**HIV/AIDS**

**AND**

**HISPANICS**

**LATINOS**

In Western New York
- Hispanics/Latinos represent 3% of the general population\(^1\) and 11% of the 2007 reported living HIV/AIDS cases in Western NY.\(^2\)
- Hispanics/Latinos represent 17% of the 2007 newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases.\(^3\)

In the United States
- During 1999-2002 the number of HIV diagnoses increased 26.2% among Hispanic/Latino individuals.\(^4\)
- New York and Pennsylvania are the US states with the highest rate of AIDS for Hispanics/Latinos.\(^5\)
- Of the rates of diagnoses for adults and adolescents in all racial ethnic groups, the second highest was the rate for Hispanics/Latinos.\(^6\)
- Of the adult and adolescent Hispanic/Latinos reported with AIDS in the US through June 2002, 80% were men.\(^7\)
- For Hispanic/Latino men living with HIV/AIDS, the most common exposures were sexual contact with other men, injection drug use, and high-risk heterosexual contact.\(^8\)
- For Hispanic/Latina women living with HIV/AIDS, the most common exposures were high-risk heterosexual contact and injection drug use.\(^8\)
- In 2004, HIV/AIDS was the fourth leading cause of death among Hispanic/Latino men and women aged 35 to 44.\(^9\)
- By the end of 2005, an estimated 77,125 Hispanics/Latinos with AIDS had died in the United States.\(^10\)

**Critical Issues**
- The US Hispanic/Latino community is diverse including Latin Americans, Mexicans, Cubans, Ecuadorians, Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, Salvodorians and Columbians.\(^11\)
- More than one in five (21.9%) Hispanics/Latinos live in poverty.\(^12\)
- Hispanic/Latino cultural concepts of masculinity and femininity (social norms of sexuality) have created power inequalities that have been linked to increased HIV risk and diminished protective behaviors.\(^13\)
- In 2005, the rates of sexually transmitted infection were 2-3 times higher for Hispanics/Latinos than for whites.\(^14\)
- Migration patterns, social structure, language barriers, and lack of access to regular health care among Hispanic/Latino immigrants can affect awareness and hinder access to HIV/AIDS prevention and care.\(^15\)

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1. United States Census – Census Data – 2000
2. NY State Department of Health – Epidemiologic Profile – 2009
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2000
4. United States Conference on Hispanic Affairs – 2004
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2002
7. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Fact Sheets – 2005
8. Office of Minority Health - 2005
11. CDC, Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance – 2005
12. Journal of the National Medical Association - 2005

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HIV/AIDS is devastating communities of color in our state. Know the facts, and join in the fight against HIV/AIDS!

For more information on HIV/AIDS or for testing sites in NY, contact New York State’s AIDS Hotline at 1-800-541-AIDS

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