Section 5. HIV Mortality

From 2007 to 2011 there were 1,584 deaths among persons with HIV in the District of Columbia. Approximately two-thirds (66.2%) of deaths occurred among men and 89.5% of deaths were among blacks. Approximately one-third (30.4%) of deaths occurred in people 40 to 49 years old and another third (35.8%) were among people 50 to 59 years of age. By mode of transmission, the largest proportion of deaths was among those with transmission attributed to IDU (30.3%), followed by heterosexual contact (25.6%), and MSM (21.7%), although all declined over the 5-year period. Approximately 50 percent of deaths among the HIV population were attributed to HIV-related causes.

Table 7. Number of Deaths among HIV cases by Year of Death
District of Columbia, 2007-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Death</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of deaths</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 18. Deaths among HIV Cases by Year of Death and Sex
District of Columbia, 2007-2011

Table 7
- There was a steady decline in the number of deaths among HIV cases with an overall decline of 41% between 2007 and 2011.

Figure 18
- Approximately two-thirds (66.2%) of deaths during this five year time period were among men, while the proportion of new HIV diagnoses among men was 71.2% during the same time period.
- The ratio of deaths comparing men and women has not changed between 2007 and 2011.
Figure 19. Deaths among HIV Cases by Year of Death and Race/Ethnicity
District of Columbia, 2007-2011

Figure 20. Deaths among HIV Cases by Year of Death and Age at Death
District of Columbia, 2007-2011
**Figure 19.** Number of deaths among HIV cases in all race groups declined between 2007 and 2011.

**Figure 20.**
- The age at death has increased; median age at death in 2007 was 48 years while the median age at death in 2011 was 54 years.
- In 2007 the greatest number of deaths (145) occurred among those 40 to 49 years of age. However starting in 2008 and in each subsequent year, the greatest number of deaths occurred among those 50 to 59 years of age.
- Between 2010 and 2011 there was a substantial increase of 35% in the number of deaths among 60 to 69 year olds.

**Figure 21.**
- The largest decrease in number of deaths by mode of transmission was among injection drug users. Deaths among this group decreased 52% between 2007 and 2011.
- The number of deaths among HIV cases with heterosexual contact and men who have sex with men reported as the mode of transmission decreased 34% and 48%, respectively, between 2007 and 2011.
Table 8. Cause of Death among Persons with HIV by Year of Death
District of Columbia, 2007-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause of Death</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIV-related causes*</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-AIDS Defining Malignancies</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Use</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidental Death</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other**</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>1,584</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*HIV-related causes include opportunistic infections and AIDS defining cancers.
**Other causes of death include suicide, pneumonia, COPD, and diabetes, etc.

Almost one-half (48.8%) of deaths among persons diagnosed with HIV in the District were due to HIV-related causes such as opportunistic infections and AIDS-defining cancers between 2007 and 2011.

The underlying cause of death was unknown for 10.4% of deaths between 2007 and 2011. Approximately one-quarter (27.5%) of deaths in 2011 had an unknown cause. HAHSTA is working with the Office of Vital Statistics to ascertain cause of death for these cases and will reclassify them in subsequent reports.

Figure 22

Figure 22 represents deaths that occurred among persons diagnosed with HIV in the District of Columbia between 2007 and 2011 (n=1,584) by sex, race/ethnicity, and mode of transmission.

16% of deaths among persons with HIV were among black men with injection drug use reported as their mode of transmission and another 21% were black men with MSM reported as their mode of transmission.
Figure 22. Proportion of All Recent Deaths among HIV Cases in DC by Race/Ethnicity, Sex, and Mode of Transmission
District of Columbia, 2011 (n=1,584)

*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
Hispanic Male and MSM/IDU 1%
Hispanic Male Non-MSM 1%
Hispanic Female: All modes of transmission
Hispanic and MSM/IDU 1%
Other Female: All persons of other race with all modes of transmission
Other 1%
White Female