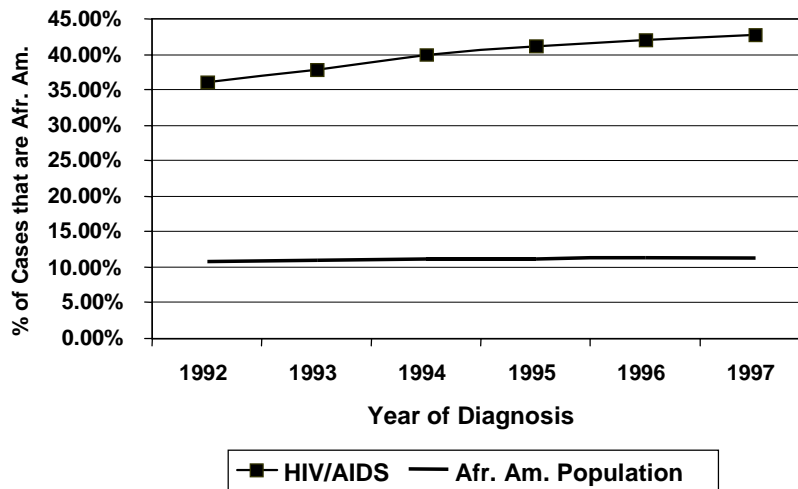


**HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIOLOGY HIGHLIGHT**  
**JULY 1999**  
**HIV/AIDS AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS IN OHIO**

**Introduction**

Throughout the epidemic, African Americans in Ohio have been disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS. While AIDS incidence and mortality have declined in recent years, the number of living HIV/AIDS cases in Ohio has continued to increase. This increase in HIV/AIDS prevalence is expected to continue since there is no evidence of decrease of new HIV infections. The use of highly active anti-retroviral treatment is enabling individuals with HIV infection to remain asymptomatic, with fewer HIV cases and related deaths. The number of living African American HIV/AIDS cases in Ohio increased from 2,145 in 1992 to 3,762 in 1998. The proportion of cases in Ohio that is African American also increased, as shown on the graph below. While African American represents about 11% of Ohio's population, they made up nearly 45% of living HIV/AIDS cases in 1997.

**Proportion of Living Ohio HIV/AIDS Cases Among African Americans Compared to Census Estimates of African Americans in Ohio**



**Summary of African Americans Living With HIV/AIDS in Ohio**

The demographics of African Americans living with HIV/AIDS in Ohio show how the African American population has been impacted by HIV/AIDS. Nearly one-quarter of living African American cases are females. The largest percent of African Americans living with HIV/AIDS are between the ages of 30 and 39 (43%), and 41% of cases are over age 40. Among the known sources of risk exposure, male/male sex is the leading risk exposure for African Americans (32%), followed by injection drug use (14%) and heterosexual contact (13%). Cases in infants are caused by HIV infections passed from the mother before birth. A large proportion of the HIV/AIDS cases among African Americans was reported without risk factors (36%). These cases include those who are unsure how they contracted the HIV virus and those who are reluctant to reveal how they may have become infected. This is not an indication of new or unusual modes of transmission.

