Section 2. Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases

There were 4,330 HIV cases diagnosed and reported among residents of the District between 2008 and 2012. The number of newly diagnosed HIV cases declined each year, from 1,180 cases in 2008 to 680 cases in 2012; this represents a 42% decline in the number of diagnosed cases. More than two-thirds of these cases (73.8%) were men, approximately three-quarters (76.5%) were black, and about one-half (49.4%) were between 20 and 39 years of age. The leading mode of transmission among newly diagnosed cases was men who had sex with men (MSM) sexual contact (38.8%), followed by heterosexual contact (31.6%). Mode of transmission was not identified in 20.7% of newly diagnosed HIV cases. Please refer to appendix table B3 for additional data regarding newly diagnosed HIV cases.

Figure 6. Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases by Year of Diagnosis and Sex
District of Columbia, 2008-2012

- Although the number of newly diagnosed cases has declined from 2008 to 2012, the proportion of cases by sex has remained relatively constant.
- Men in the District continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV; men represent 47% of the District’s population, but over 70% of new HIV diagnoses.
Figure 7. Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases by Year of Diagnosis and Race/Ethnicity
District of Columbia, 2008-2012

- The number of newly diagnosed HIV cases among blacks decreased 48% between 2008 and 2012; among whites it decreased 47%. Blacks still represent the majority (77%) of new HIV cases diagnosed in the District (78% in 2008 and 72% in 2012), while whites represent 13% of all new cases diagnosed (13% in 2008 and 15% in 2012).
- Although the overall number of newly diagnosed HIV cases decreased, the racial distribution has remained relatively stable over the 5-year period.

Figure 8. Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases by Year of Diagnosis and Age at Diagnosis
District of Columbia, 2008-2012
• Between 2008 and 2012, the largest proportion of new HIV cases were diagnosed among persons aged 20 to 29 years (26.0%), with the next highest percentage among persons aged 40 to 49 (25.2%) and aged 30 to 39 (23.5%).

• Although the number of newly diagnosed HIV cases among 20- to 29-year-olds declined 26% between 2008 and 2012, this has become the age group with the highest number of newly reported diagnoses.

• The number of newly diagnosed HIV cases among 30- to 49-year-olds declined 49% between 2008 and 2012.

**Figure 9. Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases by Year of Diagnosis and Mode of Transmission**
District of Columbia, 2008-2012

*MSM was the mode of transmission most likely to be reported among newly diagnosed HIV cases from 2008 to 2012 (38.8%); heterosexual contact (31.6%) was the next highest.*

*A decline of 29% was seen in the number of HIV cases diagnosed among MSM between 2008 (443 cases) and 2012 (313 cases).*

*There was a similar decline (36%) in the overall number of HIV cases diagnosed among persons with heterosexual contact as mode of transmission between 2008 (335 cases) and 2012 (215 cases).*

*Newly diagnosed HIV cases among persons reporting injection drug use declined 81% between 2008 and 2012. The District’s needle exchange services were expanded during this time period.*

*The proportion of cases among whom the mode of transmission is unknown, or not reported due to incomplete case reports from health care providers, remains large (20.7%).*
Figure 10. Proportion of Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases by Race/Ethnicity, Sex and Mode of Transmission  
District of Columbia, 2008-2012 (N=4,330)

- Figure 10 represents newly diagnosed HIV cases in the District of Columbia (n=4,330) by sex, race/ethnicity, and mode of transmission.
- The largest burden of HIV was among black MSM and MSM/IDU (25%).
- Black women with heterosexual contact as mode of transmission represent the second-largest group (18%) of persons newly diagnosed with HIV in the District.
- Black men with heterosexual contact and all other modes of transmission represent the third-largest group (11%).