

HIV among Female Adolescents (Ages 13–19)

United States

- ✘ Of adolescents who were diagnosed with HIV infection in 2010, females accounted for 21% of cases, compared with 15% of cases in those aged 20 to 24 years and 23% of cases in those aged 25 years and older.
- ✘ The majority of HIV infections among female adolescents in 2010 were most likely to be infected via high-risk heterosexual contact (90%). Injection drug use accounted for 10% of cases.
- ✘ In earlier years, most AIDS diagnoses in the U.S. among adolescents (ages 13-19) were in males; over time, the male-to-female ratio has decreased. In 2010, 582 adolescents were diagnosed with AIDS; of these, 178 (31%) were female.
- ✘ According to CDC's Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (CDC, 2012), many young people begin having sexual intercourse at early ages: 45.6% of high school students have had sexual intercourse and 3.4% of them reported first sexual intercourse before age 13. This risk was higher among minority females.

Florida

- ✘ More than one-half (52%) of the female adolescents reported 2011-2013 with AIDS in Florida were infected by high-risk heterosexual contact, followed by perinatal exposure (46%).
- ✘ In Florida, 4% of all new HIV infections reported among females in 2013 were under the age of 20.
- ✘ Between 2011-2013, 628 HIV infection cases were reported among persons ages 13-19, of which 181 (29%) were female.
- ✘ The majority (84%) of female adolescents who were reported with HIV infection 2011-2013 were infected via high risk heterosexual contact.

MODE OF EXPOSURE	Adolescent Females Reported with HIV 2011-2013, Florida	
Injection Drug Use	4	2%
Heterosexual Contact	149	84%
Perinatal	23	13%
Other Risk	1	1%
TOTAL	177	100%

- ✘ A total of 387 female adolescents were living with a diagnosis of HIV through 2012; 74% were black, 14% were Hispanic, 10% were white, and 2% were other races.
- ✘ Of the 387 female adolescents living with HIV/AIDS in Florida through 2012, 28% were from Miami-Dade County, 17% from Broward County and 11% from Palm Beach County.
- ✘ Of the sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) reported among adolescents in Florida in 2012, females accounted for 72% of Chlamydia, 49% of gonorrhea and 10% of primary and secondary syphilis cases.

- ✘ **Most people diagnosed with AIDS before the age of 30 were infected with HIV in their teens or early twenties. This illustrates the importance of advocating prevention to young people so that they have the information and resources to protect themselves from HIV when they make decisions about experimentation with drugs and sex. HIV/AIDS education needs to take place at correspondingly young ages, before youth engage in sexual behaviors that put them at risk for HIV infection.**
- ✘ **Adolescents need accurate, age-appropriate information about HIV infection and AIDS. Topics should include, but not be limited to: how to talk with their parents or other trusted adults about HIV and AIDS, how to reduce or eliminate risk factors, how to talk with a potential partner about risk factors, how to use a condom correctly and where to get tested for HIV and/or STDs. Information should also include the concept that abstinence is the primary way to avoid sexually transmitted infection.**

Data sources:

- Florida data: FL Department of Health, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Section
- For more Florida data, go to <http://floridaaids.org/>, then surveillance, then slide shows to find the slide set on adolescents and young adults
- U.S. data: HIV Surveillance Report, 2011 (most recent available) Vol. 23 (HIV data for all 50 states) <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/index.htm>
- For national facts, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/index.htm> or <http://www.kff.org/hiv/aids/>
- CDC. (2012, June 8). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States, 2011. *MMWR*, 61(4), 1 - 168. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6104.pdf> on March 4, 2012.
- The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Sexual Health Statistics for Teenagers and Young Adults in the United States. September 2011