

**OHIO HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIOLOGY HIGHLIGHT
OCTOBER 2001
HIV/AIDS AMONG OHIOANS AGED 50 AND OLDER**

Introduction

Much of the focus for HIV/AIDS educational, prevention, and service programs are targeted towards persons in younger age groups. As a result, persons aged 50 and older might not be perceived or perceive themselves as being at-risk for HIV infection.

While the majority of persons in Ohio with HIV disease are under age 50, persons aged 50 and older represent an increasing percentage of HIV infected Ohioans, comprising 15% of persons living with HIV/AIDS. Many were infected with HIV at younger ages and continue to live with HIV disease into their fifties and beyond. Others over 50 are acquiring infections through current risk behaviors. Among recent diagnoses (1999-2000), 7% of new HIV diagnoses were among persons aged 50 and older, and 10% of new AIDS diagnoses were among persons aged 50 and older (see Table 1).

Table 1.
Persons Reported Living with HIV/AIDS in Ohio as of August 31, 2000,
HIV and AIDS Diagnoses in Ohio, 1999-2000
(Data reported through August 31, 2001)

DEMOGRAPHICS	Reported Persons Living with HIV/AIDS			HIV (non-AIDS) Diagnoses 1999-2000		AIDS Diagnoses 1999-2000	
	Rate*	#	%	#	%	#	%
AGE							
<13	4.5	94	1%	6	1%	3	<1%
13 - 19	4.9	56	1%	34	3%	6	1%
20 - 29	69.4	1017	9%	314	27%	127	12%
30 - 39	261.4	4360	39%	481	41%	477	47%
40 - 49	224.3	3939	36%	251	22%	302	30%
50+	49.8	1619	15%	78	7%	107	10%
TOTAL	97.6	11085		1164		1022	

* The living with HIV/AIDS rate is the number of persons living with HIV/AIDS per 100,000 population using 2000 census data.

Persons aged 50 years and older with HIV and AIDS in Ohio

The majority (57%) of persons aged 50 years and older living with HIV/AIDS are between the ages of 50 and 54. Eight percent are 65 years or older. Thirty-eight percent of persons aged 50 and older living with HIV/AIDS are African American, and 4% are Hispanic. Females account for 14% of those infected in this age group. Although risk information was not reported for nearly one-third of persons aged 50 and older living with HIV/AIDS, available information suggests transmission patterns are similar to the overall adult population with male/male sex being the leading risk exposure, followed by injection drug use and high risk heterosexual contact.

For recent HIV (non-AIDS) among persons aged 50 and older, at least half were between the ages of 50 and 54. The larger percentage of recent HIV diagnoses compared to recent AIDS diagnoses among minorities and females suggest increasing infection levels among these groups (see Table 2).

Table 2.

Persons Aged 50 and Older
Persons Reported Living with HIV/AIDS in Ohio as of August 31, 2000,
HIV and AIDS Diagnoses in Ohio, 1999-2000
(Data reported through August 31, 2001)

DEMOGRAPHICS	Reported Persons Living with HIV/AIDS		HIV (non-AIDS) Diagnoses 1999-2000		AIDS Diagnoses 1999-2000	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
AGE						
50 - 54	928	57%	47	60%	54	50%
55 - 59	374	23%	21	27%	25	23%
60 - 64	178	11%	6	8%	13	12%
65 - 69	72	4%	2	3%	8	7%
70 - 74	37	2%	2	3%	4	4%
75+	30	2%	0	<1%	3	3%
RACE						
White	883	55%	36	46%	69	64%
African American	614	38%	31	40%	37	35%
Hispanic	61	4%	4	5%	0	<1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	<1%	0	<1%	0	<1%
Native American	3	<1%	0	<1%	1	1%
Unknown	55	3%	7	9%	0	<1%
GENDER						
Male	1400	86%	63	81%	89	83%
Female	219	14%	15	19%	18	17%
TOTAL	1619		78		107	

Conclusion

Ohioans aged 50 years and older are affected by HIV disease. Not only are there a significant number in this age group living with disease, but new infections continue to be acquired. As persons live longer as a result of improvements in treatments, the potential exists for an increase in older adults living with HIV. Education needs to be targeted at all adults to reduce sex and drug related risk behaviors that put people at risk for HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Bob Taft
Governor

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