



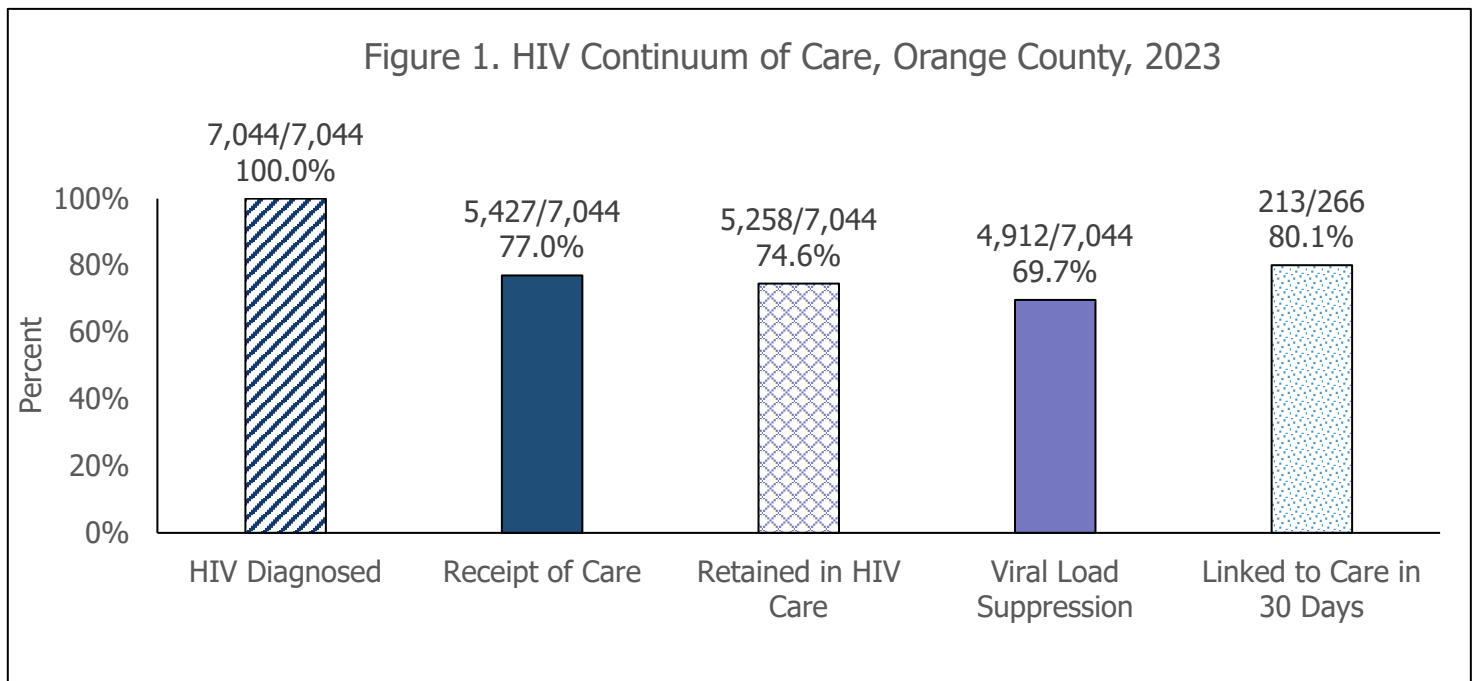
This document provides an overview of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) cases (including AIDS) in Orange County¹. Since reporting began in 1981, Orange County has received **14,637** reports of newly diagnosed HIV infections. In 2023, Orange County had the following reported:

- 266 persons were newly diagnosed with HIV.
- 55 persons were concurrently² diagnosed with AIDS indicating that the individual was living with HIV but unaware of their status for a significant amount of time.

At the end of 2023, there were **7,044** persons living with HIV (PLWH) in Orange County³ who are aware of their HIV status and an additional estimated 1,137 persons who are unaware of their HIV status. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) calculation methodology estimates that 86.1% of PLWH know their status. Therefore, the total estimated number of PLWH in Orange County is **8,181**.⁴

Viral load is an indicator of health and adherence to medication. A high viral load is indicative of illness. Viral load suppression (less than 200 copies/ml) is suggestive of improved health. In Orange County, of the 7,044 PLWH (aware of HIV status), 4,912 (69.7%) are known to have a suppressed viral load.

Figure 1 displays the HIV Continuum of Care. Of the 7,044 individuals diagnosed⁵, 77.0% received HIV care⁶, 74.6% were retained in HIV care⁷, and 69.7% were virally suppressed the last time they were tested in 2023. Of the 266 individuals newly diagnosed in 2023, 213 or 80.1% were linked to care (as indicated by receiving HIV medication, or having a viral load or CD4 test) in 30 days.



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Figure 2 shows the rate of HIV transmission per every 100 persons living with HIV. Since 2014, the transmission rate has decreased 36.7%, from 6.0 to 3.8. A decrease in the transmission rate indicates that the amount of new HIV infections is not increasing despite the increase in the number of PLWH.

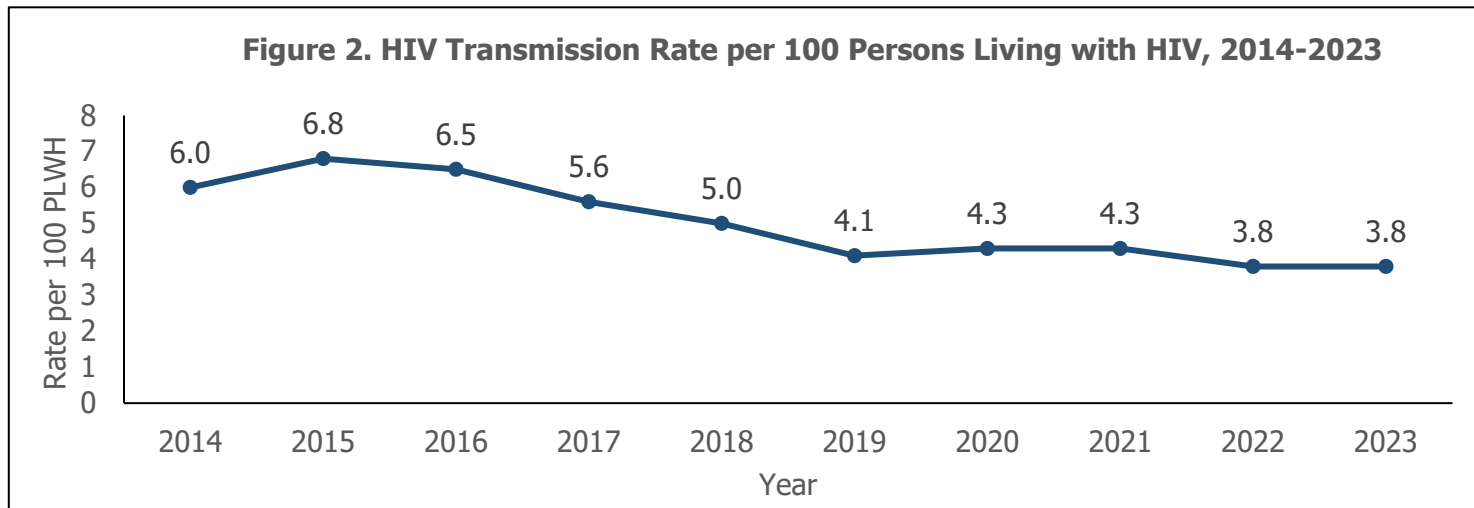


Figure 3 shows the number of new HIV diagnoses each year among Orange County residents as a bar and the number of those diagnoses that were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS as a line. Concurrent diagnoses in 2023 represents a 8.3% decrease from 2014. This decrease may be a result of multiple strategies for early identification of HIV and linkage to care.

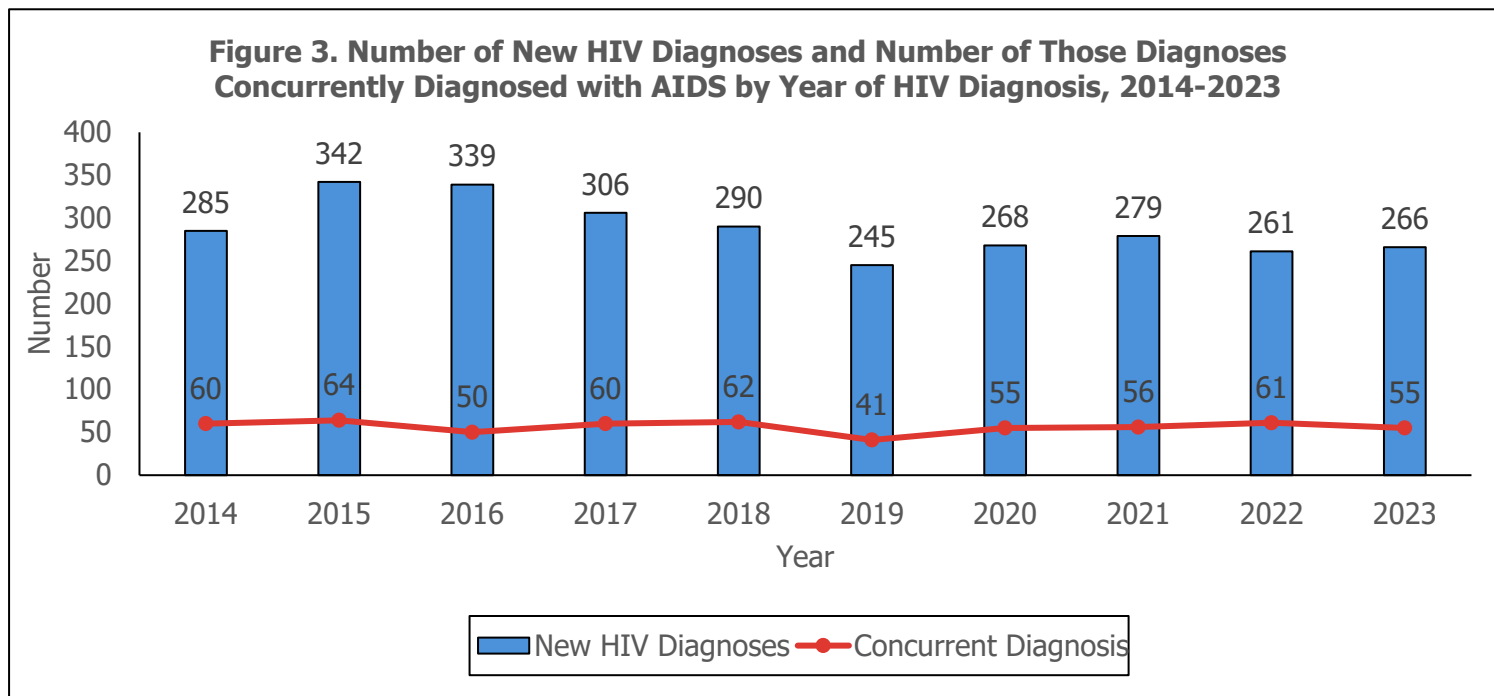


Figure 4 displays the rate of persons newly diagnosed with HIV per 100,000 population by city of residence at the time of diagnosis. Of cities with ten or more cases, Santa Ana (60 cases) and Costa Mesa (17 cases) have the highest rates at 20.0 and 15.3, respectively; whereas, Irvine has the lowest rate at 4.6 (14 cases). Rates are not calculated for cities where population estimates are unavailable or there were fewer than ten cases reported.

Figure 4. Rate per 100,000 Population of New HIV Diagnoses by City of Residence at Time of Diagnosis, Orange County 2023

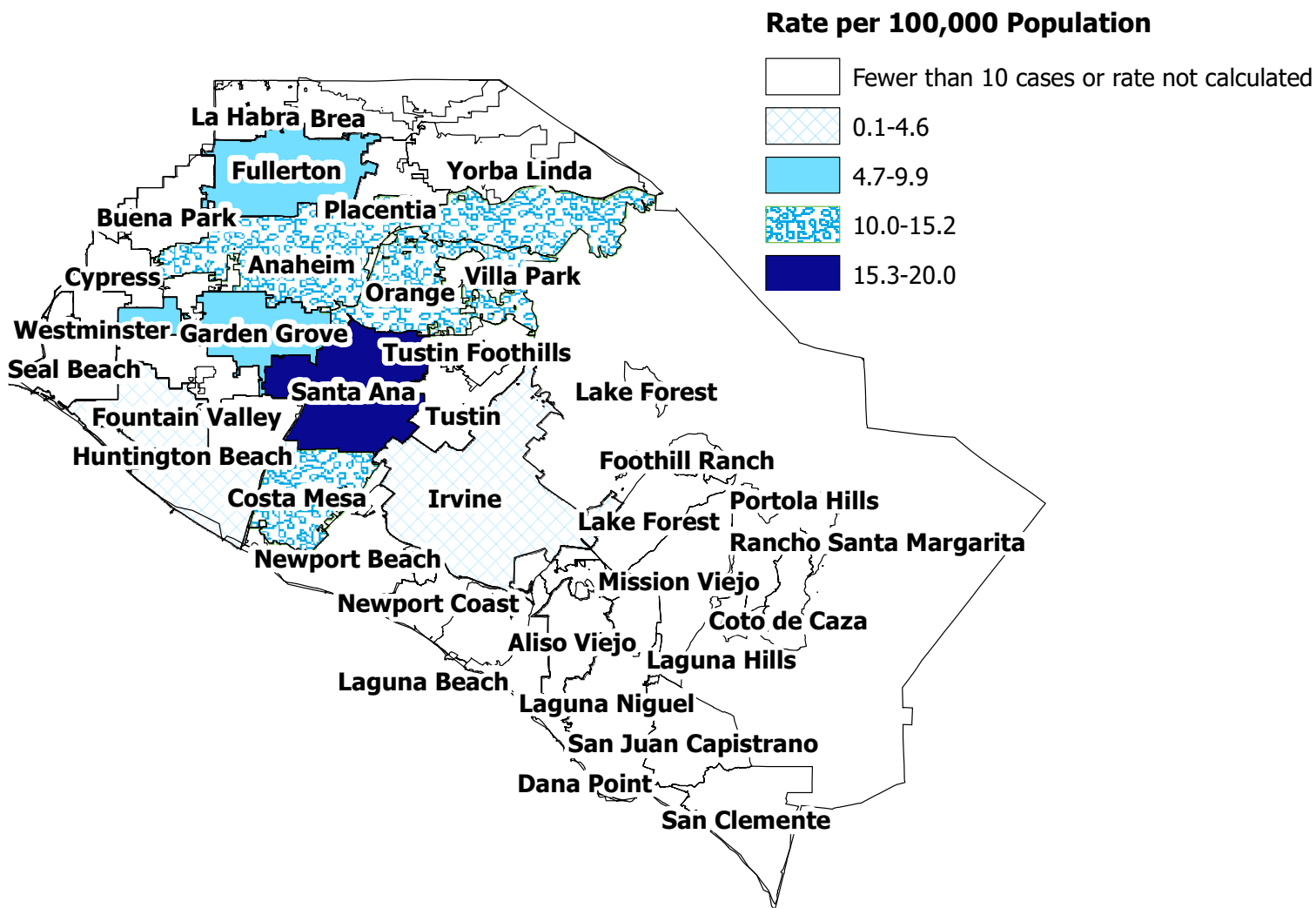
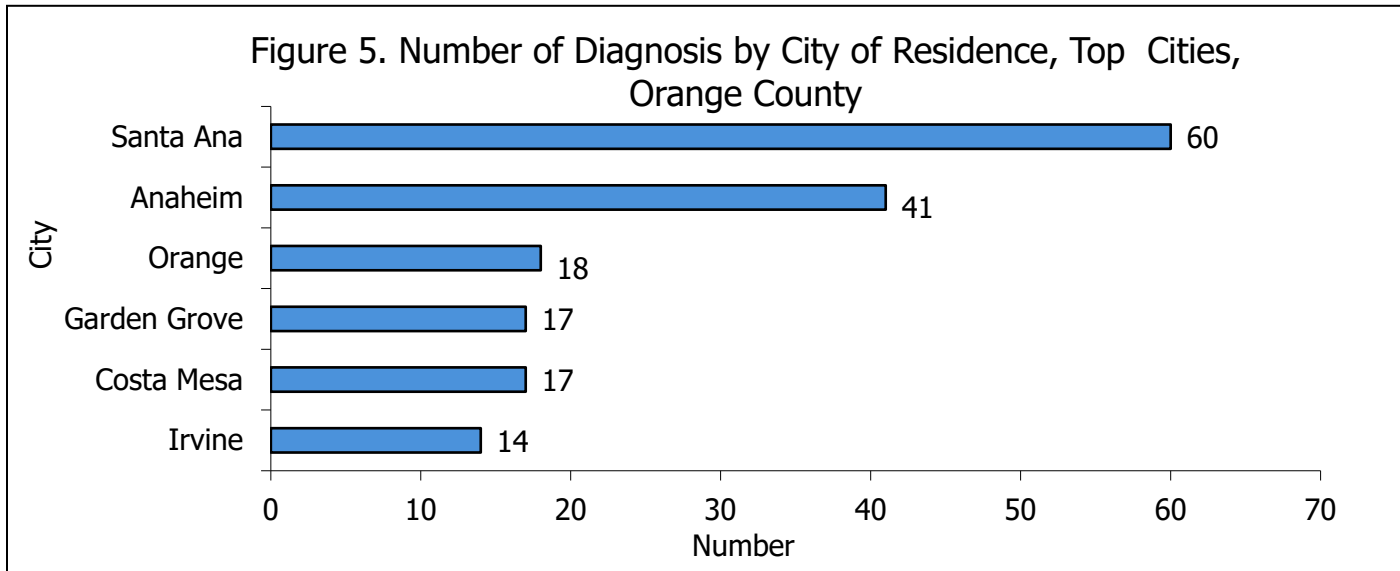


Figure 5 displays the number of persons newly diagnosed by city of residence at diagnosis for the top five cities in Orange County.



The following figures (6-8) display the three-year rolling average rate of cases diagnosed in Orange County from 2014-2016 through 2021-2023. 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. 2020-2022 versus 2020-2023).

Figure 6 displays the average rate of HIV cases by gender. While case rates have decreased, males continue to be disproportionately impacted by HIV compared to females (meaning an unequal rate compared to the total population). Rates are not calculated for the Transgender population because population estimates are unavailable and there were fewer than ten cases reported.

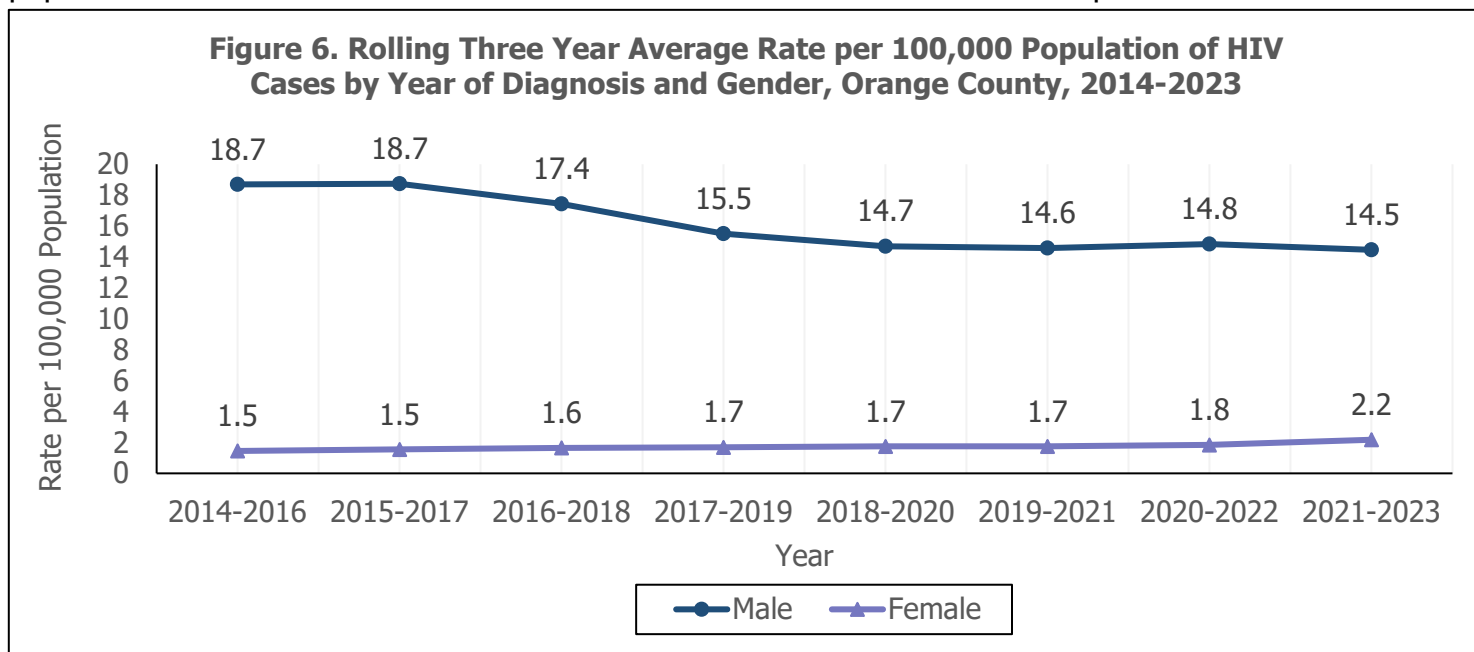


Figure 7 displays the rolling three-year average rate of HIV cases per 100,000 population by race/ethnicity. As shown, African Americans/Blacks⁸ continue to have the highest case rate, followed by Hispanics, Whites, and Asians. Pacific Islanders, American Indian/Alaskan Natives, and Multiple Race categories are excluded due to their small numbers. African Americans/Blacks and Hispanics continue to be disproportionately impacted by HIV compared to other racial/ethnic groups, despite rate decreases since 2014-2016.

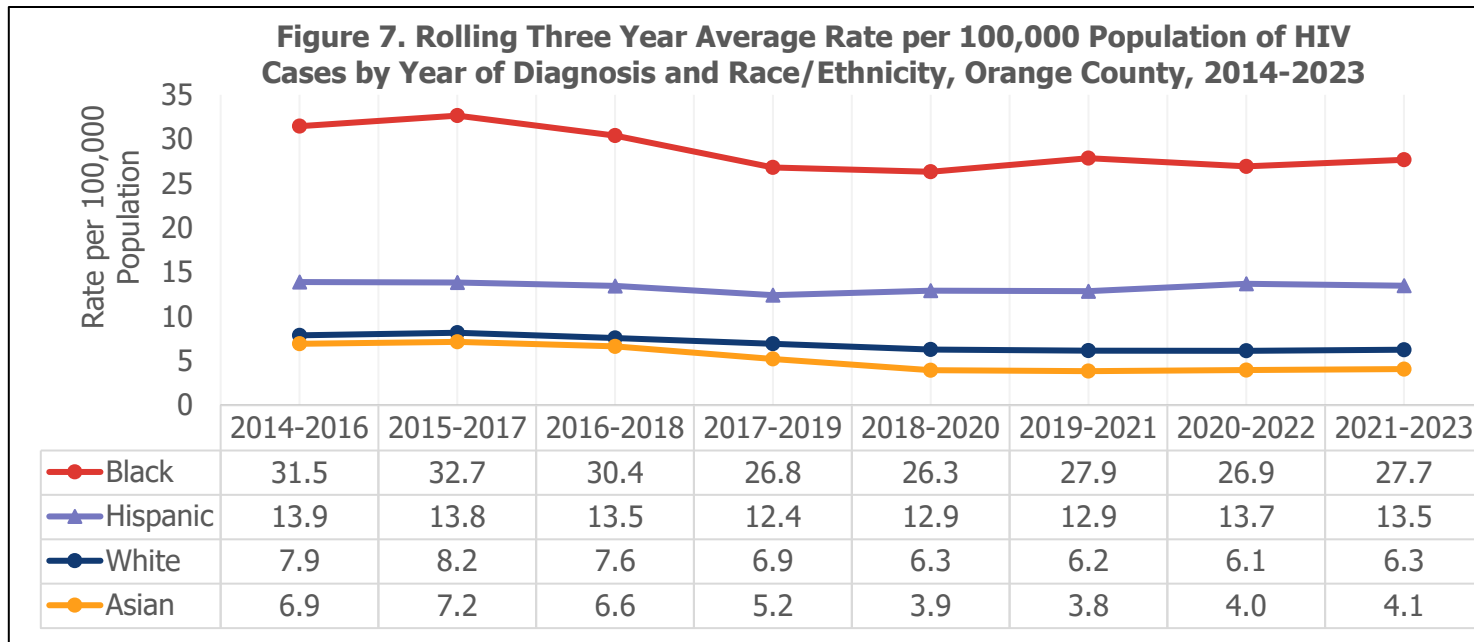
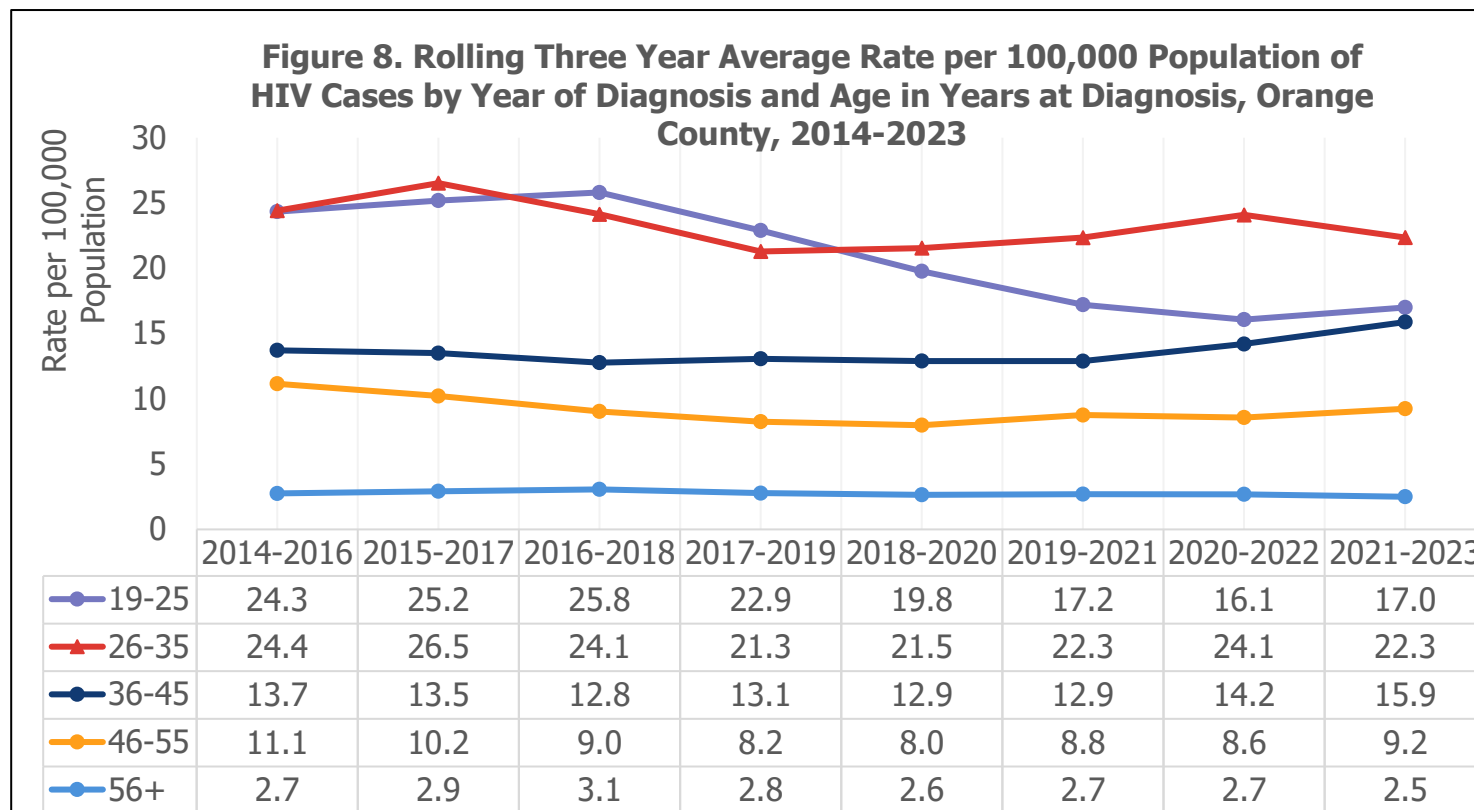
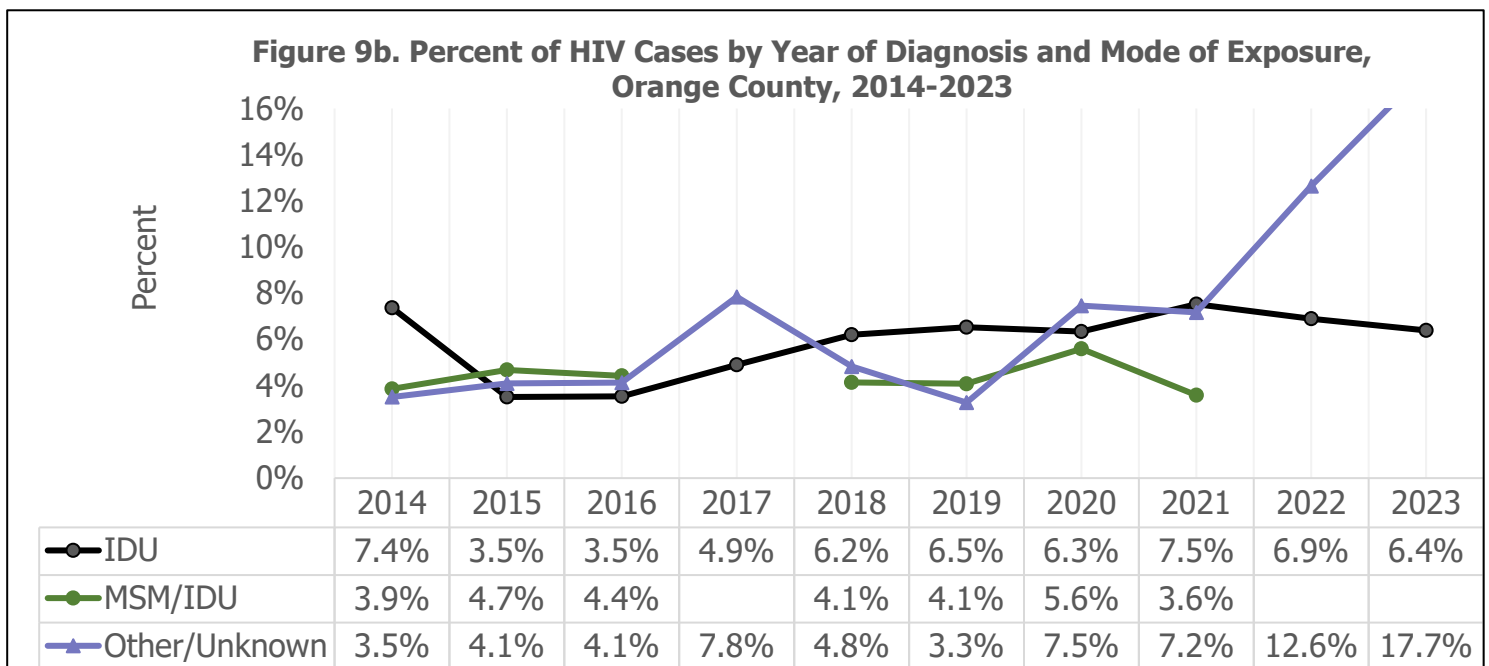
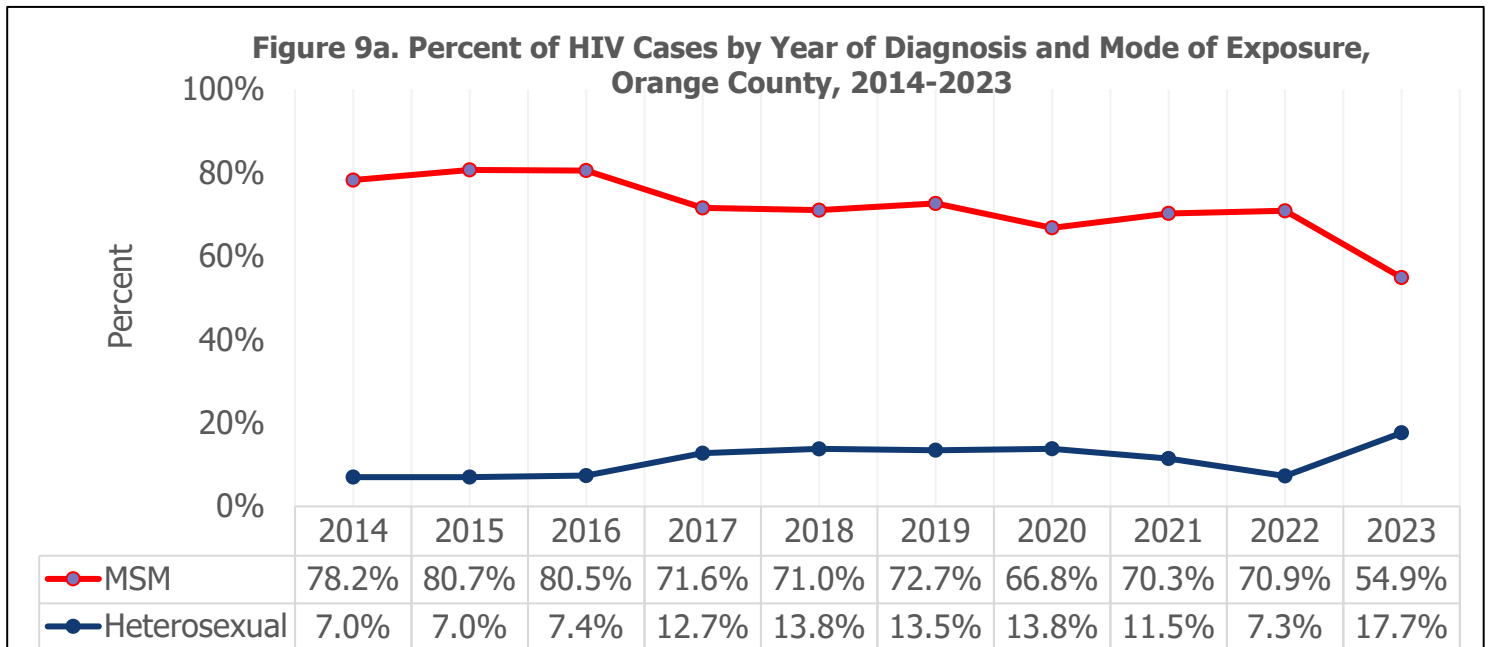


Figure 8 displays the rolling three-year average rate of HIV cases per 100,000 population by age at diagnosis. Since 2014, rates have decreased across all age groups except 36-45 year olds. The case rate for the 0-18 age groups is not listed as there are fewer than 10 cases reported in most years.



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Figures 9a and 9b display the percent⁹ of total HIV cases by mode of exposure each year for 2014-2023. The mode of exposure is collected at time of diagnosis through patient’s self-report and may not be able to be obtained for every individual. The percent of cases of men who have sex with men (MSM), IDU, and MSM who are also injection drug users (IDU) decreased while the percent of cases for Heterosexuals increased since 2014.



Blank cells indicate fewer than 10 cases

2023 HIV FACT SHEET

Table 1 displays the number of HIV cases diagnosed, percent of total cases diagnosed, and percent change in the number of cases diagnosed, 2014 versus 2023.


	2014		2023		Percent Change in the Number of Cases
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Number of HIV Cases	285	100.0%	266	100.0%	
Gender					
Male	261	91.6%	208	78.2%	-20.3%
Female	24	8.4%	48	18.0%	100.0%
Transgender Female	*	*	10	3.8%	*
Race/Ethnicity					
African- American/Black	12	4.2%	16	6.0%	33.3%
Hispanic	129	45.3%	135	50.8%	4.7%
White	99	34.7%	81	30.5%	-18.2%
Asian	38	13.3%	28	10.5%	-26.3%
Pacific Islander	*	*	*	*	*
Other/More than One Race	*	*	*	*	*
Age at Diagnosis					
0-18 Years	*	*	*	*	*
19-25 Years	66	23.2%	49	18.4%	-25.8%
26-35 Years	82	28.8%	88	33.1%	7.3%
36-45 Years	57	20.0%	66	24.8%	15.8%
46-55 Years	49	17.2%	37	13.9%	-24.5%
56 Years and Older	22	7.7%	23	8.6%	4.5%
Reported Mode of HIV Exposure					
Men who have Sex With Men (MSM)	223	78.2%	146	54.9%	-34.5%
Heterosexual Contact	20	7.0%	47	17.7%	135.0%
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	21	7.4%	17	6.4%	-19.0%
MSM/IDU	11	3.9%	*	*	*
Other/Unknown	10	3.5%	47	17.7%	370.0%

*Fewer than ten cases.

Note: Other race/ethnicity includes Native American/Alaskan Native. Other Mode of Exposure may include recipients of transfusions or transplants, persons who received treatment for hemophilia, and all pediatric modes of transmission. Unknown are cases for which mode of exposure cannot be obtained.

Data source for HIV data: Orange County HIV Case Registry, Data as of January 31, 2024.

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

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- ¹ HIV surveillance is an ongoing process, and therefore, cases diagnosed in 2023 are considered preliminary due to reporting delays. The number of cases diagnosed in each year may change due to removal of cases that are found as duplicates in other jurisdictions and therefore numbers on previous fact sheets should not be compared to this fact sheet.
- ² Concurrently diagnosed are persons who had an AIDS defining condition (CD4 count below 200 cells/ml and/or a diagnosis of a disease that is an indicator condition for AIDS) within one month (31 days) of their HIV diagnosis.
- ³ This includes all individuals reported to be living in Orange County regardless of where they were living when they were diagnosed with HIV.
- ⁴ The total number of persons estimated to be living with HIV is based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calculation methodology updated for 2018-2022. The calculation is the number of persons known to be living with HIV (7,044) divided by 0.861. The difference between this calculation (8,181) and 7,044 is the additional number of persons estimated to be living with HIV but are unaware of their diagnosis (1,137).
- ⁵ The total number of individuals diagnosed presented in the HIV Fact Sheet differs from the Continuum of HIV Care document as the total diagnosed on the HIV Fact Sheet includes all persons diagnosed with HIV (all ages). The Continuum of HIV Care only includes individuals diagnosed age 13 years and older in accordance with current CDC guidance.
- ⁶ Persons who had at least one viral load and/or CD4 count blood test during 2023.
- ⁷ Persons who had at least two viral load or CD4 results with at least three months in-between the first and last result. For persons diagnosed prior to 2023, the two results occurred in 2022 and/or 2023. For persons diagnosed in 2023, the results occurred between January 1, 2023 and March 19, 2024.
- ⁸ African American and Black used interchangeably throughout the HIV Fact Sheet.
- ⁹ Rates cannot be calculated for mode of exposure due to the lack of a population estimate for each of the risk factors.