Section 4. Newly Diagnosed AIDS Cases

This section summarizes newly diagnosed and reported AIDS cases between 2008 and 2012. An AIDS case refers to a person who had a diagnosis of HIV infection and later had a diagnosis of AIDS, or a person with a concurrent diagnosis of HIV infection and AIDS. This is illustrated in Figure 12, which looks at the time from an HIV to an AIDS diagnosis among cases diagnosed and reported in this time period.

Confidential name-based AIDS case surveillance has been conducted in the District since 1985. An AIDS diagnosis is made when a person infected with HIV has a CD4+ T-cell count less than 200 cells/μL and/or the person is diagnosed with an opportunistic infection. CD4+ T-cells measure the immune system's ability to fight infections; when they are low (<200 cells/μL), it is an indication that the immune system may be weakening. Please note that this section includes all newly diagnosed AIDS cases and includes all age groups.

Table 6. Newly Diagnosed AIDS Cases by Year of Diagnosis
District of Columbia, 2008-2012

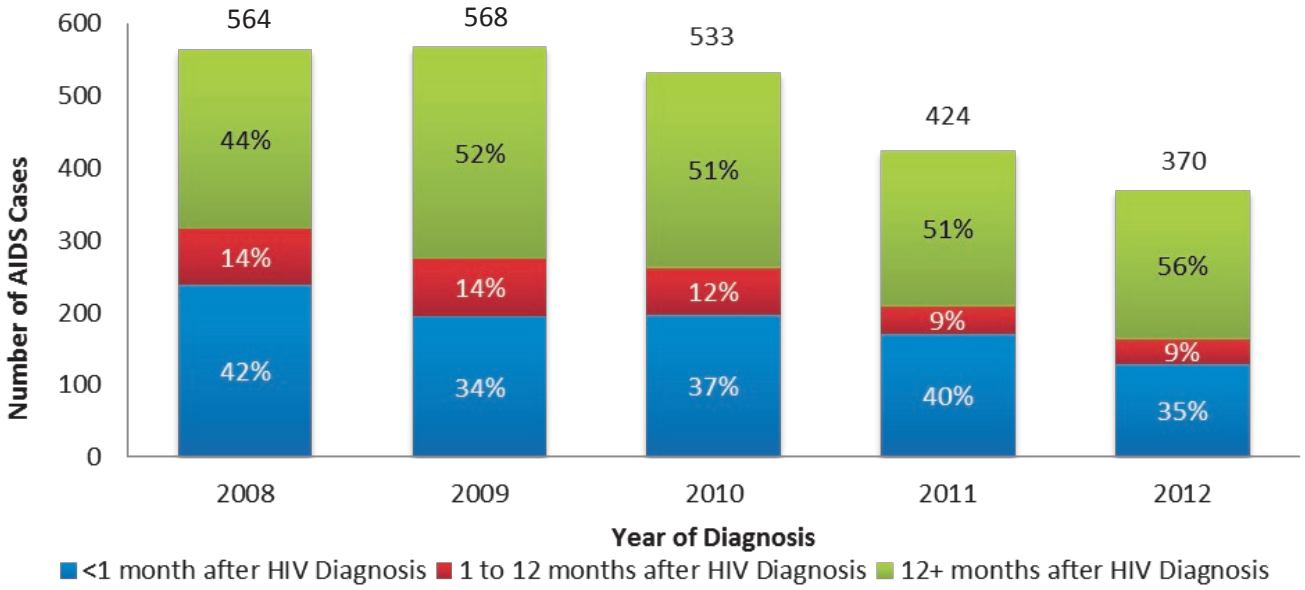
	Year of HIV Diagnosis				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of AIDS cases	564	568	533	424	370

There has been a steady decline in newly diagnosed AIDS cases during this five year period. The decline indicates that persons with HIV are maintaining their treatment, remaining healthy with strong immune systems and not progressing from HIV to an AIDS condition. This is significant and an important measure of the District's response to HIV.

Summary

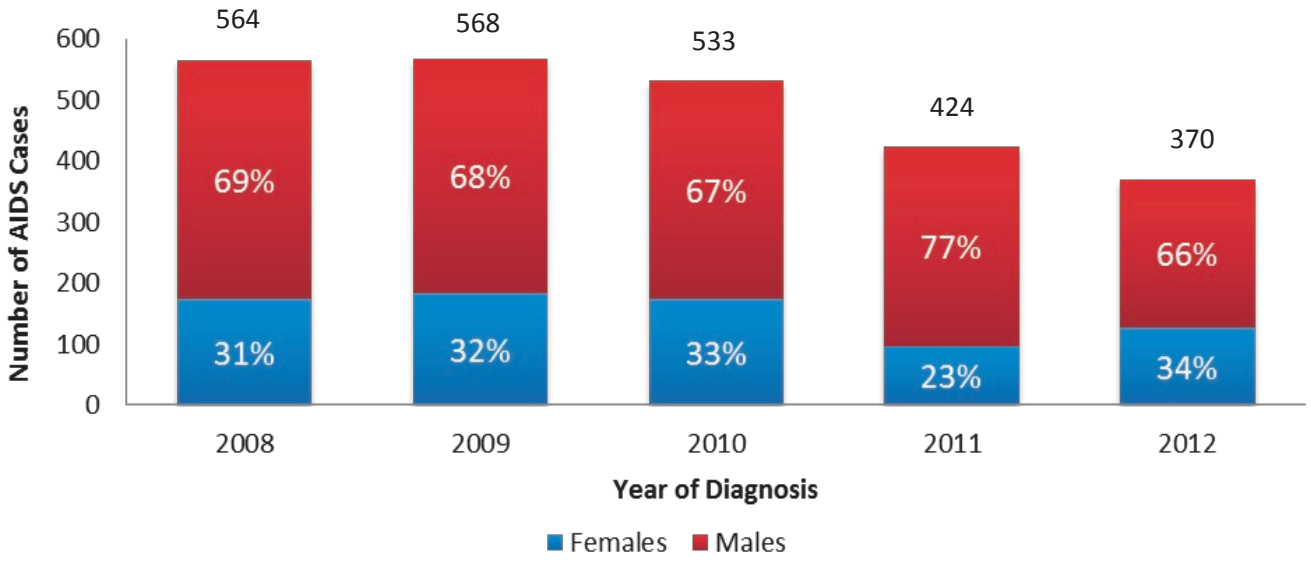
There were 2,458 AIDS cases diagnosed among residents of the District between 2008 and 2012. The number of newly diagnosed AIDS cases declined each year, from 564 cases in 2008 to 370 cases in 2012; this represents a 34% decline in the number of diagnosed cases. More than two-thirds of these cases (69.4%) were among men, the majority (81.2%) were black, and over one-half (53.5%) were between 30 and 49 years of age at AIDS diagnosis. The leading modes of transmission reported among newly diagnosed AIDS cases were heterosexual contact (33.0%) and men who had sex with men (MSM) (32.3%). In 21.8% of cases, the mode of transmission was not identified. Please refer to appendix tables A4and A5 for additional data regarding newly diagnosed AIDS cases.

Figure 12. Newly Diagnosed AIDS Cases by Year of Diagnosis and Time to AIDS Diagnosis
District of Columbia, 2008-2012



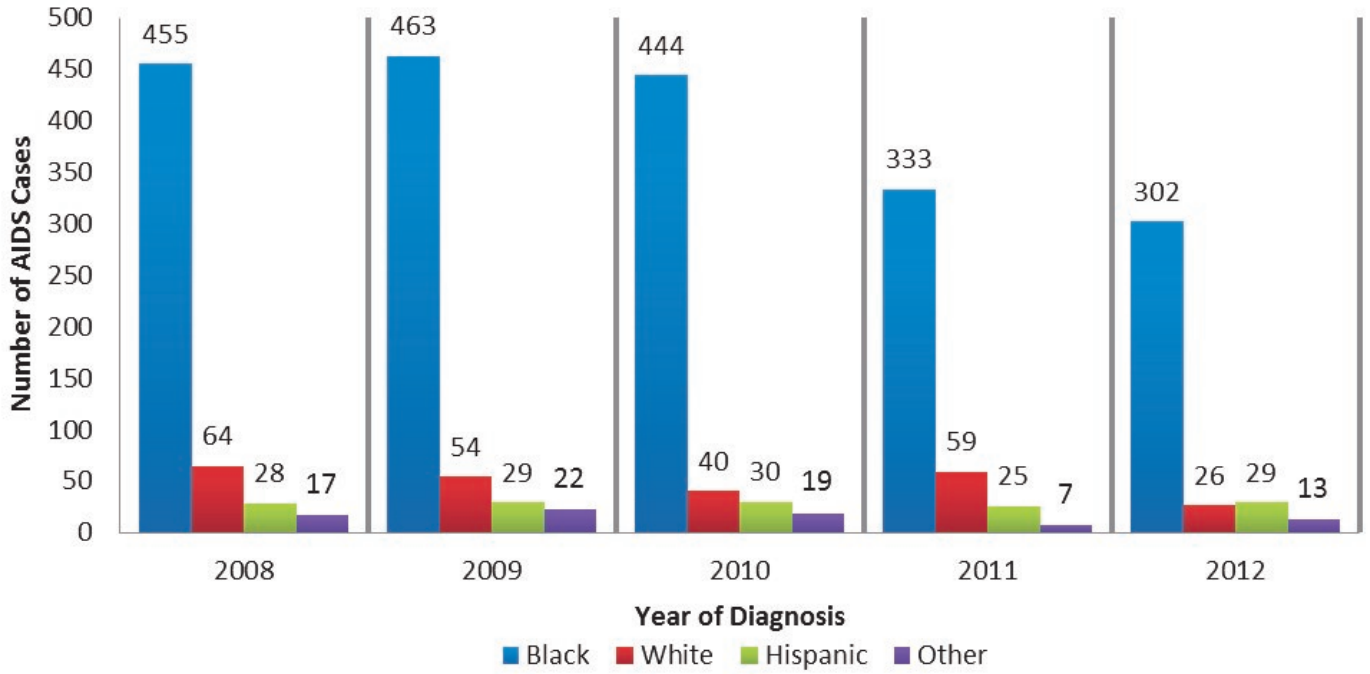
- Being diagnosed with AIDS within a month of an HIV diagnosis generally indicates a delay in testing or accessing health care, as well as a delay in surveillance to identify the case closer to the time of transmission.
- Among persons diagnosed with AIDS in 2008, 42% were diagnosed within one month of receiving a positive HIV test result and 14% were diagnosed between one and 12 months after a positive HIV test result.
- Among 44% of the newly diagnosed AIDS cases, at least one year had passed since they were diagnosed with HIV; in some cases, many years may have passed since their initial HIV diagnosis.
- The proportion of newly diagnosed AIDS cases that occurred within one month of an HIV diagnosis declined slightly from 42% in 2008 to 35% in 2012.

Figure 13. Newly Diagnosed AIDS Cases by Year of Diagnosis and Sex
District of Columbia, 2008-2012



- Overall 69.4% of AIDS cases diagnosed between 2008 and 2012 in the District were among men; this is similar to the proportion of men newly diagnosed with HIV in the District (71.2%).
- Between 2008 and 2010, the proportion of newly diagnosed AIDS cases among men was relatively stable (67% to 69%). In 2011 the proportion of newly diagnosed cases among men increased to 77%, but declined to 66% in 2012.

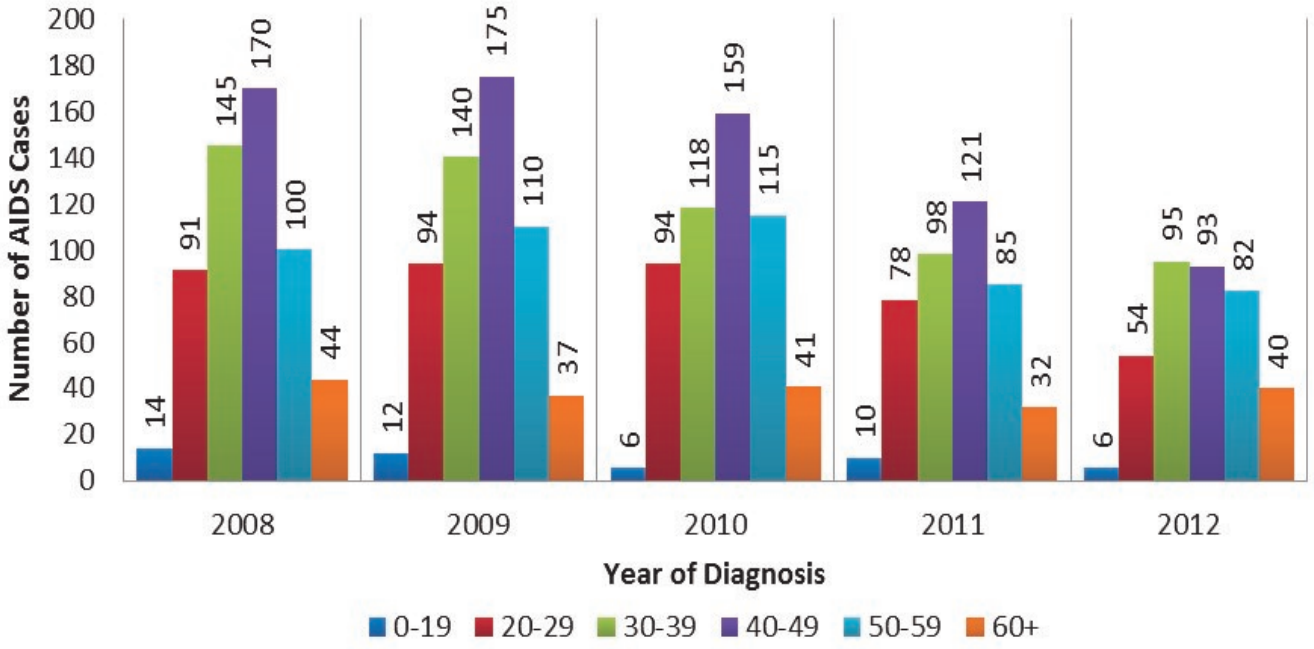
Figure 14. Newly Diagnosed AIDS Cases by Year of Diagnosis and Race/Ethnicity
District of Columbia, 2008-2012



*Other race includes mixed race individuals, Asians, Alaska Natives, American Indians, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, and unknown

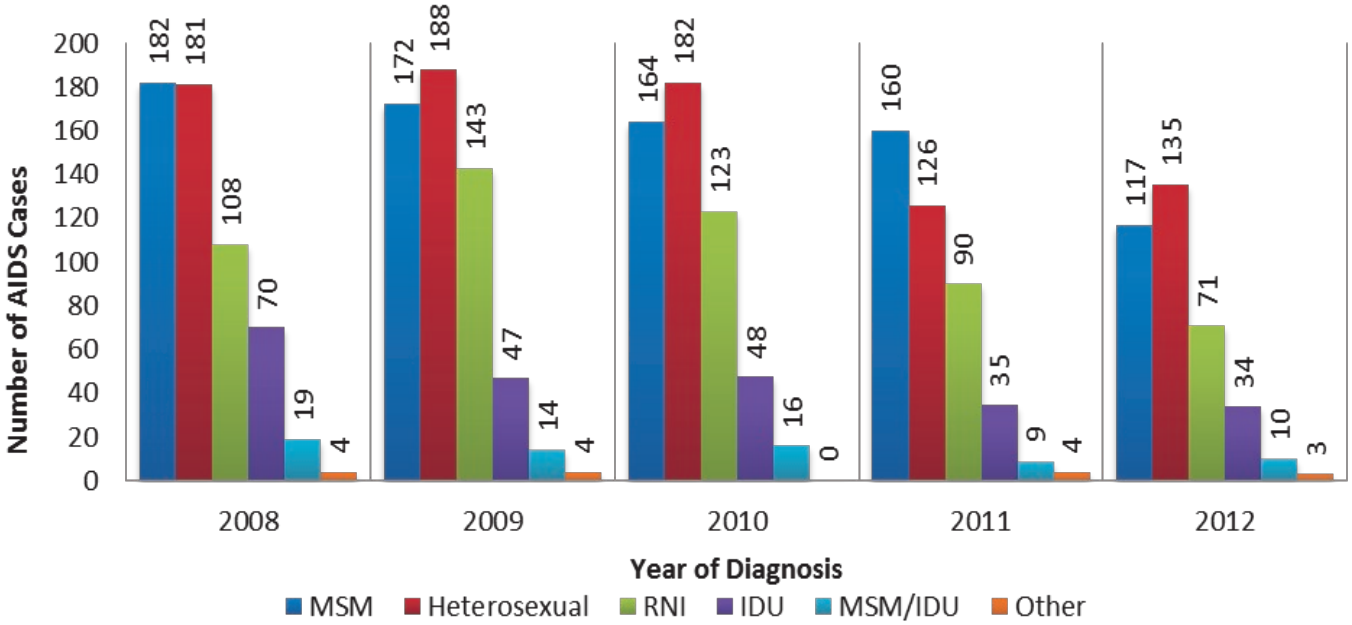
- There was a 34% decrease in the number of newly diagnosed AIDS cases among blacks between 2008 and 2012.
- The proportion of AIDS cases among blacks in 2008 was 81% and in 2012 was 82%.
- There was a 60% decrease in the number of newly diagnosed cases among whites from 2008 to 2012.

Figure 15. Newly Diagnosed AIDS Cases by Year of Diagnosis and Age at Diagnosis
District of Columbia, 2008-2012



- Persons ages 40 to 49 years have the highest proportion of newly diagnosed AIDS cases between 2008 and 2012 (29.2%), followed by cases aged 30 to 39 years (24.2%) and aged 50 to 59 years (20.0%).
- The number of AIDS cases diagnosed between 2008 and 2012 declined 34% among those 20 years of age and older (2008: 550 cases; 2012: 364 cases).
- Among children and adolescents (0 to 19 years old), the number of newly diagnosed AIDS cases is consistently low, but is still of public health concern.

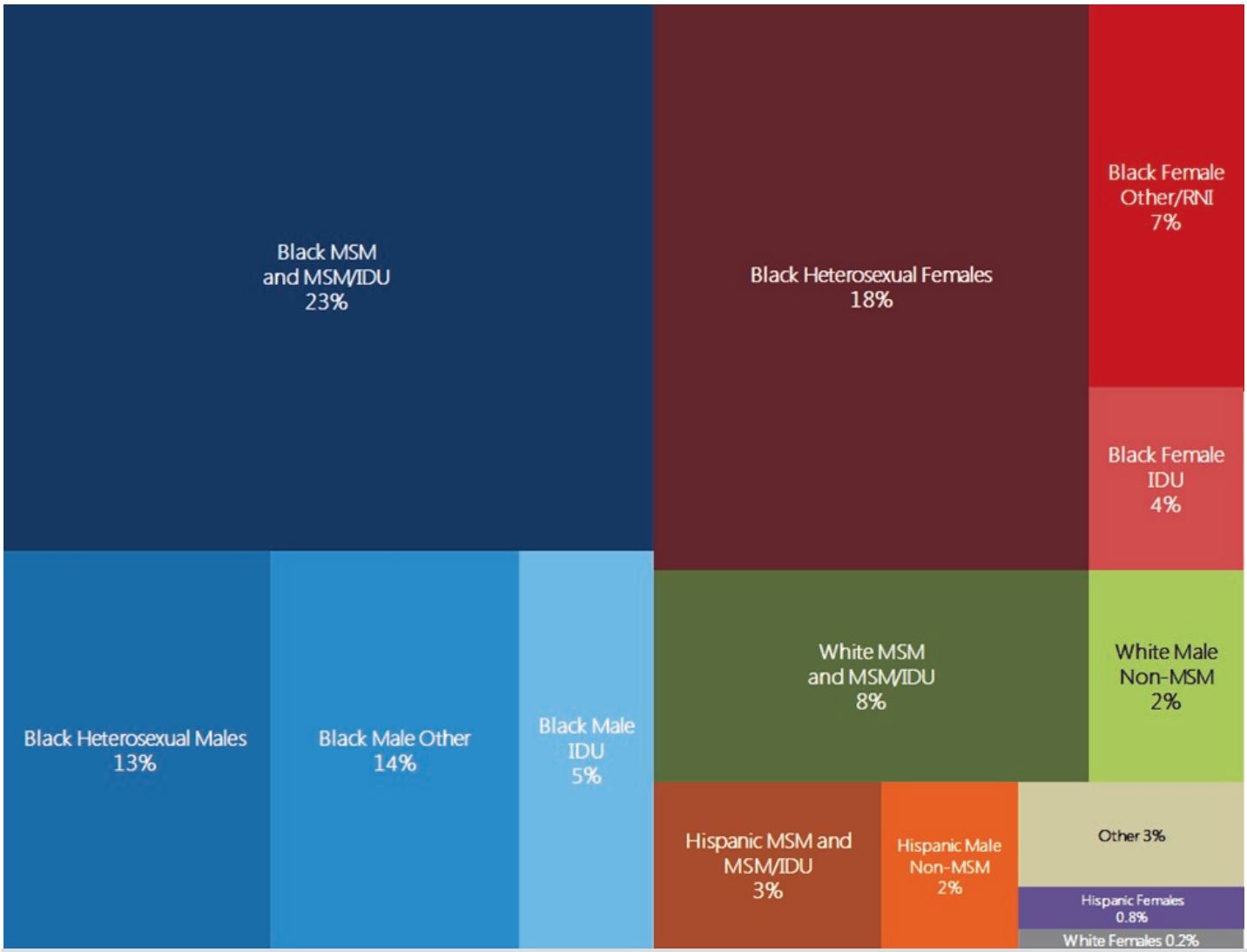
Figure 16. Newly Diagnosed AIDS Cases by Year of Diagnosis and Mode of Transmission
District of Columbia, 2008-2012



*Other mode of transmission includes perinatal transmission, hemophilia, blood transfusion, and occupational exposure (healthcare workers).

- Unlike newly diagnosed HIV cases in the District, heterosexual contact is the leading mode of reported transmission among newly diagnosed AIDS cases between 2008 and 2012 (33%).
- The number of newly diagnosed AIDS cases in which mode of transmission is not known (RNI) remains high due to incomplete reports, which makes it difficult to fully assess the burden of AIDS among specific population groups
- The number of cases diagnosed among injection drug users has decreased significantly, a 51% decline, compared to other transmissions categories.

Figure 17. Proportion of Newly Diagnosed AIDS Cases by Race/Ethnicity, Sex and Mode of Transmission
District of Columbia, 2008-2012 (N=2,458)



*MSM: includes men who have sex with men; IDU: injection drug use; RNI: risk not identified; Other: perinatal transmission, hemophilia, blood transfusion, and occupational exposure (healthcare workers); Non-MSM: All modes of transmission excluding MSM and MSM/IDU.
Hispanic Male non-MSM: Heterosexual, IDU, RNI and other modes of transmission
Black Female Other: RNI and other modes of transmission
Black Male Other: RNI and other modes of transmission
Hispanic Female: All modes of transmission
White Female: All modes of transmission
Other: All persons of other race with all modes of transmission

- Figure 17 represents newly diagnosed AIDS cases in the District of Columbia (n=2,458) by sex, race/ethnicity, and mode of transmission.
- Black women and black men with heterosexual contact reported as the mode of transmission represent the largest group (31%) of persons newly diagnosed with AIDS in the District.
- Nearly one-quarter (23%) of persons newly diagnosed with AIDS in the District were black MSM and MSM/IDU.