

HIV/AIDS: A focus on Utahns who are Hispanic

The disparity in new HIV diagnosis between people who are Hispanic and people of non-Hispanic origin has grown in recent years.

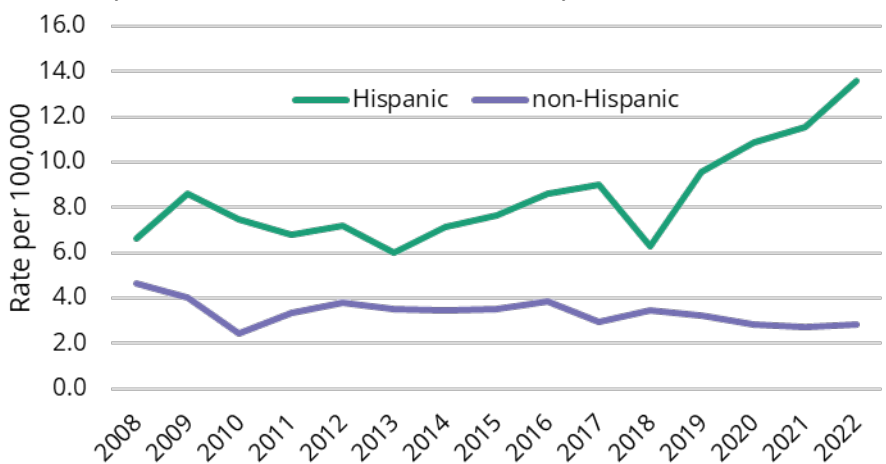
Utah is home to a sizeable, and growing, Hispanic population. DHHS is committed to improving the health status of all Utahns.

The rate of new HIV diagnosis among people who are Hispanic has increased over the past 5 years, while the rate among non-Hispanic Utahns has decreased.

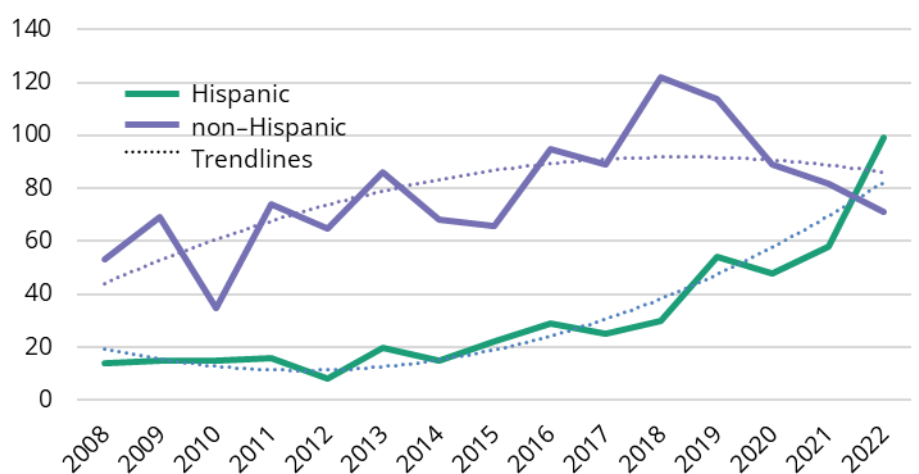
Utah's rate of population growth is increasing due to people who move into the state. Compared with people of non-Hispanic origin, the number of HIV+ people who are Hispanic who move into Utah has increased dramatically in recent years.

The strong correlation between these 2 trends suggests population growth may contribute to the increase in new HIV diagnoses.

Rates of HIV diagnosis per 100,000 residents among Utahns who are Hispanic vs Utahns who are non-Hispanic, 2008–2022



Number of Utahns diagnosed with HIV before moving to Utah, Hispanic vs non-Hispanic, 2008–2022



People who are Hispanic in Utah are less likely to receive HIV medical care and to achieve viral suppression compared with non-Hispanic people.

Receiving routine HIV care is essential to live a long and healthy life with HIV. Viral suppression is an important HIV prevention goal since it is now known that people who maintain viral suppression have effectively no risk of transmitting HIV to a sexual partner.

People who are not virally suppressed can transmit HIV to others. The lower rates of treatment and viral suppression in the Hispanic community increase the risk of HIV transmission and new cases. Connecting new cases to care and re-connecting existing cases which have fallen out of care should become an important focus of everyone who works in the Hispanic sexual health community.

Compared to cases among people who are non-Hispanic, cases among people who are Hispanic were more likely to describe experiencing male-to-male sexual contact (MSM) and less likely to self-report injection drug use (IDU). Focusing on MSM-related community education in the Hispanic community may be helpful.

Of all of the people living in Utah who were diagnosed with HIV before 2022, **more than 1/3 (34.3%)** of people who are Hispanic **did not receive routine HIV medical care** in 2022.

By comparison, **only 1/4 (25.3%)** of people who are non-Hispanic did not receive care.

A similar gap exists in viral suppression: **40%** of people who are Hispanic, compared with only **32%** of people who are non-Hispanic **did not maintain viral suppression** in 2022.

Proportion of HIV transmission risks, Hispanic vs non-Hispanic, Utah, 2018–2022

