



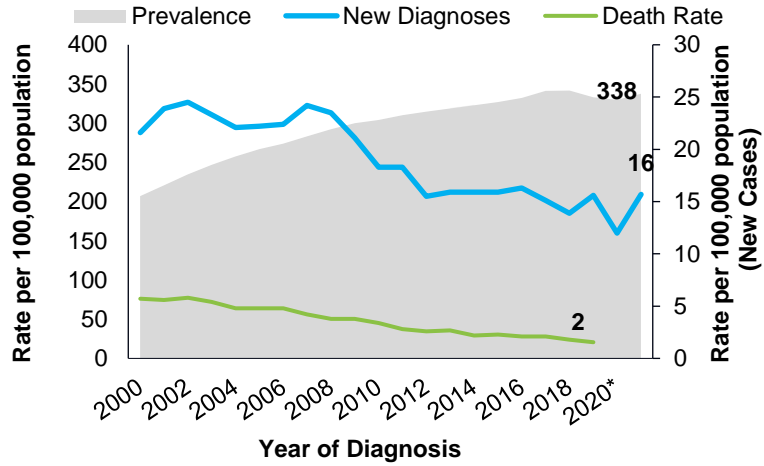
# HIV in North Carolina, 2021



In 2021:

- It is estimated that 40,085 people are living with HIV /AIDS in North Carolina, including an estimated 4,453 people who have HIV but are undiagnosed
- There were 35,632 people diagnosed and living with HIV who reside in North Carolina (rate of 338 per 100,000 NC population).
- 1,400 adults/adolescents were newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS (rate of 15.7 cases per 100,000).

## The North Carolina New HIV Diagnosis Rate Rebounded in 2021\*



### 2021 HIV Among Men:

- 1,123 men were newly diagnosed with HIV (rate: 25.9 per 100,000).
- 69% of men newly diagnosed with HIV reported sex with men (MSM).
- 7% of men newly diagnosed with HIV reported injecting drug use, which is similar to the past few years.
- 53% were young men, aged 13 to 34.
- Black/African American men continue to experience the highest rates of new HIV diagnoses (72.9 cases per 100,000).

### 2021 HIV Among Women:

- 241 women were newly diagnosed with HIV (rate: 5.2 per 100,000).
- 54% of women newly diagnosed reported exposure through heterosexual contact, while 42% had unknown risk
- 4% reported injecting drug use, which is slightly lower than the past few years.
- 54% were under the age of 40.
- Black/African American women continue to experience the highest rates of new HIV diagnoses (15.7 cases per 100,000).

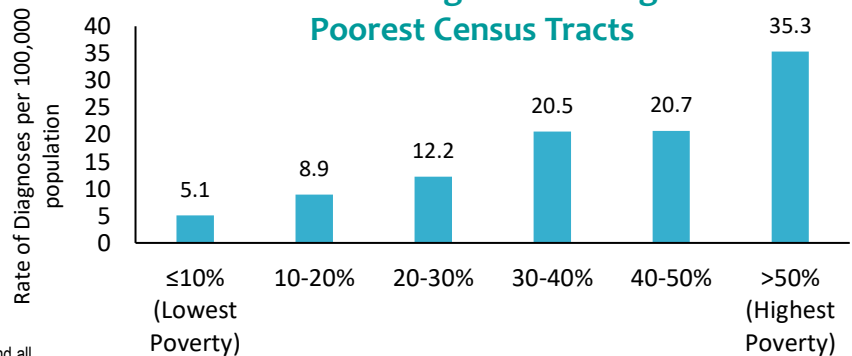
Information on transgender North Carolinians with HIV is available in our annual report

<https://epi.ncpublichealth.info/cd/stds/annualrpts.html>

HIV rates are highest among people living in the most impoverished neighborhoods.

People living in impoverished areas often have less access to resources, including health resources. This can result in less viral suppression and increased potential for transmission.

## Rates of New HIV Diagnosis Are Highest in the Poorest Census Tracts



### Proportion of Census Tract Living in Poverty\*

\*Estimates of people living below the poverty line within a census tract and all population estimates obtained from the American Community Survey, 2015-2019 5-year estimate (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>).



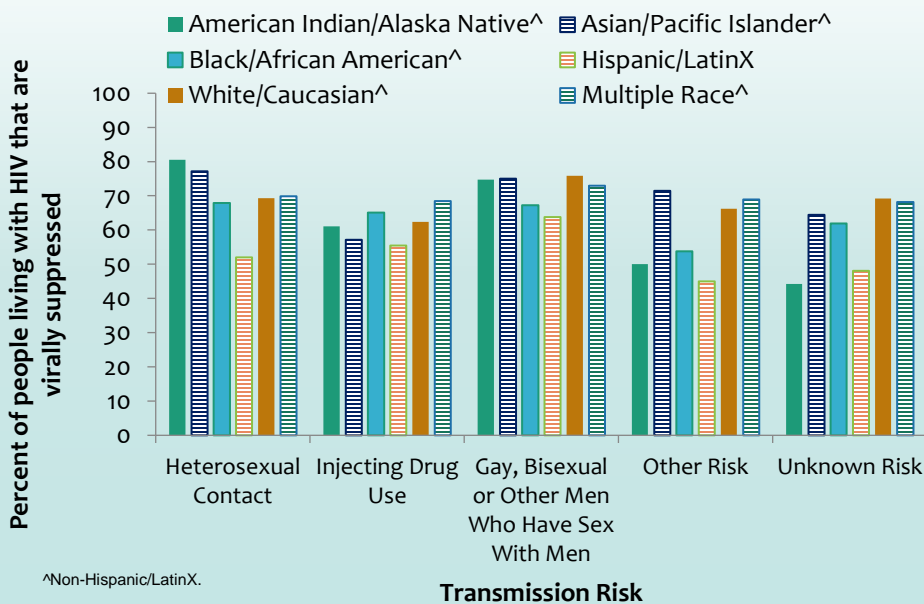
# HIV in North Carolina, 2021



## What is North Carolina doing to decrease HIV?

- North Carolina developed an Ending the Epidemic (ETE) Plan. All funded agencies and health departments are encouraged to utilize the plan as a blueprint. Visit <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/stds/program.html#ete> to see the state's ETE Plan.
- North Carolina staff are working closely with funded agencies to address barriers to care and viral suppression, especially for historically marginalized populations.
- North Carolina provides funds for HIV testing, linkage to care, and evidence-based risk reduction programs. These activities prioritize support for the communities most affected by HIV, such as young men of color.
- Local health departments and other providers are starting to offer Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV. For more information about PrEP, visit <https://www.med.unc.edu/ncaidstraining/prep/PrEP-for-consumers> or <https://pleaseprepme.org/>.

## Viral Suppression by Race/Ethnicity and HIV Exposure, 2021



- Being virally suppressed (VL < 200 copies/mL) prevents transmission of HIV to others.
- 67% of people diagnosed and living with HIV in NC were virally suppressed in 2021.
- Barriers to care and achieving viral suppression include lack of transportation, lack of family support, social stigma, and the complexity of accessing health insurance.
- Hispanic/LatinX residents of NC have lower viral suppression than other race/ethnicity groups.

## What CLINICIANS can do

If you are a care provider, educate yourself about PrEP (<https://www.med.unc.edu/ncaidstraining/prep/PrEP-for-consumers> or <https://pleaseprepme.org>). Ensure that you receive regular cultural competency training in order to better meet the needs of your patient population.

If your patient is sexually active and HIV positive, talk with your patient about their sexual health. Patients with ongoing STI risk behaviors should be tested regularly for syphilis and other STIs, like gonorrhea and chlamydia. STI prevention is HIV prevention!

## What YOU can do

**If you have HIV, seek treatment: you deserve a long and happy life!**

For treatment help, visit the North Carolina HIV Medication Assistance Program (HMAP) website: <https://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/hiv/hmap.html>.

Data Sources: enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS) (data as of June 28, 2021) and North Carolina Engagement in Care Database for HIV Outreach (NC ECHO) (data as of July 2021).