

HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIOLOGY HIGHLIGHT

APRIL 1999

AIDS MIGRATION IN OHIO

Introduction

Migration of AIDS cases in Ohio and the U.S. is a concern in planning effective HIV prevention, treatment, and service programs. Geographic location of AIDS cases is based on an individual's county and state of residence at the time of initial AIDS diagnosis. A region may be servicing greater or fewer cases than noted in AIDS case data if individuals change county of residence after diagnosis. Although it would be impossible to track the exact migration patterns of each individual living with AIDS, some conclusions about the extent to which persons with AIDS are migrating can be drawn from limited data.

To examine AIDS migration patterns in the state of Ohio, the Ohio Department of Health HIV/AIDS surveillance program conducted a death certificate review of individuals in Ohio who died of an HIV/AIDS related cause in 1995 and 1996, reported as of March 1998. The resident county of death listed on the death certificate was compared to the resident county at initial AIDS diagnosis as one method of examining migration patterns of AIDS cases in Ohio. A case was considered to have migrated if the individual was living in a different Ohio county or out of state at the time of death as compared to the county of original AIDS diagnosis. An analysis of the demographic distribution of Ohio AIDS cases that migrated by gender, race, age, mode of exposure, and year of diagnosis was conducted to determine which populations are more likely to change residence from diagnosis to death. The data include all HIV/AIDS related deaths in Ohio from 1995-1996; therefore tests of significance are not necessary.

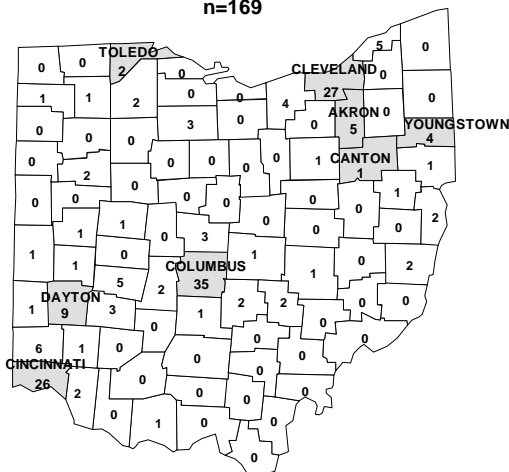
Summary of Ohio AIDS Migration Data for all AIDS Deaths in 1995 and 1996

Summary of Ohio AIDS Migration Data
AIDS Deaths 1995-1996

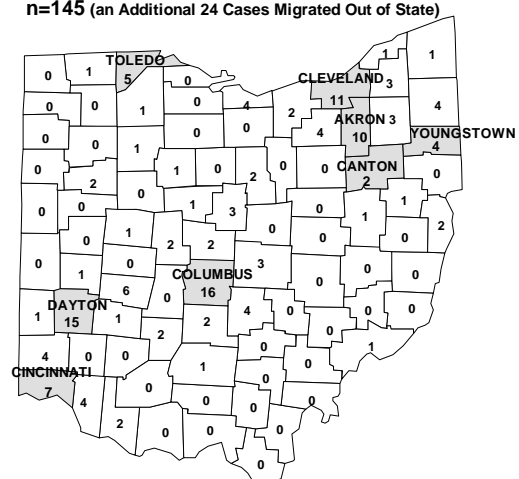
Migration Status	Cases	%
Total	1522	100.0
Migrated	169	11.1
Did Not Migrate	1331	87.5
Unknown Residence at Death	22	1.4
Migrated Within Ohio	145	85.8
Migrated Out of State	24	14.2

A total of 1522 Ohio AIDS cases reported to the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program died in 1995 and 1996. Of these, 11% were found to have a county of residence at death that differed from their county of residence at AIDS diagnosis, while county of residence did not change for 88% of cases. Residence at death could not be determined for just over 1% of cases. The majority of cases that migrated (86%) moved to another county within the state of Ohio, whereas 14% of cases that migrated moved out of state.

Ohio AIDS Migration Cases
County of Residence at AIDS Dignosis
n=169



Ohio AIDS Migration Cases
County of Residence at Time of Death
n=145 (an Additional 24 Cases Migrated Out of State)



The geographic distribution of Ohio AIDS cases by county of residence at AIDS diagnosis varies considerably from the distribution by county of residence at death. Well over half (64%) of all AIDS cases were residing in large metropolitan areas at the time of AIDS diagnosis, versus only 41% at the time of death. The percentage of cases that moved from the three most populated cities in Ohio, Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati, ranged from 54% for Columbus cases to 73% for Cincinnati residents at the time of diagnosis.

A demographic analysis of AIDS cases in Ohio that died in 1995-1996 reveals differences among population groups in the percentage of cases that migrated. Nearly 12% of the men with AIDS changed residence versus less than 6% of the women with AIDS. Fourteen percent of whites with AIDS migrated, while only 7% of African Americans and 6% of those in the Hispanic/Other category moved county of residence. Persons with AIDS age 20 to 39 were more likely to migrate (13% of those age 20-29 and 13% of those age 30-39, respectively), as were persons who reported male sex with male (MSM) or MSM and intravenous drug use (IDU) as their primary mode of exposure (13% and 15%, respectively). As would be expected, the percentage of AIDS cases who migrated increased as the time between AIDS diagnosis and death increased.

**Demographic Distribution of Ohio AIDS Cases that Migrated
AIDS Deaths 1995-1996**

Demographics	Total Cases	Cases that Migrated	
		#	% Migrated
Male	1344	160	11.9
Female	156	9	5.8
White	933	131	14.0
African American	515	35	6.8
Hispanic / Other	52	3	5.8
<13	18	1	5.6
13-19	8	0	0.0
20-29	285	38	13.3
30-39	693	92	13.3
40-49	364	28	7.7
50+	132	10	7.6
Male Sex with Male (MSM)	989	125	12.6
Intravenous Drug Use (IDU)	158	14	8.9
MSM+IDU	98	15	15.3
Blood Product Recipient	28	2	7.1
Heterosexual Contact	124	6	4.8
Pediatric	19	1	5.3
Risk Not Specified	84	6	7.1
Year of AIDS Diagnosis <1990	27	4	14.8
1990-1995	704	94	13.4
1996	769	71	9.2

Conclusion

The results of this study reveal that more than 11% of all AIDS cases that died in 1995 and 1996 were living in a county at death that differed from their county of initial diagnosis with AIDS. Cases were more likely to migrate from urban to rural areas, and over half of all AIDS cases diagnosed in the three largest metropolitan areas in Ohio were found to migrate prior to death. Persons with AIDS who are male, white, age 20-39, MSM or MSM and IDU, and live longer between diagnosis and death appear to be more likely to migrate. Although this information will be useful in planning effective HIV prevention, treatment, and service programs, this study employs only one method of looking at AIDS migration in Ohio and does not take into account other factors that may influence migration, such as access to medical care, current health status, and financial stability. The findings must therefore be interpreted with these limitations in mind.

For further information on this report, please contact the HIV/AIDS Surveillance program at (614) 466-1388.