



**Orange County Health Care Agency**  
Disease Control and Epidemiology  
HIV Disease Surveillance and Monitoring Program



**2015 HIV DISEASE FACT SHEET**

This document provides an overview of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease cases in Orange County. The term HIV disease is used to describe the entire HIV spectrum, from initial HIV infection to advanced HIV disease (also known as AIDS). HIV disease surveillance is an ongoing process, and therefore cases diagnosed in 2015 are considered preliminary due to reporting delays. For a comprehensive review of HIV disease in Orange County, please refer to the most recent HIV/AIDS Surveillance Statistics Report available at <http://ochealthinfo.com/hiv/stats>.

Since reporting began in 1981, **12,328** persons have been reported as being infected with HIV disease while living in Orange County. Of these:

- 300 persons were newly diagnosed with HIV disease in 2015.
- 66 persons were concurrently<sup>1</sup> diagnosed with AIDS indicating that the individual was living with HIV disease but unaware of their status for a significant amount of time.

At the end of 2015, there were 6,287 persons living with HIV disease (PLWHD) in Orange County<sup>2</sup> who are aware of their HIV status. Additionally, there are an estimated 801 persons who are unaware of their HIV status. Therefore, the total estimated number of PLWHD in Orange County is **7,088**.<sup>3</sup> The number unaware of their HIV status decreased from 938 in 2014, a change which may be due to intensified testing efforts, an increase in the percentage of persons ever tested, and the decrease in the time from infection to diagnosis.<sup>4</sup>

Viral Load is an indicator of health and adherence to medication. A high viral load is indicative of illness. An undetectable viral load (less than 200 copies/ml) is suggestive of improved health. In Orange County, of the 7,088 PLWHD (aware and unaware of HIV status), 4,129 (58.3%) have an undetectable viral load.

Figure 1 shows the number of diagnosed PLWHD at the end of each year between 2006 and 2015. These are the most current numbers as of the creation of this report, and therefore will vary from numbers reported in previous Fact Sheets.

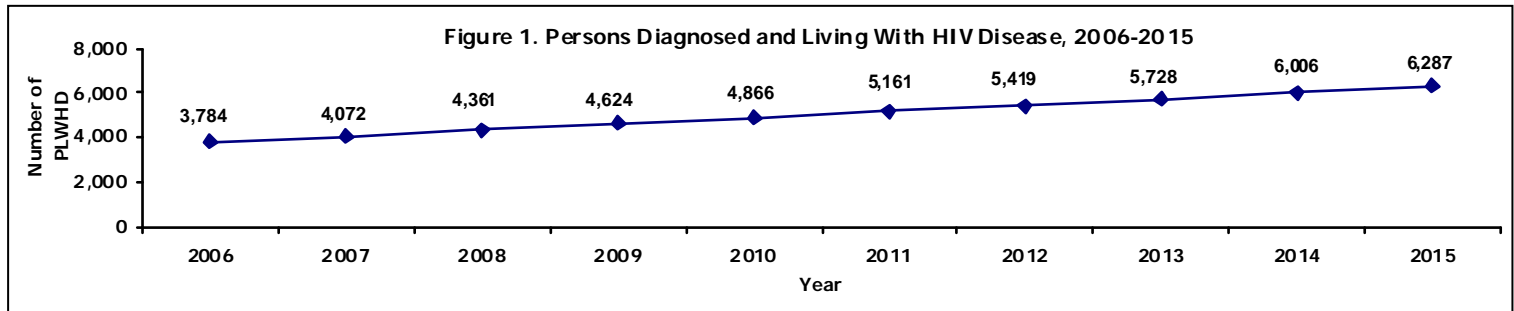
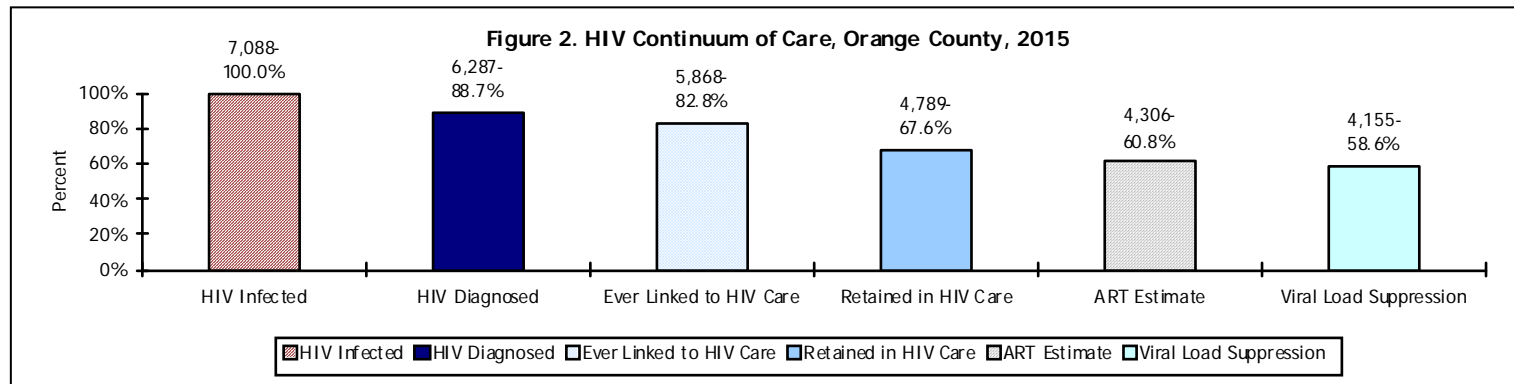


Figure 2 displays the HIV Continuum of Care. Of the total estimated to be infected (7,088), 88.7% have been diagnosed (6,287), 82.8% had ever linked to HIV care<sup>5</sup>, 67.6% were in retained in HIV care<sup>6</sup>, while 4,306 (60.8%) PLWHD are estimated to be receiving anti-retroviral therapy (ART).<sup>7</sup> Of the total estimated to be infected, 58.6% had a viral load test result less than 200 copies/ml the last time they were tested in 2015.



<sup>1</sup> Concurrently diagnosed are persons who tested positive for HIV for the first time and had an AIDS defining condition (CD4 count below 200 cells/ $\mu$ L and/or a diagnosis of a disease that is an indicator condition for AIDS) in the same month and year.  
<sup>2</sup> This includes all individuals reported to be living in Orange County regardless of where they were living when they were diagnosed with HIV disease.  
<sup>3</sup> The total number of persons estimated to be living with HIV disease is based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calculation methodology updated in 2015. The calculation is the number of persons known to be living with HIV disease (6,287) divided by 0.887. The difference between this calculation (7,088) and 6,287 is the additional number of persons estimated to be living with HIV disease but are unaware of their diagnosis (801).  
<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Vol. 64, No. 24, June 26, 2015.  
<sup>5</sup> Persons who had at least one viral load and/or CD4 count blood test after HIV diagnosis.  
<sup>6</sup> Persons who had at least two CD4 or viral load results with at least three months in-between the first and last result. For persons diagnosed prior to 2015, the two results occurred in 2014 and/or 2015. For persons diagnosed in 2015, the results occurred between January 2015 and March 2016.  
<sup>7</sup> As determined by having achieved viral suppression or a decrease in viral load between the last two tests during 2015.

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Figure 3 shows the number of new HIV disease diagnoses each year for Orange County residents as a bar, and the number of those diagnoses that were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS as a line.

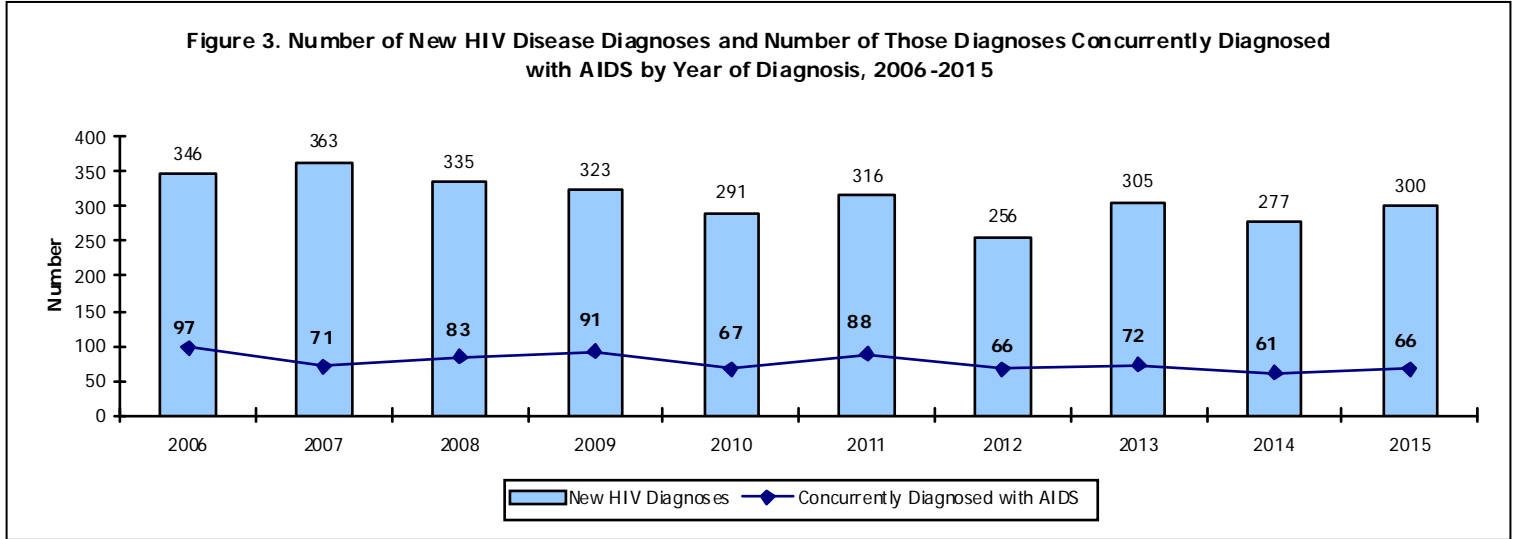
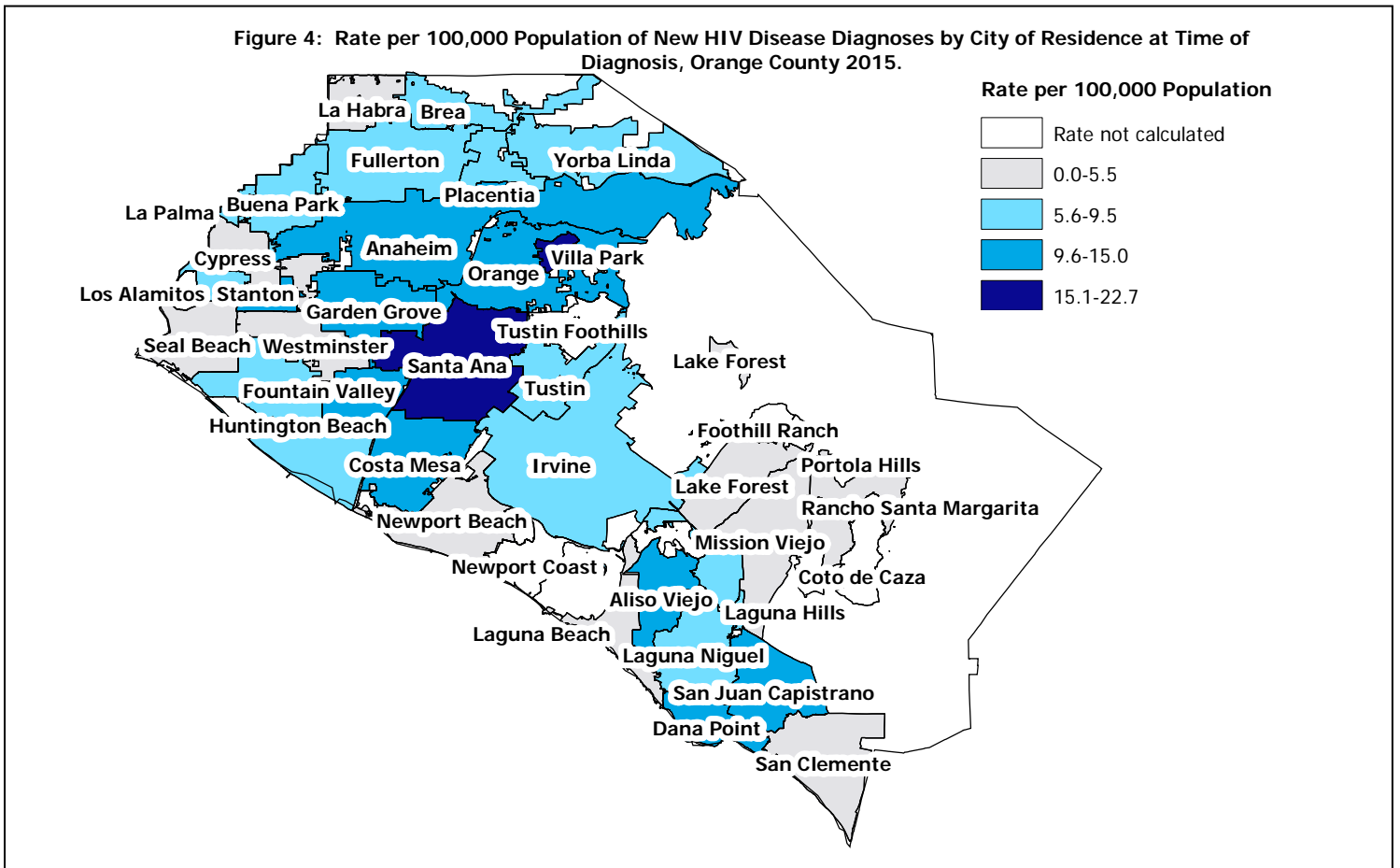


Figure 4 displays the rate per 100,000 population of persons newly diagnosed with HIV by city of residence at the time of that diagnosis. Santa Ana has the highest rate at 22.7, Rancho Santa Margarita the lowest at 2.0. Rates are not calculated for cities where population estimates are unavailable.



The following figures (5-7) display the three year rolling average rate of cases diagnosed in Orange County from 2006-2008 through 2013-2015. The rate shows the disproportionate impact of HIV on a particular group/population. Using a three year average rate works to stabilize the data by removing variability caused by a small number of cases that tend to fluctuate from year to year. The rolling average allows for comparison between time periods from year to year, rather than comparing one three year time period to the next (i.e. 2010-2012 versus 2013-2015).

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Figure 5 shows the rolling three year average rate per 100,000 population of new HIV disease infections by gender. Rates have decreased for both genders in the past 10 years. Men continue to be disproportionately impacted by HIV disease.

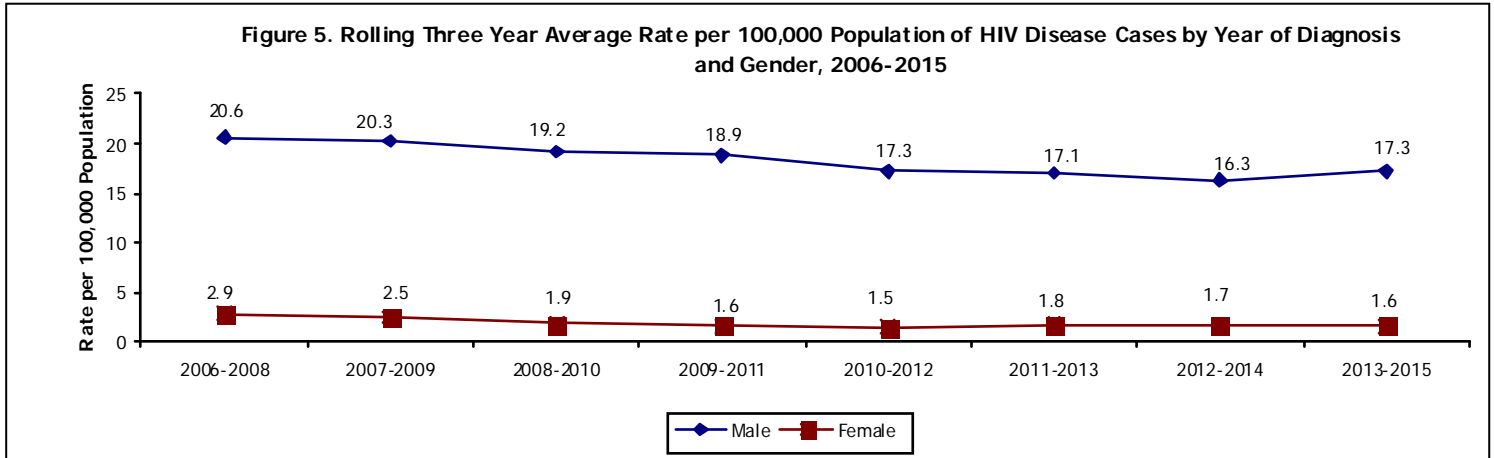


Figure 6 displays the rolling three year average rate of HIV disease cases per 100,000 population by race/ethnicity. As shown, Blacks continue to have the highest case rate, followed by Hispanics, Whites, and Asian/Pacific Islanders (APIs). Blacks and Hispanics are disproportionately impacted by HIV disease compared to other racial/ethnic groups.

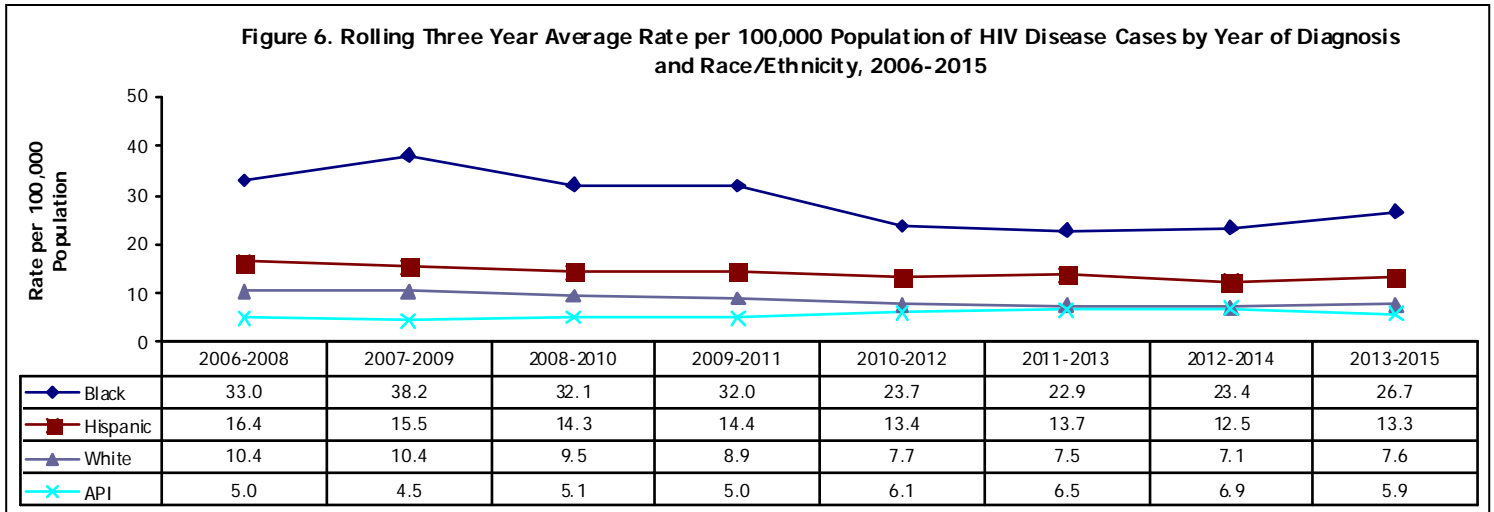
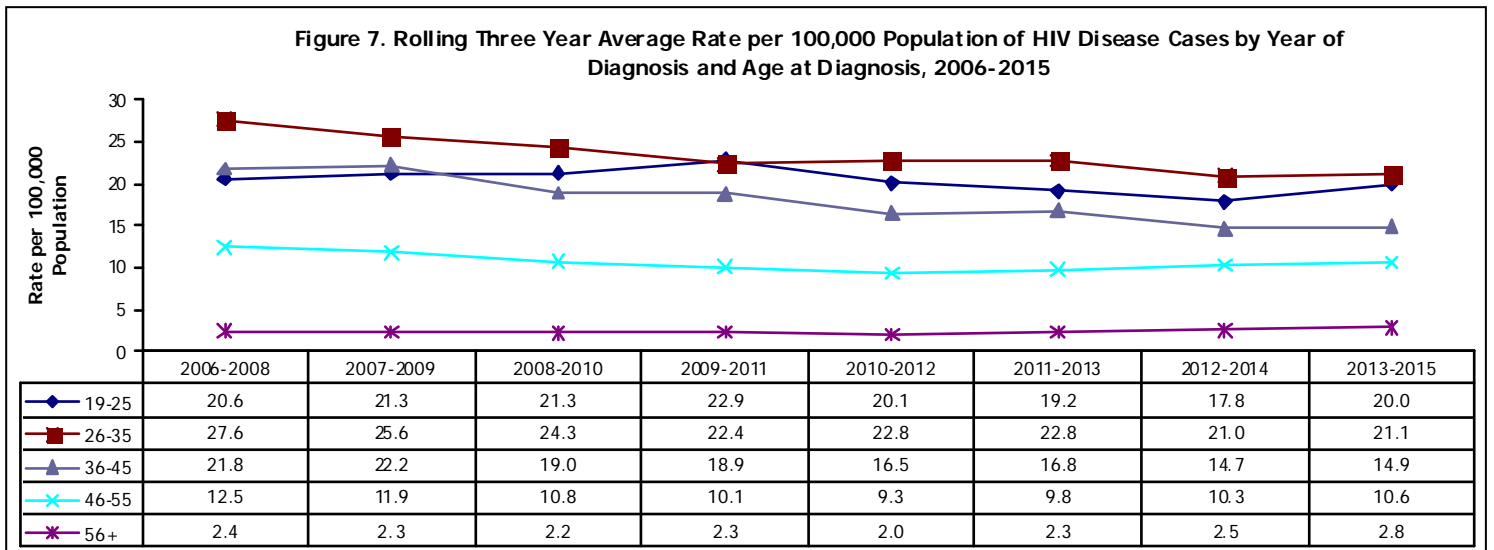
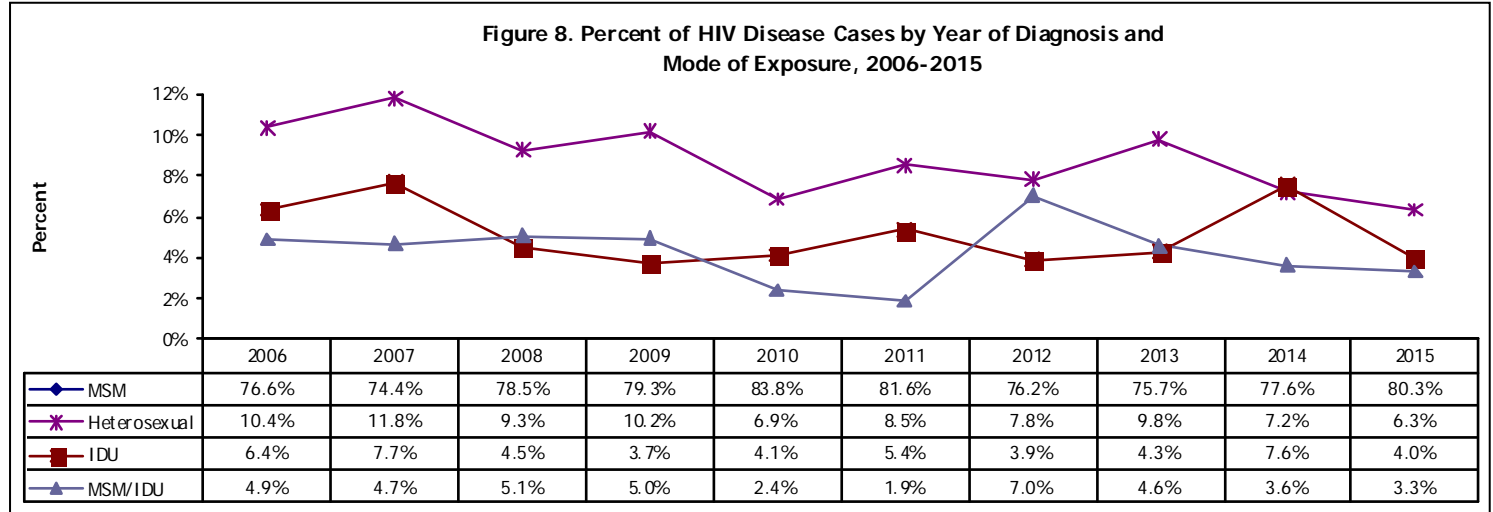


Figure 7 displays the rolling three year average rate of HIV disease cases per 100,000 population by age at diagnosis.



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Figure 8 displays the percent<sup>8</sup> of total HIV disease cases by mode of exposure each year for 2006-2015. The percent of cases has decreased for all categories except men who have sex with men (MSM), whose case representation has increased since 2006. The line for MSM is not displayed in order to highlight the differences and changes in the other modes of transmission.



**Table 1: Number of Cases Diagnosed, Percent of Total Cases Diagnosed, and Percent Change in the Number of Cases Diagnosed, 2006 versus 2015**


	2006		2015		Percent Change in the Number of Cases
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>Total Number of Cases</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	301	87.0%	278	92.7%	-7.6%
Female	42	12.1%	19	6.3%	-54.8%
Transgender Male-to-Female	3	0.9%	3	1.0%	0.0%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
Black	11	3.2%	12	4.0%	9.1%
Hispanic	166	48.0%	153	51.0%	-7.8%
White	142	41.0%	108	36.0%	-23.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	25	7.2%	25	8.3%	0.0%
Other/More than One Race/Unknown	2	0.6%	2	0.7%	0.0%
<b>Age at Diagnosis</b>					
0-18 Years	7	2.0%	5	1.7%	-28.6%
19-25 Years	59	17.1%	67	22.3%	13.6%
26-35 Years	116	33.5%	100	33.3%	-13.8%
36-45 Years	95	27.5%	61	20.3%	-35.8%
46-55 Years	54	15.6%	47	15.7%	-13.0%
56 Years and Older	15	4.3%	20	6.7%	33.3%
<b>Reported Mode of HIV/AIDS Exposure</b>					
Men Having Sex With Men (MSM)	265	76.6%	241	80.3%	-9.1%
Heterosexual Contact	36	10.4%	19	6.3%	-47.2%
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	22	6.4%	12	4.0%	-45.5%
MSM/IDU	17	4.9%	10	3.3%	-41.2%
Other/Unknown	6	1.7%	18	6.0%	200.0%

Other race/ethnicity includes Native American/Alaskan Native. Other Mode of Exposure includes recipients of transfusions or transplants, persons who received treatment for hemophilia, and all pediatric modes of transmission.

Note: The number of cases diagnosed in 2015 is provisional and may change due to reporting delays or removal of cases that are found as duplicates in other jurisdictions.

Data source for HIV disease data: HIV Case Registry, Data as of January 31, 2016.

Data source for population data: State of California, Department of Finance, Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity, Detailed Age, and Gender.

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<sup>8</sup> Rates cannot be calculated for mode of exposure due to the lack of a population estimate for each of the behaviors.