

HIV among Female Adolescents (Ages 13–19)

United States

- Of adolescents who were diagnosed with HIV infection in 2014, females accounted for 19% of cases, compared with 11% of cases in those aged 20 to 24 years and 21% of cases in those aged 25 years and older.
- The majority of HIV infections among female adolescents in the U.S. by the end of 2014 were attributed to high-risk heterosexual contact (85%) and injection drug use (9%).
- 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 2014, 255 adolescents were diagnosed with AIDS; of these, 80 (31%) were female.
- According to CDC's Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (CDC, 2014), many young people begin having sexual intercourse at early ages: 46.8% of high school students have had sexual intercourse and 5.6% of them reported first sexual intercourse before age 13. This risk was higher among minority females.

Florida

- In Florida between 2012-2014 more than one-half (58%) of the female adolescents diagnosed with AIDS were infected by perinatal exposure followed by high-risk heterosexual contact (42%).
- In 2014, approximately 5% of all new HIV infections diagnosed among females in Florida were under the age of 20.
- Between 2012-2014, 496 HIV infection cases were diagnosed among persons ages 13-19, of which 133 (27%) were female.
- The majority (83%) of female adolescents who were diagnosed with HIV infection 2012-2014 were infected via high risk heterosexual contact.
- A total of 325 female adolescents were living with diagnosis of HIV through 2014; of which 72% were black, 16% were Hispanic, 9% were white, and 3% were other races.
- Of the 325 female adolescents living with HIV/AIDS in Florida through 2014, 22% were from Miami-Dade County, 18% from Broward County and 10% from Palm Beach County.
- Of the sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) reported among adolescents in Florida in 2014, females accounted for 28% of Chlamydia, 25% of Gonorrhea and 18% 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, Bureau of Communicable Diseases, HIV/AIDS Section

For more Florida data, go to <http://floridaaids.org/>, select *Surveillance*, then select *State HIV/AIDS Slide Sets* to find the slide set on adolescents and young adults

U.S. data: HIV Surveillance Report, 2014 (most recent available) Vol. 26 (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. (2014, June 13). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States, 2013. *MMWR*, 63(4), 1 - 172. Retrieved February 15, 2016, from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6304.pdf>

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Sexual Health Statistics for Teenagers and Young Adults in the United States. September 2011

Age specific U.S. data: HIV Surveillance among Adolescents and Young Adults (Microsoft PowerPoint format), go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/slideSets/index.html>

Revised: 2/15/2016

