



# Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Data Fact Sheet

## Who is dying with HIV/AIDS and how has this changed over time?

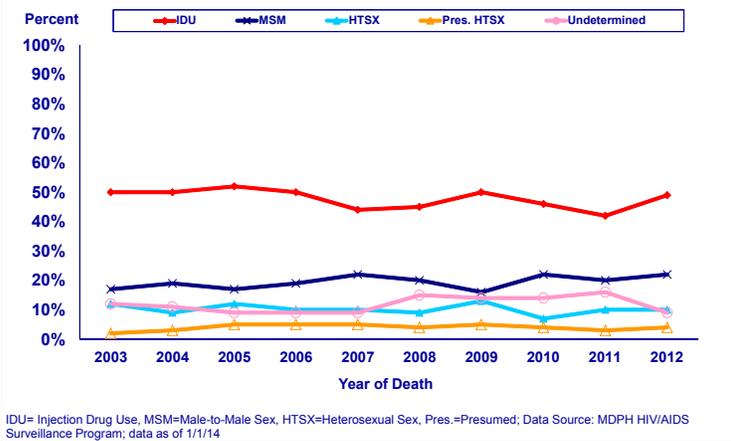
### Fast Facts

- 2012 saw the lowest number of deaths among persons with HIV/AIDS since these deaths peaked in 1994. This trend represents improvements in care and treatment resulting in longer survival.
- Disparities in mortality among people living with HIV/AIDS were not observed according to gender, race, ethnicity, place of birth or reported risk but only according to known disparities in infection rates.
- Survival time from diagnosis continues to increase in all people in Massachusetts living with HIV/AIDS over time.
- About half of all deaths from 2003 to 2012 were among people with a primary reported risk of injection drug use.

### Introduction

The number of deaths among people reported with HIV/AIDS declined 47% from 391 in 2003 to a low of 208 deaths in 2012.<sup>i</sup> In 2012, less than half of deaths among people reported with HIV/AIDS were HIV-related (N=100).<sup>ii</sup>

**Figure 1. Percent of Deaths among People Reported with HIV/AIDS by Selected Reported Risk and Year of Death: Massachusetts, 2003–2012**



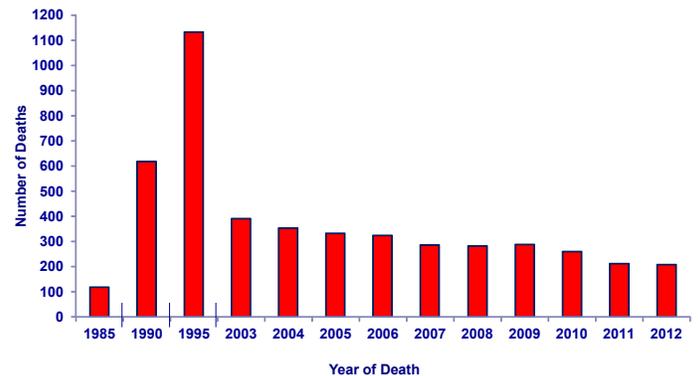
From 2003 to 2012, the proportion of deaths among people with HIV reported with a risk of injection drug use remained fairly stable at close to 50% of deaths each year. Black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic/Latino populations are living with and diagnosed with HIV infection at higher rates than the white (non-Hispanic) population, so they also experience higher mortality rates. But, black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic/Latino individuals do not experience differential survival compared to white (non-Hispanic) individuals once diagnosed. Deaths among people reported with HIV/AIDS from 2003 to 2012 declined for all race/ethnicities.

### Rank of HIV/AIDS among leading causes of death in 2011:<sup>iii</sup>

- In 2011, HIV/AIDS was the 29th leading cause of death in Massachusetts.
- HIV/AIDS was the 15th leading cause of death for Hispanic/Latino and black (non-Hispanic) individuals, and the 34th leading cause of death for white (non-Hispanic) individuals.
- Among 25–44 year olds, HIV/AIDS was the 13th leading cause of death in 2011; sixteen years prior (1995), it was the leading cause of death in this age group.

### General statistics:

**Figure 2. Number of Deaths Among People Reported with HIV/AIDS by Year of Death: Massachusetts, Selected Years, 1985–2012**



Note: Death data for people with HIV who had not yet progressed to AIDS are not available before 1999 and therefore not included here. Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program; Data as of 1/1/14





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### Deaths among people reported with HIV/AIDS by reported risk:

- From 2003 to 2012, the number of deaths among people reported with HIV/AIDS with the following risks decreased: injection drug use by 48% (from 196 to 102); male-to-male sex by 32% (from 68 to 46); heterosexual sex by 57% (from 47 to 20); and undetermined risk by 59% (from 46 to 19). The number of deaths among people with a reported risk of presumed heterosexual sex remained level (9 in 2003 and 2012).<sup>iv</sup>

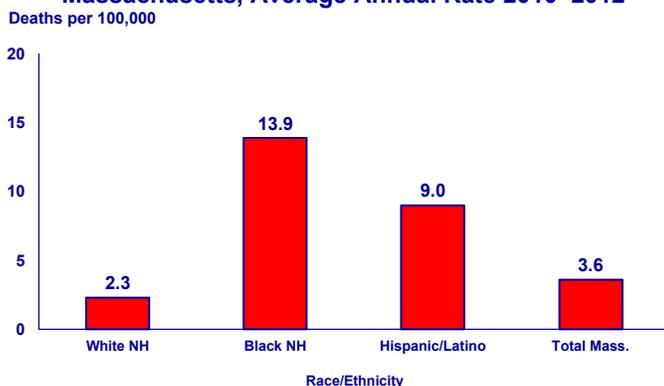
### Deaths among people reported with HIV/AIDS by race/ethnicity:

- The number of deaths among people reported with HIV/AIDS who were white (non-Hispanic) decreased by 46% (from 189 to 103) from 2003 to 2012, black (non-Hispanic) by 55% (from 110 to 50), and Hispanic/Latino by 44% (from 89 to 50).

### Average annual rate of death among people reported with HIV/AIDS by race/ethnicity, 2010–2012:

- An average of 3.6 out of every 100,000 people in Massachusetts died with HIV/AIDS each year within the years 2010 to 2012 (rate adjusted for age).

**Figure 3. Age-Adjusted Rate of Death per 100,000 Population<sup>1</sup> Among People Reported with HIV/AIDS by Race/Ethnicity: Massachusetts, Average Annual Rate 2010–2012**



<sup>1</sup> Population sizes for rate calculations are from the Massachusetts (Department of Public Health) Modified Age, Race/Ethnicity, & Sex Estimates 2010, all rates are age-adjusted using the 2000 US standard population; NH= Non-Hispanic; Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, data as of 1/1/14

- The age-adjusted average annual death rates within the three-year period 2010 to 2012 among the black (non-Hispanic) (13.9 per 100,000) and the Hispanic/Latino (9.0 per 100,000) populations reported with HIV/AIDS are six and four times greater than for the white (non-Hispanic) population (2.3 per 100,000), respectively. These rates reflect longstanding disparities in HIV infection incidence by race/ethnicity: the black (non-Hispanic) population is diagnosed with HIV infection at ten times and the Hispanic/Latino population at six times the rate of the white (non-Hispanic) population.

### Deaths among people reported with HIV/AIDS by gender:

- In 2012, 67% of deaths among individuals reported with HIV/AIDS were men and 33% were women.<sup>v</sup> These proportions have been relatively stable over time and represent the distribution of HIV/AIDS by gender.
- From 2003 to 2012, the number of deaths among men reported with HIV/AIDS decreased by 46% (from 257 to 139) and among women by 49% (from 134 to 69).

### Deaths among people reported with HIV/AIDS by place of birth:

- In 2012, 81% of deaths among individuals reported with HIV/AIDS were among people born in the U.S., 11% were among people born in Puerto Rico or another U.S. dependency, and 8% were among people born outside the U.S.
- From 2003 to 2012, the number of deaths among people reported with HIV/AIDS who were born in the U.S. decreased by 44%, among people born in Puerto Rico or another U.S. dependency by 58%, and among people born outside the U.S. by 51%.

### Trends in survival after an AIDS diagnosis:

- Compared to survival of people diagnosed in 1987, the proportion of people who survive with AIDS increased over successive years.



For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix  
 Massachusetts Department of Public Health Office of HIV/AIDS  
 250 Washington St. 3rd Floor Boston, MA 02108  
 617-624-5300 FAX 617-624-5399 [www.mass.gov/dph/aids](http://www.mass.gov/dph/aids)

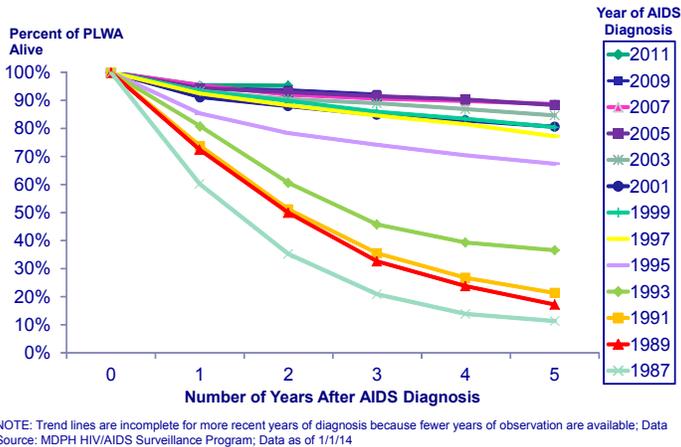




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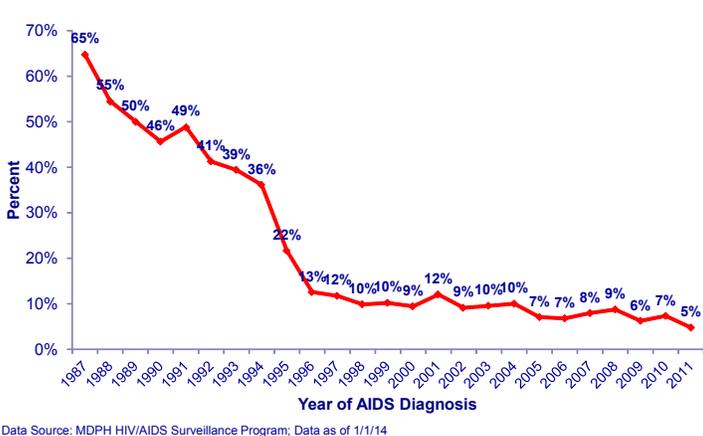
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**Figure 4. Percent of People Living with AIDS (PLWA) Who Are Alive 1–5 Years After an AIDS Diagnosis by Year of AIDS Diagnosis: Massachusetts, 1987–2011**



- From 1987 to 1996, the proportion of people diagnosed with AIDS who died within two years of their diagnosis declined from 65% to 13%.
- From 1997 to 2004, the proportion of people diagnosed with AIDS who died within two years of their diagnosis ranged from 12% to 9%, and stayed below 10% thereafter.

**Figure 5. Percent of People Who Died Within 2 Years of an AIDS Diagnosis by Year of AIDS Diagnosis: Massachusetts, 1987–2011**



### Data Sources

All HIV/AIDS Case Data: Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 1/1/14

<sup>i</sup> Effective January 1, 2011, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, HIV/AIDS fact sheets, epidemiologic reports, and other data presentations have been updated to remove all HIV/AIDS cases that were first diagnosed in another state before being reported in Massachusetts.

<sup>ii</sup> This fact sheet describes all deaths among people reported with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts from all causes, including cardiovascular disease, liver disease, cancer, accidental injury, or poisoning inclusive of drug overdose. Therefore, the number of deaths here (N=208 in 2012) will differ from the number of deaths with HIV/AIDS as the cause of death (N=100 in 2012) reported in Massachusetts Provisional Deaths by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, Bureau of Health Information, Statistics, Research and Evaluation.

<sup>iii</sup> Data included here represent HIV/AIDS-related deaths from: Massachusetts Deaths 2010. Boston, MA: Division of Research and Epidemiology, Bureau of Health Information, Statistics, Research, and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. January 2013

<sup>iv</sup> The category of presumed heterosexual is used exclusively for women, to define reported risk in cases when sex with men is the only reported risk factor for HIV infection.

<sup>v</sup> Please note “women” and “men” are used for stylistic reasons to describe female and male populations diagnosed with HIV infection that include a small number of girls and boys (N=26 children living with HIV/AIDS under age 13 as of 1/1/14).

For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix  
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