

### **Acknowledgments**

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With special thanks to:

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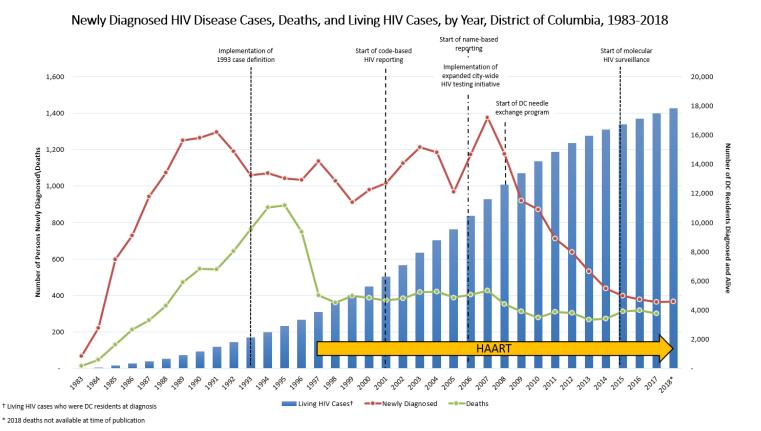
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# **Executive Summary**

The Annual HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), Hepatitis, and Tuberculosis (TB) Surveillance Report for the District of Columbia shows the District continues to experience complex epidemics of HIV, STIs, hepatitis, and TB. The Department of Health (DC Health) reports that the number of new HIV cases decreased slightly for the second year, which highlights the urgency to accelerate key prevention and treatment strategies. The District maintained high rates of STIs and level number of new TB cases. There are encouraging advances in more people being diagnosed and treated to cure for hepatitis C.

Figure 1. Newly Diagnosed HIV Disease Cases, Deaths, and Living HIV Cases, by Year, District of Columbia, 1983-2018.



Key points in this surveillance update of the District epidemics in the year 2018 include:

- 12,322 current residents of the District of Columbia or 1.8% of the population are living with HIV.
- The number of newly diagnosed HIV cases in the District decreased to 360 cases in 2018, a decline of 49% from 721 cases in 2011 and 73% from 1,374 cases in 2007.
- There were no babies born with HIV in 2018.
- The number of newly diagnosed HIV cases attributable to injection drug use decreased by 94% from 150 cases in 2007, prior to the scale up of DC's needle exchange program, to 9 cases in 2018; however, the number of men newly diagnosed with HIV attributable to injection drug use increased for the first time in 10 years from 2 in 2017 to 7 in 2018.
- Blacks and Latinos with HIV exceeded 1% of their respective populations, with Blacks disproportionately impacted at 2.7%.
- For the first time, more than half of people living with HIV in DC are older than 50 years old.

- Young people ages 13 to 24 represent 20% of new HIV diagnoses; the number of new HIV diagnoses among young people ages 20-24 remained level for the past three years.
- Sexual contact is the leading mode of transmission reported among newly diagnosed and identified HIV cases.
- There were 9,007 cases of chlamydia, 4,249 cases of gonorrhea and 282 cases of primary and secondary syphilis reported.
- A substantial minority (39%) of primary and secondary syphilis cases occurred among people with HIV.
- There were 1,515 people with newly reported hepatitis C in 2018.
- There were 36 cases of TB in 2018 with three-quarters among people born outside of the US.

#### **HIV Care Continuum**

DC Health tracks the District's efforts to improve the care continuum for people living with HIV to sustain their health from diagnosis to linkage and retention in care. The care continuum measures people linked to care, engaged in care, and viral load suppression. Surveillance data includes all people known to be living in the District. DC Health administers the Ryan White CARE Program that serves more than half of all people living with HIV in the District. People achieving viral suppression maintain strong immune systems, achieve healthier outcomes, and cannot transmit HIV sexually to other people, known as Undetectable equals Untransmittable or U=U. The District saw improvements in the care continuum in DC through 2018:

- Among people newly diagnosed with HIV, 57% were linked to medical care within 7 days of diagnosis and 84% within 30 days.
- Viral suppression among all people living with HIV in DC remained at 66% overall and 85% among people with an indication of engaged in care.
- There was an increase in achieving viral suppression within six months of new diagnosis from 63% to 68% from 2017 to 2018, where the median time to viral suppression was 114 days. This indicates that people are getting on HIV treatment quicker.
- Among Ryan White clients, 73% retained were in care, 95% prescribed treatment, and 80% virally suppressed.
- Young people ages 0-19 and 20-24 had the lowest viral suppression rates at 40.7% and 50.9%, respectively; among
  newly diagnosed people, viral suppression rates were lowest for people who inject drugs at 42.6%.

#### Scaling Up Success

The District Government and its community partners continue to scale up programs to reduce the impact of HIV, STDs, hepatitis and TB on residents of Washington, DC. These successes are the most recent achievements by the District.

- Supported 61,584 HIV tests in 2018; 44% of the tests were among young people ages 13 to 29.
- Distributed more than 4.1 million male and female condoms in 2018.
- Supported about 3,400 people to start Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV in 2018.
- Removed 530,527 needles from the street in 2018 through the DC needle exchange programs.
- Provided 5,000 free STD tests for young people through the school based STD screening and community screening programs in 2018.
- Provided HIV medical care and support services to more than 7,000 people through the Ryan White Program.

#### **Ending the HIV Epidemic**

In 2016, Mayor Bowser released the 90/90/90/50 Plan to End the HIV Epidemic in the District of Columbia by 2020. While there has been steady progress (see Table E1), this year's report reflects the necessity to increase availability, accessibility, and acceptability of services. In 2019, the US Department of Health and Human Services launched an Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative, which focuses on 48 counties, seven rural states, and two cities (Washington, DC and San Juan, PR) where half of all new HIV diagnoses are located nationally. DC Health with its public-private collaborators DC Appleseed Center and Washington AIDS Partnership aims to update the 90/90/90/50 Plan to achieve

a compatible and timely end to the epidemic in the nation's capital.

 Table E1. HIV Wellness and Prevention Measures of the 90-90-90-50 Plan, 2018

HIV Wellness and Prevention Measures	2015	2016	2017	2018	2020 Goal
Goal #1: 90% of HIV-positive District residents know their status	86%	86%	87%	pending	90%
Goal #2: 90% of District Residents living with HIV are in treatment	73%	76%	77%	78%	80%
Goal #3: 90% of District residents living with HIV who are in treatment reach viral suppression	78%	82%	84%	85%	90%
Goal #4: 50% reduction in new HIV diagnoses	400	378	373	360	260*

<sup>\*</sup>Reference year 2013

# HIV Cases Living in DC

In 2016, this report, for the first time, devised a methodology to more accurately count the number of people diagnosed with HIV actually living in the District as compared to previous reports that contained data of the cumulative number of known living individuals diagnosed with HIV who were residents of the District at the time of diagnosis. The new methodology is repeated here. As presented in Figure 1, the number of all diagnosed stands at 17,830. Figure 1 accounts for new HIV diagnoses among current District residents, reported deaths among those previously diagnosed, and the residential migration of HIV positive individuals in and out of the District over time. The report uses residence at last lab to more accurately assess the number of individuals diagnosed with HIV living within the District (Figure 1). This methodology not only provides a better foundation for understanding the extent of HIV within the District, but also an improved baseline from which to evaluate the population coverage of HIV prevention and care activities.

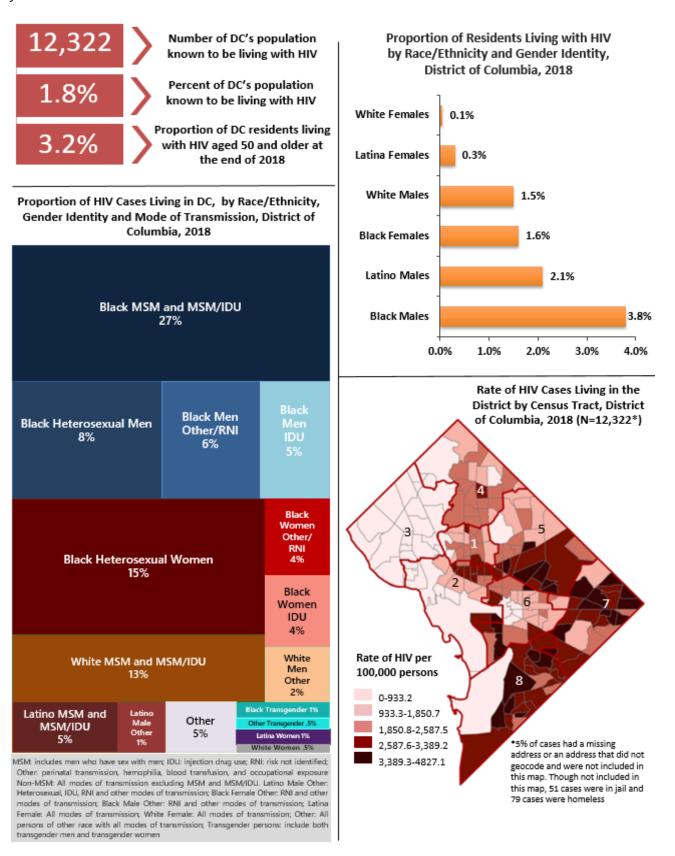
Figure 1. People Living with HIV in the District of Columbia as of December 31, 2018



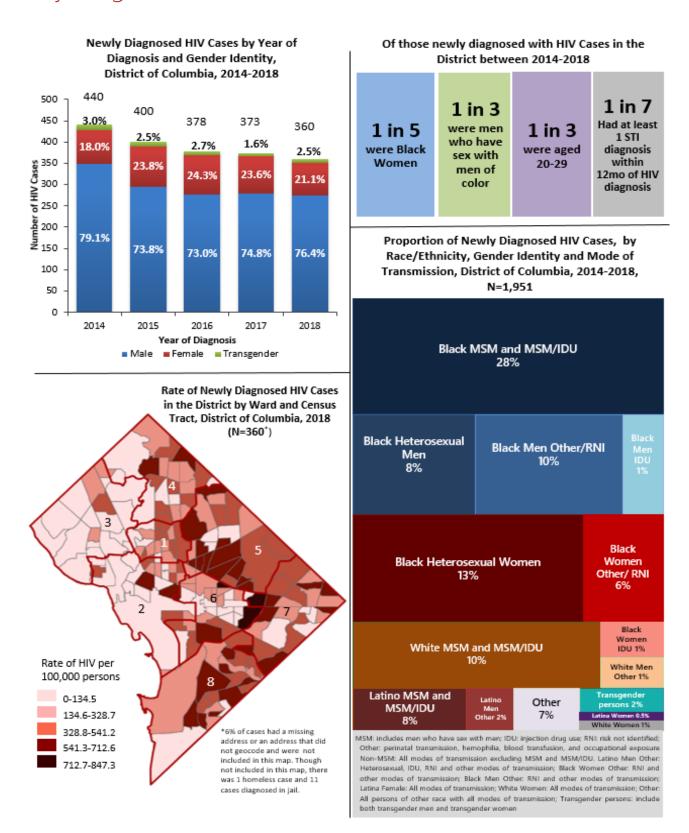
#### Estimation of the Number of People Living in DC

Of the 17,830 individuals diagnosed with HIV while a District resident, approximately 43% (n=7,579) were presumed to have moved outside of the jurisdiction (out-migration) prior to the end of 2018, as evidenced by a non-District residential address on their last reported laboratory report or the lack of any reported laboratory information for more than 5 years. Laboratory data was also used to assess the number of individuals diagnosed with HIV while a resident of other jurisdictions who have moved into the District over time (in-migration); we identified 1,984 individuals initially diagnosed with HIV outside of the jurisdiction with a current residential address in the District. As indicated in Figure 1, after adjusting the initial count of all living HIV cases for in- and out-migration, an estimated 12,322 individuals diagnosed with HIV were presumed to be living in the District at the end of 2018. Detailed characteristics of people living with HIV based on residential migration status since diagnosis are included in **appendix tables B1-B4**. In the

future, HAHSTA expects to refine the estimates further, as a result of improved data-sharing processes with surrounding jurisdictions and additional information sources for ascertainment of residential addresses.



# Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases



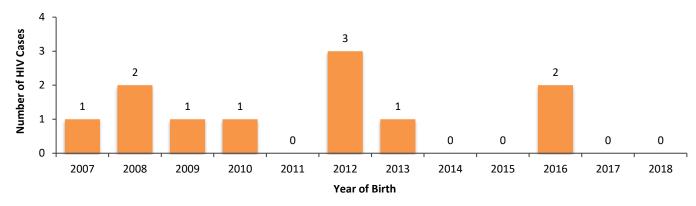
Rates were calculated using the 2017 Census Estimates

Please refer to appendix table **B5-B7** for additional data regarding newly diagnosed HIV cases.

### Perinatal HIV

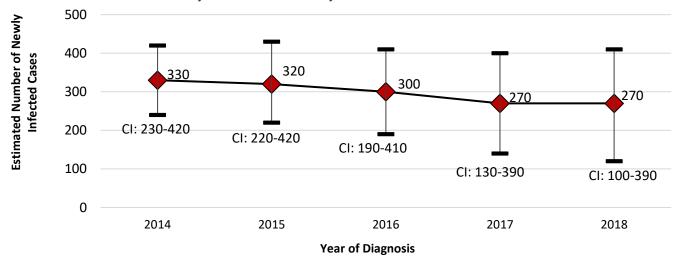
Perinatal HIV cases are defined as those in which transmission occurs during pregnancy, labor and delivery, or breastfeeding. Since the introduction of recommendations to provide anti-retroviral medication to women during pregnancy, during labor and delivery, and to the infant in the neonatal period, there has been a 95% reduction in mother to child transmission of HIV nationally. Transmission rates among those who receive recommended treatment during pregnancy, at labor and delivery, and newborn period are as low as 1%.

Figure 2. Perinatal HIV cases by Year of Birth, District of Columbia, 2007-2018



### **HIV** Incidence

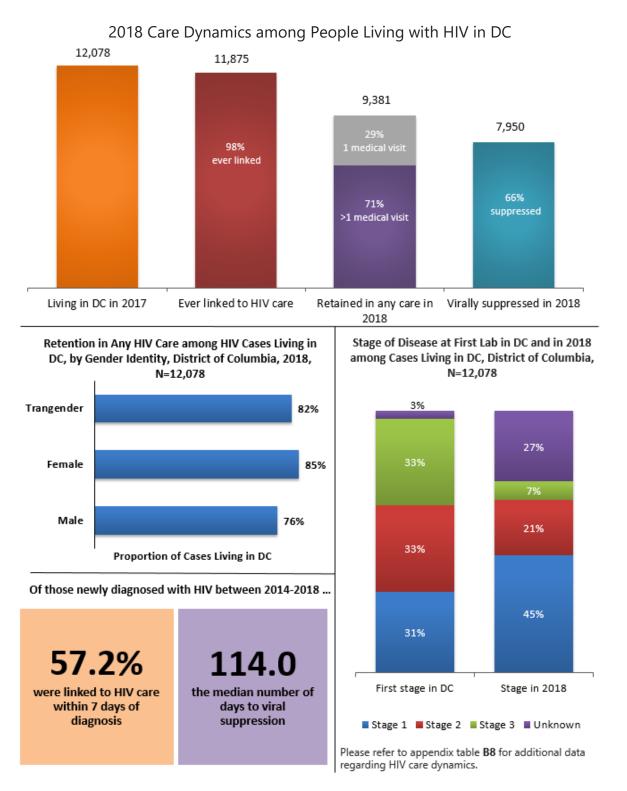
Figure 3. Estimated Number of Newly Infected HIV Cases by Year, District of Columbia, 2014-2018

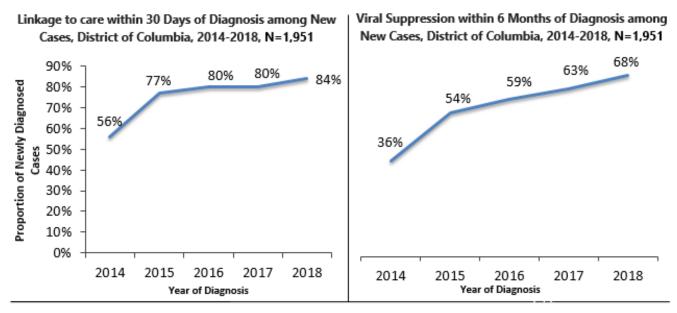


The estimated number of new infections of HIV in the District remained stable from 2014 to 2018. The estimated rate of new infections in the District exceeded the national rate in 2015 at 47.6 estimated cases/ 100,000 compared with 14.4 estimated cases/ 100,000 respectively. Since the number of new infections of HIV is an estimate, the 95% confidence interval shows the range within which the estimate may lie after adjusting for variability in sampling and timing of testing.

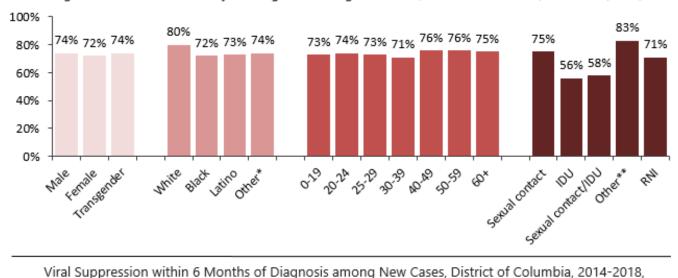
# **HIV Care Dynamics**

The Care Continuum is the approach of diagnosing people with HIV, linking them into care and treatment, retaining them in care and medication adherence, and achieving viral load suppression, which is the marker of a person's and community's health. Assessing HIV care dynamics is an essential step in understanding the strengths of HIV programs in the District, as well as an opportunity to identify and resolve gaps in the care continuum.

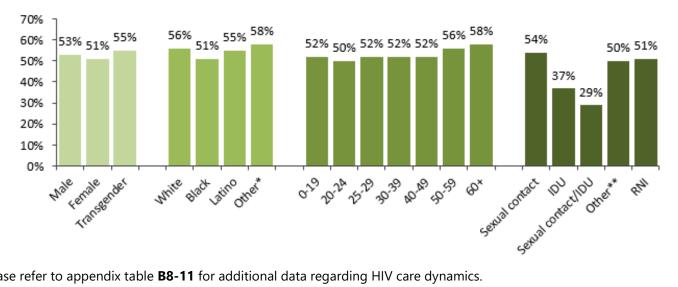




Linkage to HIV care within 30 Days of Diagnosis among New Cases, District of Columbia, 2014-2018, N=1,951



Viral Suppression within 6 Months of Diagnosis among New Cases, District of Columbia, 2014-2018, N = 1,951



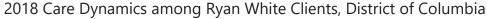
Please refer to appendix table **B8-11** for additional data regarding HIV care dynamics.

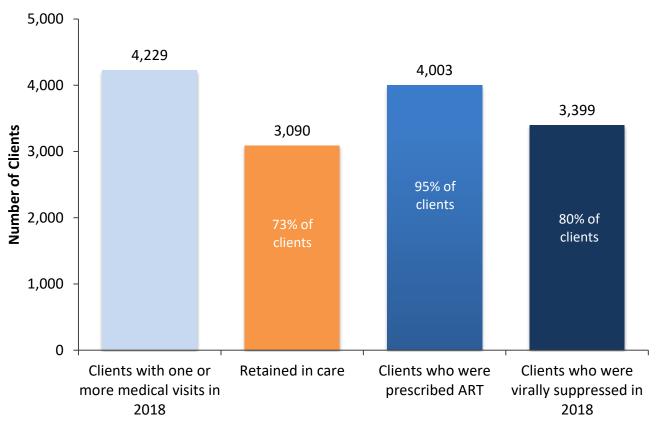
### Ryan White Care Dynamics

HIV Care dynamics among clients served through Ryan White in the District was examined to evaluate clients on the care continuum and assess their health outcomes. This continuum of care differs from what has been previously presented in several ways. First, the population used is a subset of the total number of HIV cases living in the District. These cases are not newly diagnosed in a given year, but are HIV cases who received any type of Ryan White CARE Act funded medical service in 2018. Second, care status was measured through documented medical visits, rather than laboratory tests. Finally, information is included on the number of clients who had been prescribed HIV medication.

Table 1. Ryan White Care Dynamics Measure Definitions

Measure	Definition
Clients with one or more medical visit	Ryan White clients with at least one documented primary care visit in 2018
Retained in care in 2017	Having 2 or more medical visits in 2018 that were at least 90 days apart
Prescribed ART	Ryan White clients with documentation of having been prescribed HIV medication
Virally suppressed in 2017	Having a viral load result of <200 copies/mL at the most recent viral load test in 2018





Please refer to appendix table **B12** for additional data regarding RW HIV care dynamics.

# Transmitted Drug Resistance

**Table 2.** Evidence of Antiretroviral Drug Resistance among Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases with Initial Genotype Sequences Collected within 90 days of Diagnosis, District of Columbia, 2014-2018\*

Antiretroviral Drug Classification	Antiretroviral Drug (ARV)	High-Level Resistance %	Intermediate Resistance %	Low-Level Resistance %	Susceptible %	N
	Bictegravir	0.0	0.4	0.0	99.6	227
Integrase Strand	Dolutegravir	0.0	0.4	0.0	99.6	227
Transfer Inhibitors	Elvitegravir	0.9	0.0	1.3	97.8	227
	Raltegravir	0.4	0.4	1.3	97.8	227
	Doravirine	1.1	2.3	5.4	91.2	831
Non-Nucleotide	Efavirenz	9.6	2.1	0.7	87.6	831
Reverse Transcriptase	Etravirine	1.0	1.1	0.7	97.2	831
Inhibitors	Nevirapine	10.6	1.7	0.8	86.9	831
	Rilpivirine	2.4	0.6	4.1	92.9	831
	Abacavir	0.6	0.7	2.3	96.4	831
	Didanosine	0.6	1.1	0.8	97.5	831
Nucleotide	Emtricitabine	2.7	0.0	0.0	97.4	831
Reverse Transcriptase	Lamivudine	2.7	0.0	0.0	97.4	831
Inhibitors	Stavudine	0.6	1.2	1.8	96.4	831
	Tenofovir	0.1	0.7	1.0	98.2	831
	Zidovudine	0.6	1.1	1.3	97.0	831
	Atazanavir/r	0.4	0.1	0.8	98.7	845
	Darunavir/r	0.0	0.2	0.2	99.5	845
	Fosamprenavir/r	0.4	0.2	0.7	98.7	845
Protease	Indinavir/r	0.2	0.7	0.4	98.7	845
Inhibitors	Lopinavir/r	0.0	0.6	0.6	98.8	845
	Nelfinavir	1.1	0.4	1.0	97.6	845
	Saquinavir/r	0.4	0.6	0.2	98.8	845
	Tipranavir/r	0.0	0.2	0.4	99.4	845

Drug resistance is an important guide to medical providers in determining the best treatment regimen for a person newly diagnosed with HIV. The genotype test gives the drug resistance profile of the particular type of virus the person has and if there are medications that will not be effective with the virus. HIV can become resistant to some medications, usually when a person does not consistently take their medication. While current treatment guidelines\* specify that a genotypic resistance test should be conducted at the time of HIV diagnosis prior to starting antiretroviral therapy, only 51.1% of new HIV cases diagnosed in 2018 had a documented genotype test within 3 months of diagnosis. Ensuring that newly diagnosed HIV cases receive genotypic resistance testing is not only important for clinical practice, but is also essential for monitoring trends in drug resistance at the population level.

The dominant subtype among cases in DC is subtype B, which accounts for 90.6% of available genotype sequences. The largest proportions of high level resistance were found for Nevirapine (10.6%) and Efavirenz (9.6%). The smallest proportions of resistance were found in the protease inhibitors drug class with resistance ranging from 0%-1.1%. Additional information about drug resistance can be found in Appendix A under *Understanding HIV-related Drug Resistance*.

# **HIV Mortality**

Table 3. Primary Cause of Death among People Diagnosed with HIV, by Year of Death, District of Columbia, 2013-2017

	20	013	20	14	201	.5†	201	.6	20	17	Tot	al
Cause of Death	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
HIV-related causes	92	34.5	73	26.6	N/A	N/A	91	28.7	86	28.5	399	27.1
Non-AIDS Defining												
Malignancies	50	18.7	45	16.4	N/A	N/A	48	15.1	50	16.6	224	15.2
Cardiovascular	37	13.9	45	16.4	N/A	N/A	45	14.2	58	19.2	229	15.5
Substance Use	1	0.4	3	1.1	N/A	N/A	3	0.9	2	0.7	13	0.9
Accidental Death	12	4.5	20	7.3	N/A	N/A	39	12.3	39	12.9	132	9.0
Other*	47	17.6	54	19.7	N/A	N/A	62	19.6	47	15.6	246	16.7
Unknown	28	10.5	34	12.4	N/A	N/A	29	9.1	20	6.6	230	15.6
Total	267	100.0	274	100.0	N/A	N/A	317	100.0	302	100.0	1,473	100.0

<sup>†2015</sup> cause of death is incomplete and will be updated when available.

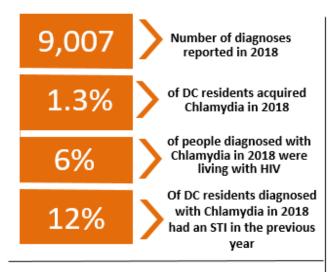
Over 70% of deaths among people diagnosed with HIV in the District were due to non-HIV related causes between 2013 and 2017. The primary cause of death was unknown for 15.6% of deaths during this 5-year period. People diagnosed with HIV who died in 2015 had an incomplete cause of death and were not included in this report.

Please refer to appendix table B13 for additional data regarding deaths among people diagnosed with HIV disease.

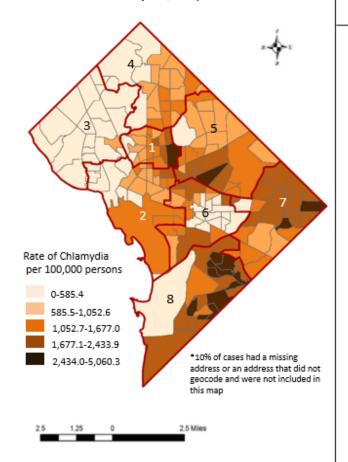
<sup>\*</sup> United States Department of Health and Human Services, Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents Living with HIV, Drug-Resistance Testing, updated July 14, 2016.

<sup>\*</sup> Other causes of death include suicide, pneumonia, COP, diabetes, etc

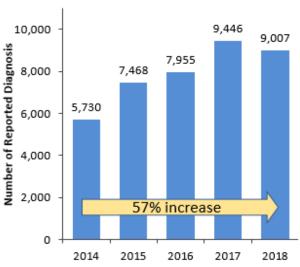
# Sexually Transmitted Infections Chlamydia



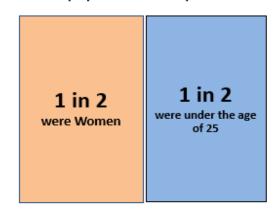
Rate of Newly Reported Chlamydia Diagnoses, by Census Tract, District of Columbia, 2018 (N=9,007\*)



Newly Reported Diagnoses of Chlamydia, by Year, District of Columbia, 2014-2018



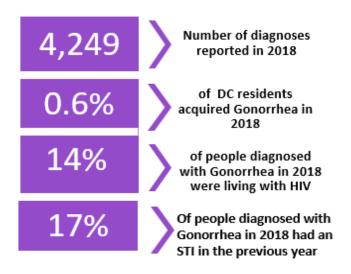
Of those newly reported with Chlamydia in DC in 2018...



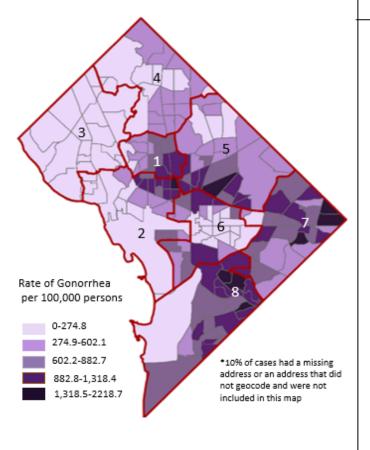
Rates were calculated using the 2017 Census Estimates

Please refer to appendix table **B14** for additional data regarding newly diagnosed Syphilis cases.

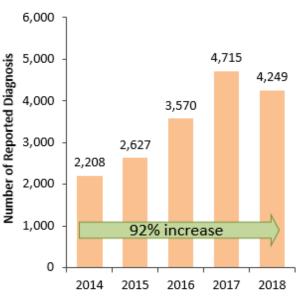
### Gonorrhea



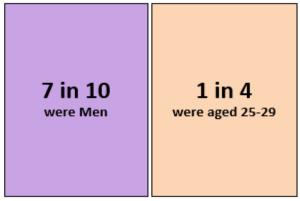
Rate of Reported Gonorrhea Diagnoses, by Census Tract, District of Columbia, 2018, (N=4,249\*)



Newly Reported Diagnoses of Gonorrhea, by Year, District of Columbia, 2014-2018



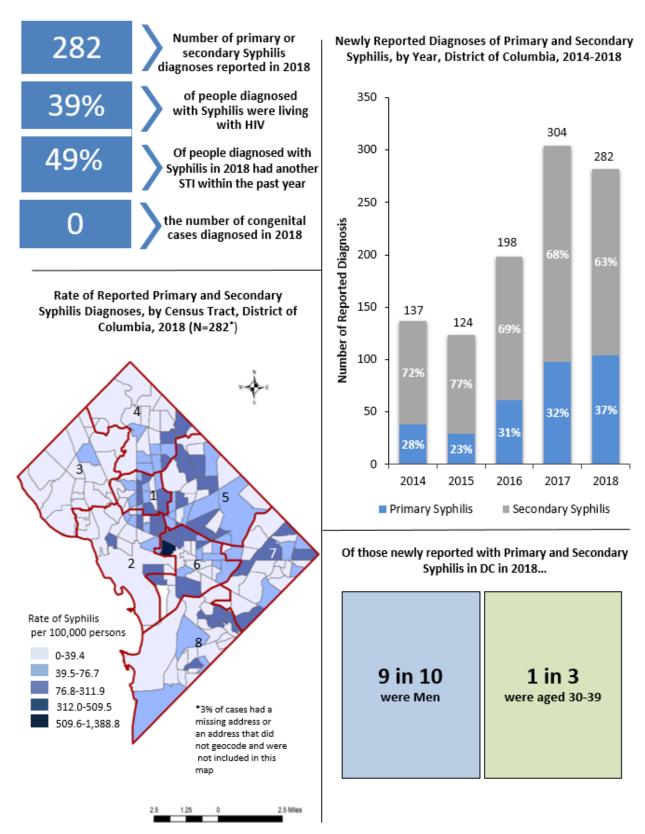
Of those newly reported with Gonorrhea in DC in 2018...



Rates were calculated using the 2017 Census Estimates

Please refer to appendix table **B15** for additional data regarding newly diagnosed Syphilis cases.

# Syphilis

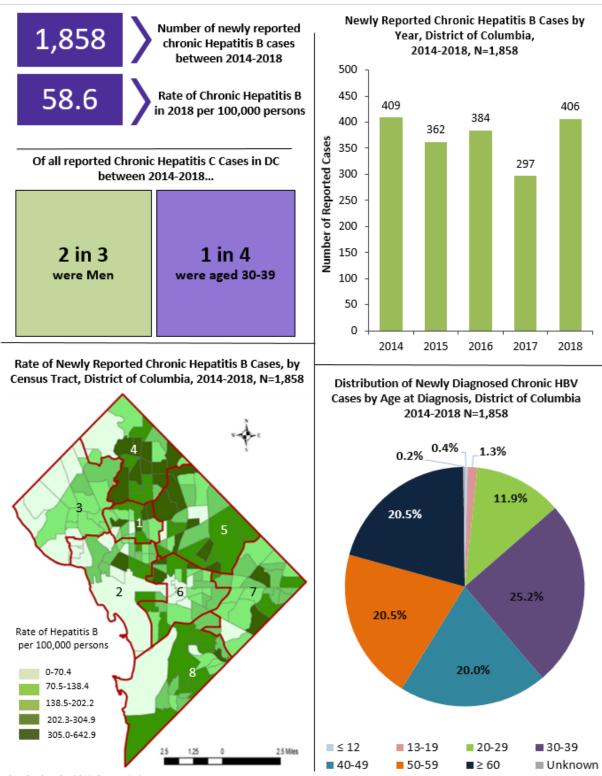


Rates were calculated using the 2017 Census Estimates

Please refer to appendix table **B16** for additional data regarding newly diagnosed Syphilis cases.

# Viral Hepatitis

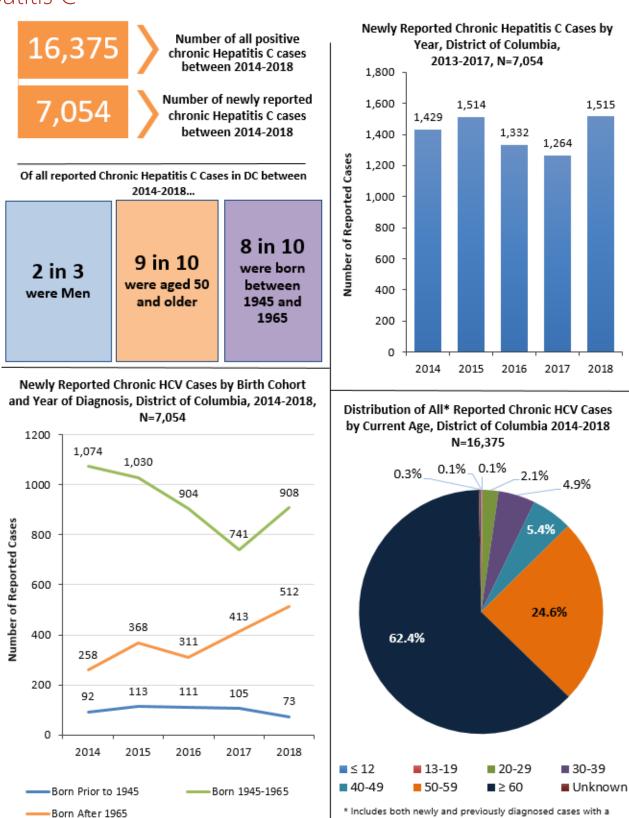
# Hepatitis B



Rates were calculated using the 2017 Census Estimates

Please refer to appendix table **B18** for additional data regarding diagnosed Hepatitis B cases.

# Hepatitis C



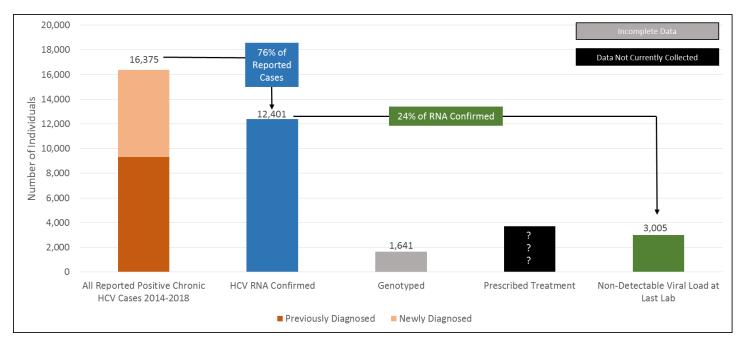
Please refer to appendix table **B19-20** for additional data regarding diagnosed Hepatitis C cases.

reported positive HCV test between 2014 and 2018

#### **Chronic Hepatitis C Cure Cascade**

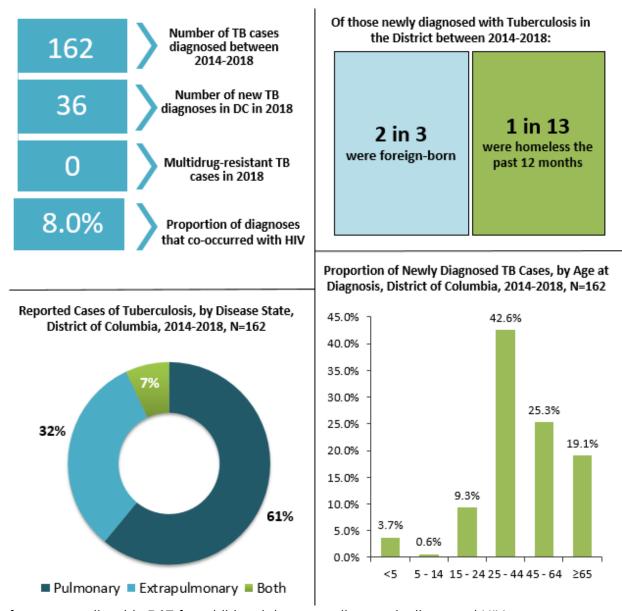
While hepatitis surveillance and case investigation activities are currently limited, efforts have been made toward utilizing available data and resources to better understand care and treatment dynamics among individuals diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C (HCV). Based on current surveillance data, 76% of individuals reported to DC Health as having chronic HCV between 2014 and 2018 had a documented positive HCV RNA confirmatory test. Of those having a positive HCV confirmatory test, 24% had evidence of an undetectable viral load based on the last reported HCV RNA laboratory result. Both percentage points provide preliminary evidence that there are opportunities to enhance care linkage and engagement activities within the District in relation to addressing the treatment needs of people with chronic HCV.

### HCV Cure Cascade, District of Columbia 2014-2018



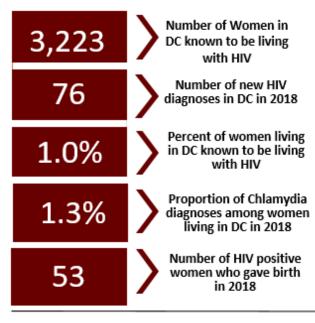
## **Tuberculosis**

Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. TB is spread from person to person through the air where infection can occur by sharing airspace for an extended period of time in an enclosed setting such as one's home or in a small office. TB usually affects the lungs, and bacteria are put into the air when a person with active TB of the lungs coughs, sneezes, laughs, or sings. TB can also affect other parts of the body (extrapulmonary TB). TB can be cured if treated properly.

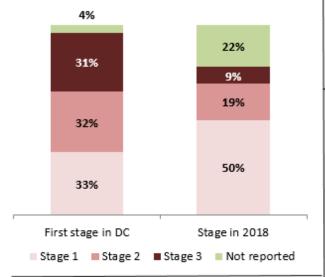


Please refer to appendix table **B17** for additional data regarding newly diagnosed HIV cases.

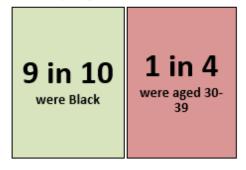
# Special Populations Women



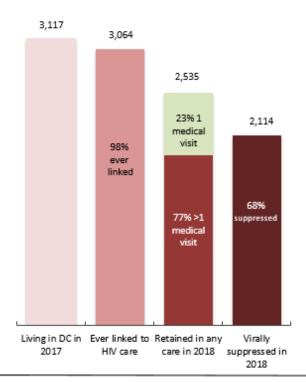
Stage of HIV Disease at First Lab in DC and in 2018 among Women Living in DC, District of Columbia, N=3,223



Of those newly diagnosed with HIV in DC in 2018...

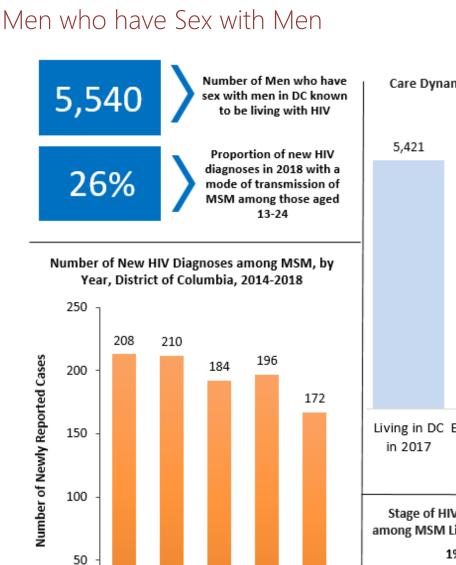


Care Dynamics among Women Diagnosed with HIV Living in DC, 2018

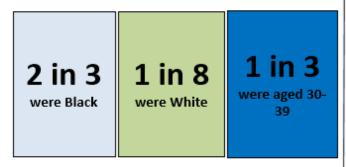


Number of Newly Reported HIV cases, Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Diagnoses among Women, by Year, District of Columbia, 2014-2018

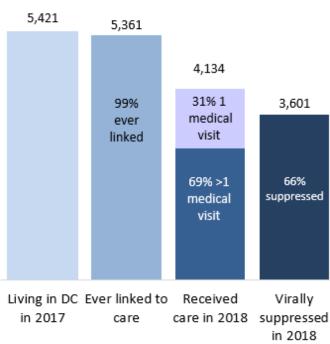




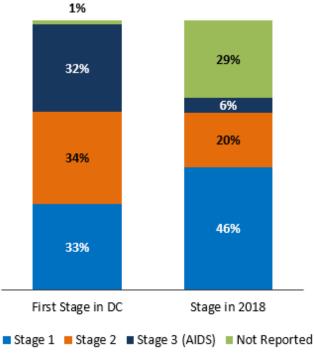




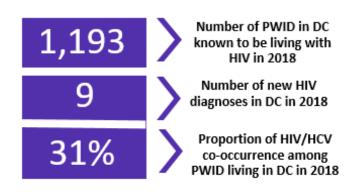
### Care Dynamics among MSM Diagnosed with HIV Living in DC, 2018



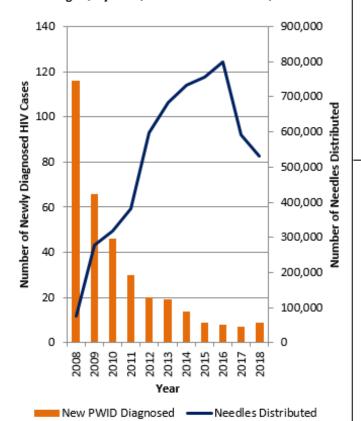
Stage of HIV Disease at First Lab in DC and in 2018 among MSM Living in DC, District of Columbia, N=5,421



# People Who Inject Drugs (PWID)



Newly Diagnosed PWID and the Number of Needles Exchanged, by Year, District of Columbia, 2008-2018



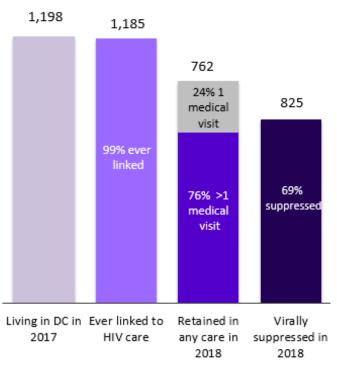
Number of Distribution Sites in 2014

23

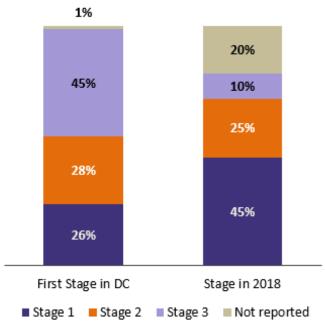
Number of Distribution Sites in 2018

20

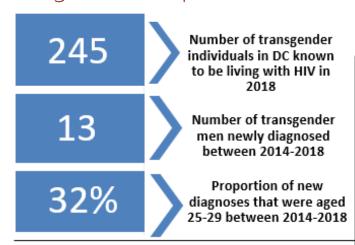
Care Dynamics among PWID Diagnosed with HIV Living in DC, 2018



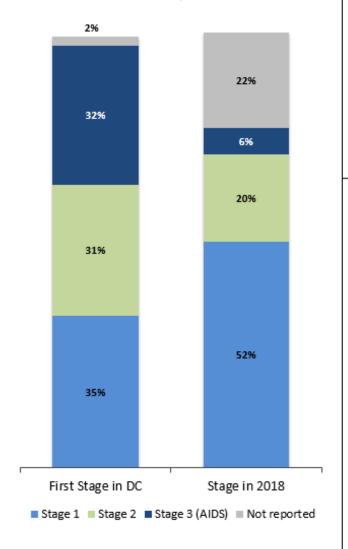
Stage of HIV Disease at First Lab in DC and in 2018 among PWID Living in DC, District of Columbia, N=1,193



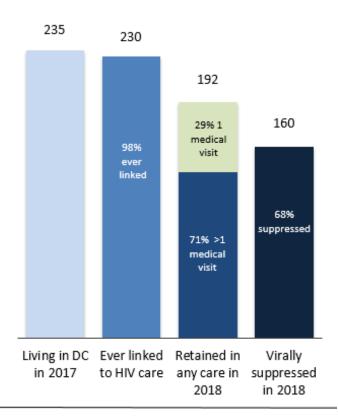
# Transgender People



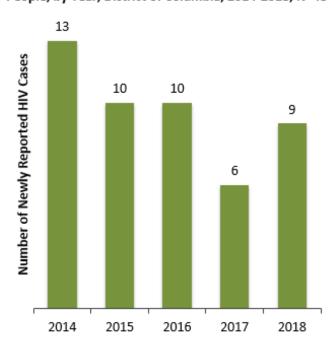
Stage of Disease at First Lab in DC and in 2018 among Transgender People Living in DC, District of Columbia, N=235



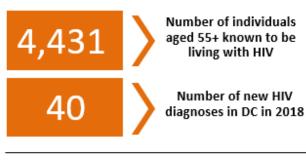
### Care Dynamics among Transgender People Diagnosed with HIV Living in DC, 2018



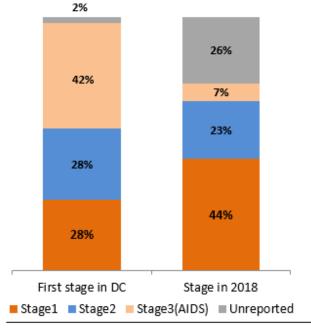
Number of New HIV Diagnoses among Transgender People, by Year, District of Columbia, 2014-2018, N=48



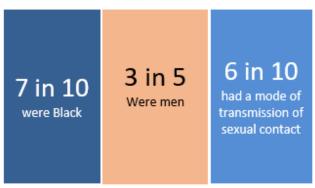
# Older Adults (Aged 55 and older)



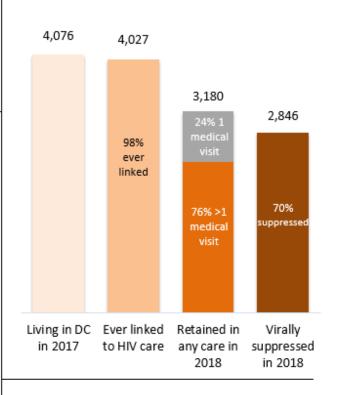
Stage of HIV Disease at First Lab in DC and in 2018 Among People aged 55+ Living in DC, District of Columbia, N=4,076



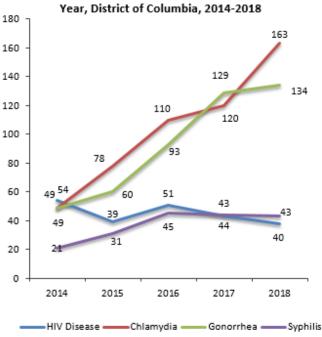
Of those newly diagnosed with HIV in DC in 2014-2018...



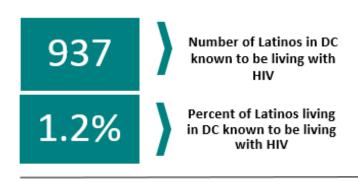
### Care Dynamics among Persons Aged 55+ Diagnosed with HIV Living in DC, 2018

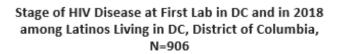


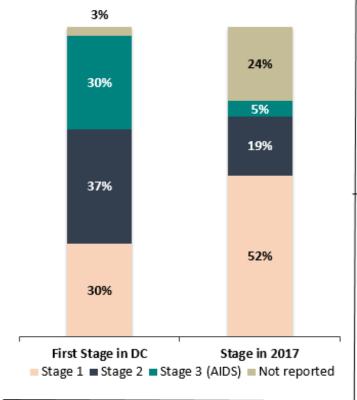
Number of Newly Reported HIV, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and P&S Syphilis Diagnoses among People aged 55+, by Year, District of Columbia, 2014-2018



### Latinos



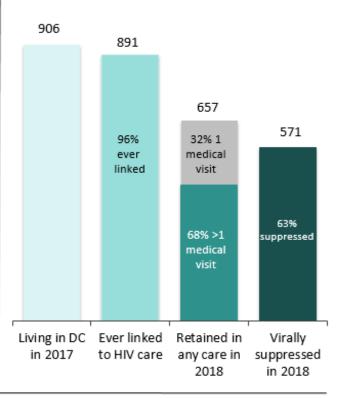




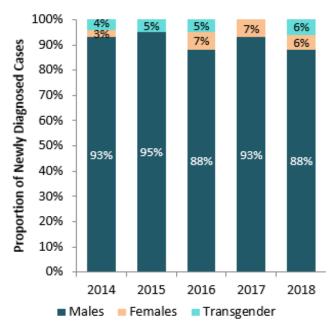
Of those newly diagnosed with HIV in DC in 2014-2018...



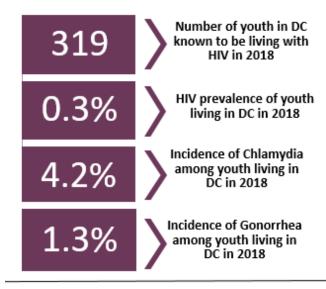
### Care Dynamics among Latinos Diagnosed with HIV and Living in DC, 2018



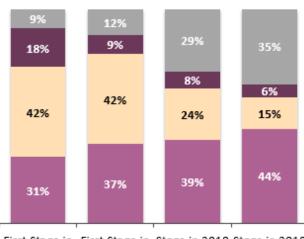
Number of Newly Diagnosed Cases among Latinos, by Year and Gender Identity, District of Columbia, 2014-2018



# Youth (Aged 13-24)



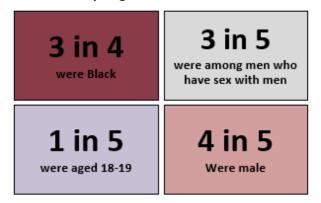
Stage of HIV Disease at First Lab in DC and in 2018 Among Youth Living in DC, by Age Group, District of Columbia



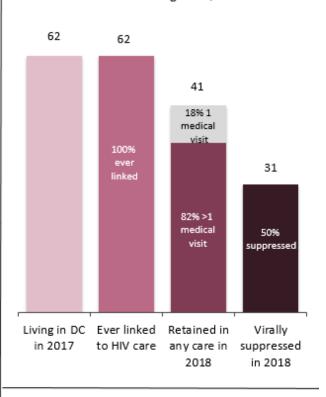
First Stage in First Stage in Stage in 2018 Stage in 2018 DC Age 13-19 DC Age 20-24 Age 13-19 Age 20-24

■ Stage 1 ■ Stage 2 ■ Stage 3 (AIDS) ■ Not Reported

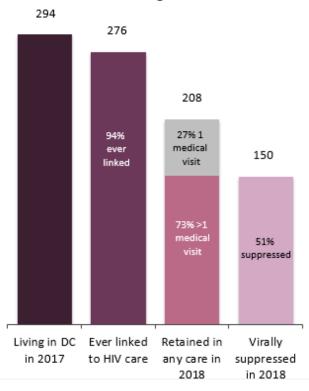
#### Of those newly diagnosed with HIV in DC in 2018...



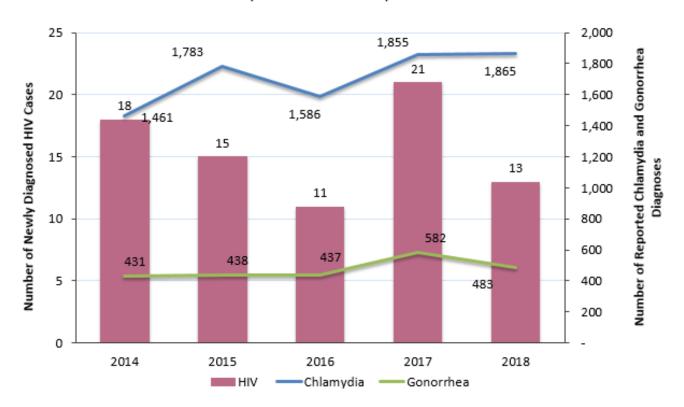
# Care Dynamics among Youth Aged 13-19 Diagnosed with HIV Living in DC, 2018



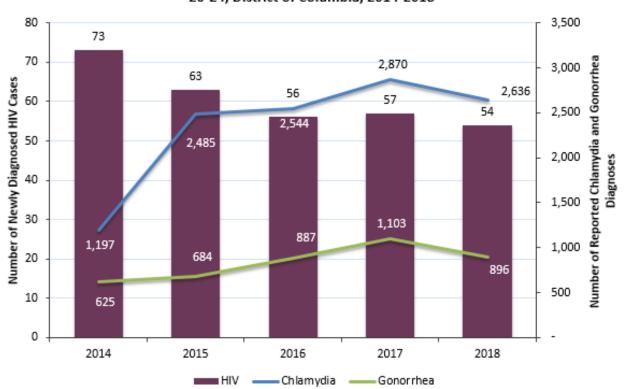
# Care Dynamics among Youth Aged 20-24 Diagnosed with HIV Living in DC, 2018



### New Diagnoses of HIV, Gonorrhea and Chlamydia among Youth Aged 13-19, District of Columbia, 2014-2018

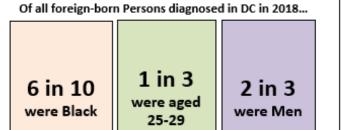


New Diagnoses of HIV, Gonorrhea and Chlamydia among Youth Aged 20-24, District of Columbia, 2014-2018

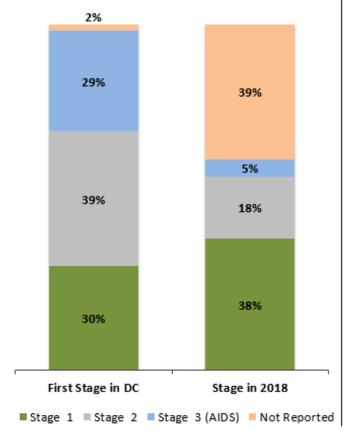


# Foreign-born People

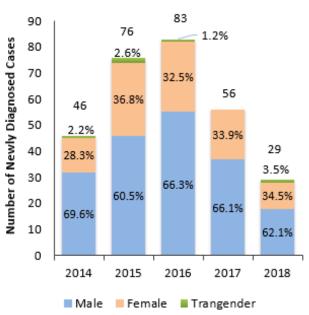




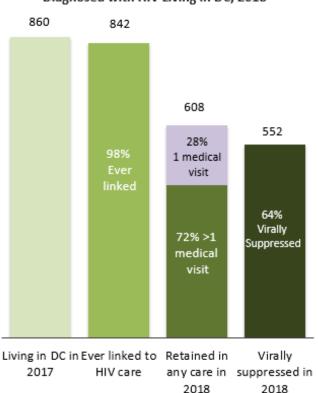
Stage of HIV Disease at First Lab in DC and in 2018 among Foreign-born People Living in DC, District of Columbia, N=860



Number of New HIV Diagnoses among Foreign-born People, by Year, District of Columbia, 2014-2018



Care Dynamics among Foreign-born People Diagnosed with HIV Living in DC, 2018



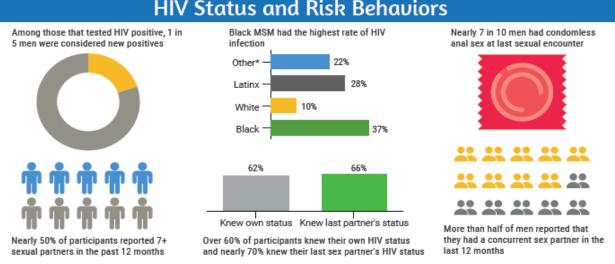
## National HIV Behavioral Surveillance Study (NHBS)

### Men who have Sex with Men

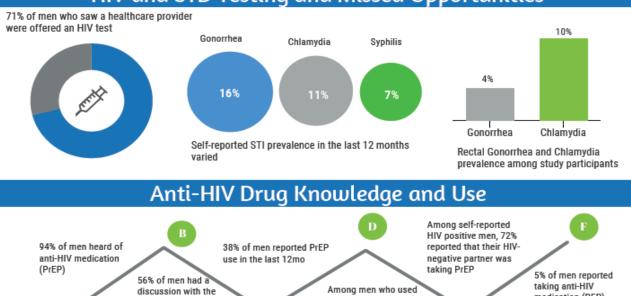
The National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) is a CDC-funded initiative to learn more about what puts people at risk for HIV. The purpose of NHBS is to assess prevalence of HIV and trends in sexual and drug-use behaviors among populations most at risk for HIV. In 2017, men who have sex with men were recruited from several venues throughout the DC Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and were surveyed.



### HIV Status and Risk Behaviors



### HIV and STD Testing and Missed Opportunities



healthcare provider

about PrEP

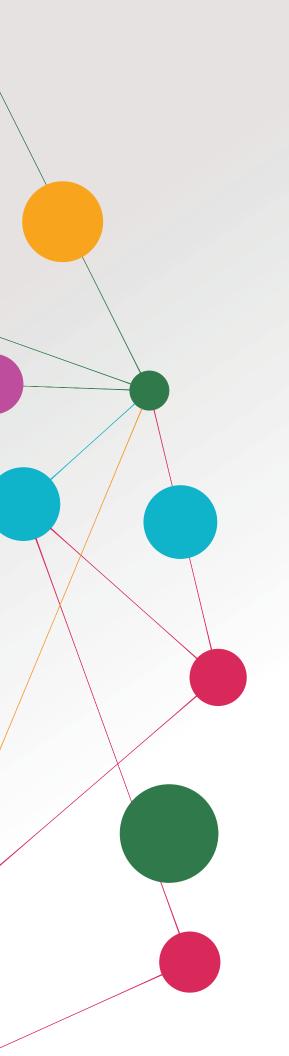
PrEP in the last 12mo.

never/rarely using condoms during sex

59% reported

medication (PEP)

after sex in the last



# Strategic Information Division HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA)

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