectively). The second most common mode of transmission was Heterosexual contact (21% and 16% respectively).

The number of AIDS cases specified as Heterosexual mode of transmission increased by 43% in the 32 BCA, approximately double the

Year	32 BCA						Texas NBA					
	White		African American		Hispanic		White		African American		Hispanic	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
1999	16	4.8	8	27.6	144	8.4	1043	9.4	1031	45.2	553	13.8
2000	16	5.3	2	7.4	141	7.9	958	8.9	989	41.3	532	10.9
2001	24	8.1	6	22.4	204	11.1	929	8.5	1120	45.9	612	11.9
2002	23	7.7	5	18.4	168	9.0	919	8.4	1158	47.1	612	11.7
2003	23	7.8	10	36.5	187	9.7	1160	10.6	1470	59.0	790	14.6

23% increase in the Texas NBA. Cases specified as Intravenous Drug User as mode of transmission also increased in the 32 BCA where it had decreased in the Texas NBA (Table 6).

**Table 6. AIDS Cases Reported by Mode of Transmission & Percent Increase/Decrease in Number of Cases between 2002 & 2003.**

Mode of AIDS Transmission	32 BCA			Texas Non BCA		
	2002	2003	Percent Change	2002	2003	Percent Change
Male to Male	86	106	19%	1115	1339	17%
Intravenous Drug User	30	18	-40%	404	374	-7%
M/M & IDU	3	9	67%	151	147	-3%
Heterosexual	27	47	43%	427	558	23%
Not Specified	44	37	-16%	593	1022	42%
Pediatric	<3	0	NA	3	5	40%
Blood	4	3	-25%	15	22	32%

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