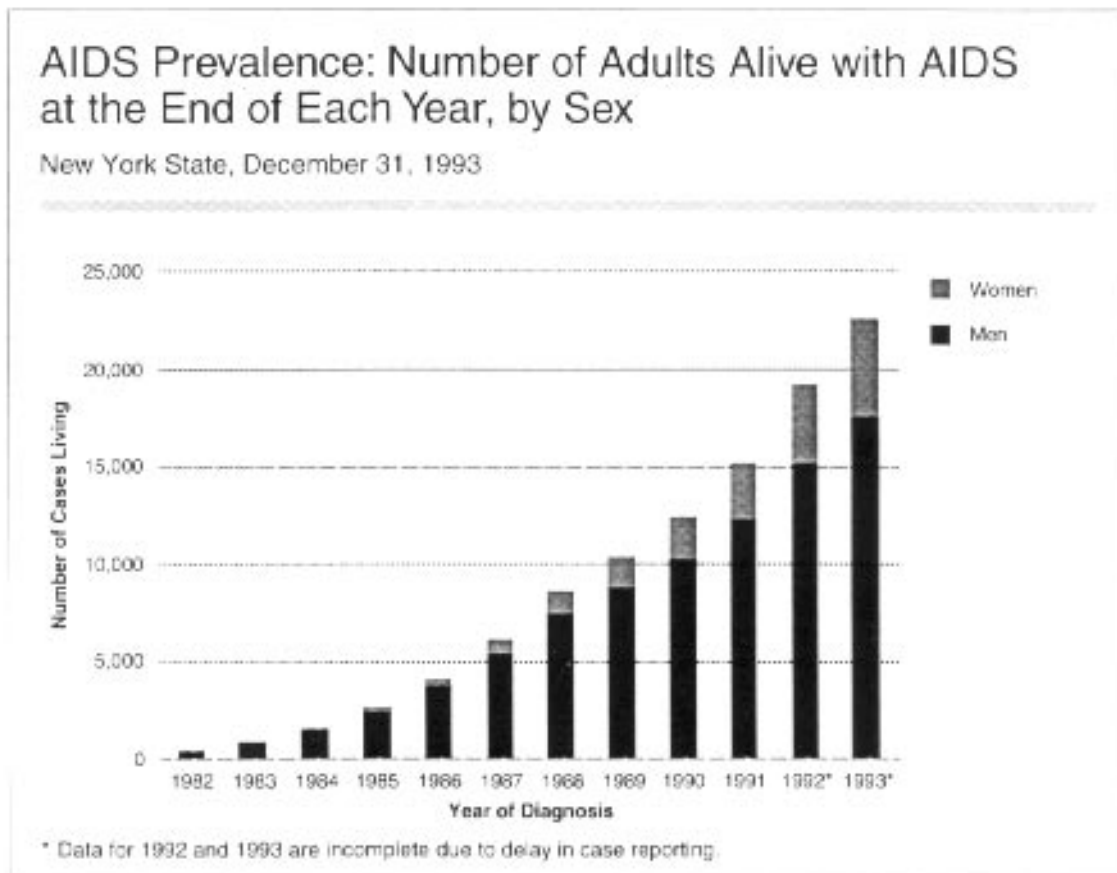


# ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

By the end of 1993, just under 70,000 AIDS cases had been reported to the New York State Department of Health, 46,000 of these have died. Nearly 22,000 New Yorkers are living with AIDS, and many more are likely to be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS.



New York State leads the country in cumulative AIDS incidence. Cases diagnosed in New York State account for more than 19 percent of the 361,509 AIDS cases reported in the United States (U.S.). Compared to total U.S. cases, a greater proportion of New York State cases are among injecting drug users (IDUs) (45% vs. 24%), women (19% vs. 13%) and people of color (67% vs. 49%).

In 1993, the primary mechanism for tracking the AIDS epidemic was altered when an expanded AIDS surveillance case definition went into effect. The new case definition, which added four additional clinical and immunologic criteria to the existing definition, has increased total case reporting, more than doubling 1993 case reports compared with 1992 reports. However, this initial increase in case reporting is expected to exceed those of future years because cases reported in 1993 included individuals previously known to be ill, but who did not meet the case definition criteria until the expanded definition went into effect. For example, of the 10,445 cases reported in 1993 under the new case definition, 5,543 (53%) were diagnosed before 1993. Although the majority of individuals diagnosed under the new criteria of the expanded case definition will eventually meet the criteria of the old definition, the DOH anticipates an overall increase in cases as a result of the expanded definition. Because the new case definition is broader, for the period 1990-1994, DOH expects more than 11,000 cases than were anticipated using just the 1987 definition of AIDS.

The expanded case definition has also changed the medical and demographic characteristics of cases, capturing individuals earlier in the course of HIV disease, and including women, African Americans and injecting drug users in disproportionately higher numbers compared to the earlier case definition.

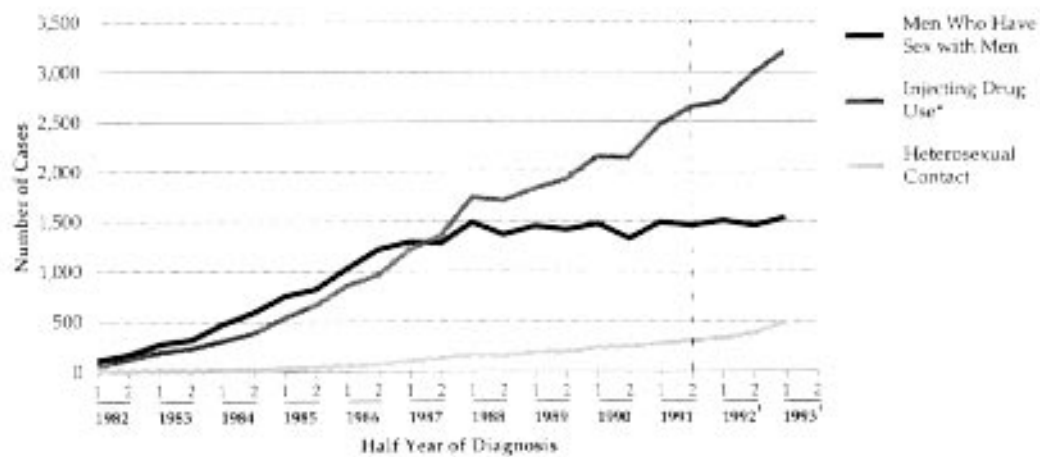
AIDS case incidence rates vary markedly by geographic region. In New York City, for example, which has reported more than 80 percent of total New York State AIDS cases, the cumulative case rate per 100,000 people ranges from 298 in Richmond County (Staten Island) to 1,616 in New York County (Manhattan). However, in some neighborhoods, cumulative case rates have been noted to far exceed 2,500 cases per 100,000 residents. In the rest of the state, cumulative case rates are markedly lower, ranging from 6/100,000 in Allegany County to 219/100,000 in Sullivan County.

Injecting drug use has become the predominant mechanism for HIV exposure, accounting for over half of all new AIDS cases reported in New York State in 1993. Injecting drug use accounted for 57 percent of all new cases among blacks, 62 percent of new cases among Hispanics and 58 percent of new cases among women in New York State.

# Adult AIDS Cases by Exposure Category and Half Year of Diagnosis

New York State, December 31, 1993

Source: New York State Department of Health, AIDS Reporting System, New York State, December 31, 1993



\* Includes injection drug users and men who have sex with men and inject drugs.  
 † Data for 1992 and 1993 are incomplete due to delay in case reporting.

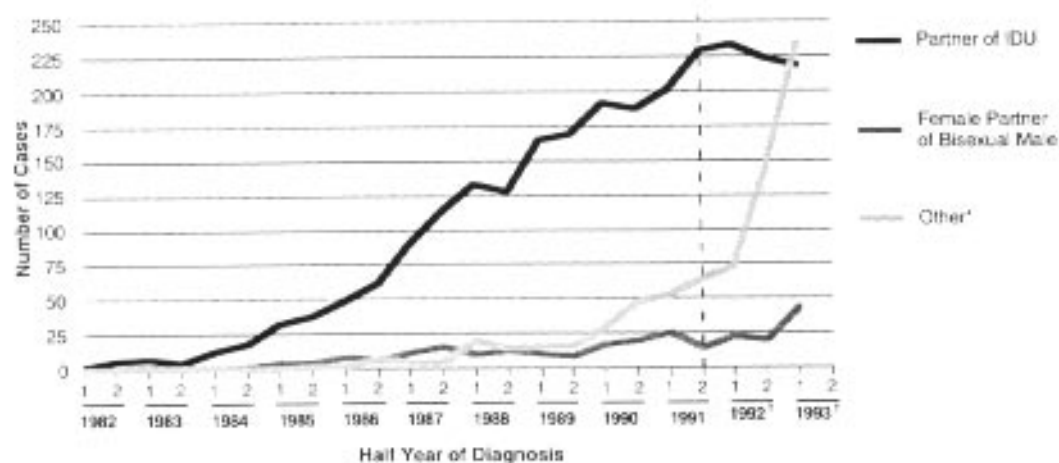
The AIDS epidemic among men who have sex with men (MSWM) appears to have leveled off among white men in New York City. However, among all other MSWM groups, the number of new cases continues to rise. In 1993, more than half of all new AIDS diagnoses in MSWM were among African Americans or Hispanics.

A total of 3,757 AIDS cases in New York State have been attributed to heterosexual HIV transmission, of which nearly 40 percent have been reported in the last two years. More than 90 percent of heterosexually acquired cases are among women, although male cases have been increasing steadily as a proportion of the total, from 4 percent in 1989 to 8 percent in 1993.

Nearly 70 percent of total heterosexually acquired AIDS cases in New York State are attributed to sexual contact with an IDU, and 7 percent are attributed to heterosexual contact with a bisexual man. For 22 percent of cumulative heterosexually acquired cases, the HIV risk of the infected partner was either not known or not reported, and this category accounted for 42 percent of heterosexually acquired cases reported in 1993. A large component of this group is likely to be partners of IDUs or bisexual men, whose risk was not known to the partner or not reported to the AIDS registry. However, the New York State Department of Health will monitor this group, because it is possible that this increase, which has also been noted in national data, reflects secondary transmission of HIV into the broader heterosexual population.

### AIDS Cases Attributable to Heterosexual Transmission by Exposure Category and Half Year Diagnosis

New York State, December 31, 1993



\* Includes persons who have had heterosexual contact with an HIV-infected hemophiliac (n=9), blood transfusion recipient (n=44) or persons with unknown or unreported exposure (n=807).

† Data for 1992 and 1993 are incomplete due to delay in case reporting.

New York State mandated HIV antibody screening of donated blood in May 1985, essentially eliminating the risk of HIV transmission from receipt of blood products. However, the state continues to receive new case reports among individuals who received blood prior to the implementation of screening procedures. Through the end of 1993, 175 AIDS cases have been diagnosed among hemophiliacs receiving blood products. In addition, 490 AIDS cases have been reported among individuals who received blood transfusions, 34 of these were pediatric cases. Sixty-two additional AIDS cases have been reported among sexual contacts of hemophiliacs (n=9) or individuals receiving blood transfusions (n=44), and among children infected through maternal transmission of HIV from mothers who had received blood transfusions (n=7) or reported sexual contact with a transfusion recipient (n=2). Of these, more than half were reported in 1993.

Adolescent and adult women make up an increasingly prominent group in New York State's AIDS epidemic, from 9 percent of adolescent and adult cases diagnosed in 1984, to 25 percent of cases diagnosed in 1993. New York State cases account for nearly one third of total U.S. cases among women. Sixty percent of New York State cases among adolescent and adult women were attributed to injecting drug use, and more than a quarter to sexual contact with an infected man.

People of color carry an increasingly disproportionate burden of the AIDS epidemic in New York State. Of new cases reported in 1993, 45 percent are African-American and 30 percent are Hispanic. Blacks and Hispanics account for 83 percent of AIDS cases diagnosed among women (52% black, 31% Hispanic), 88 percent of pediatric cases (53% black, 35% Hispanic), 83 percent of IDUs diagnosed with AIDS (47% black, 36% Hispanic), and 81 percent of cases acquired through heterosexual contact (46% black, 35% Hispanic). Cumulative population-based AIDS rates underline the severity of the epidemic among people of color. For every 100,000 African-Americans in New York State, 470 have been reported with AIDS. Among Hispanics, the rate is 381 per 100,000. Among whites, the rate is 65 cases per 100,000.

Through 1993, 1,995 AIDS cases among adolescents and young adults (ages 13-24) have been reported in New York State. 92 percent of these were aged 20-24 at the time of diagnosis. However, because of the average 10-year incubation period between HIV infection and AIDS diagnosis, many of those in their twenties were probably infected in their teens. Of these 1,995 cases, 39 percent are MSWM, 33 percent are IDUs and 14 percent are cases attributed to heterosexual contacts.

By the end of 1993, 1,395 AIDS cases in children under the age of 13 had been reported in New York State, representing more than a quarter of all pediatric cases reported in the U.S. Of New York State cases, the majority (82%) are under the age of five when diagnosed with AIDS. Of total pediatric AIDS cases, 1,291 cases (93%) have been attributed to maternal HIV transmission. The mothers of these children were themselves primarily infected through personal use of injection drugs (61%) or through sexual contact with an IDU (20%). As with adult cases, most pediatric AIDS cases are residents of New York City (87%).

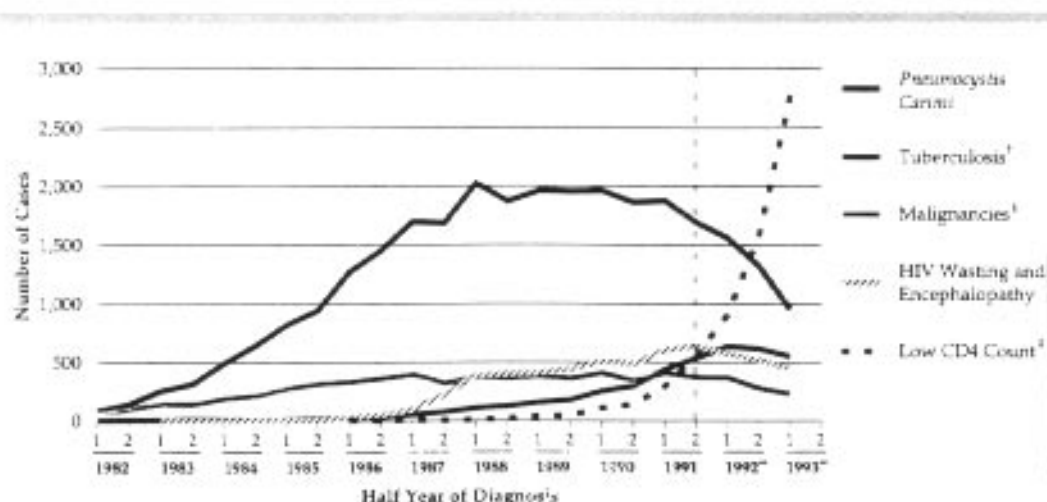
Nearly 2,500 AIDS cases have been reported among inmates of the New York State correctional system. Of total cases reported among inmates, 94 percent were male, 88 percent were injecting drug users and 88 percent were minority (40% black, 47% Hispanic). AIDS is the leading cause of death among state prison inmates.

*Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP) continues to be the most frequently reported AIDS-defining illness, among both pediatric and adult cases, and for all major HIV exposure categories. However, as prophylaxis against PCP is used successfully in increasing numbers of HIV-infected individuals, other opportunistic conditions have become more frequently reported as the initial AIDS-defining illness.

Since their addition to the AIDS case definition on January 1, 1993, pulmonary tuberculosis has been reported as the initial AIDS-defining illness in 2,607 cases, recurrent pneumonia in 375 and invasive cervical cancer in 49. Severe immunosuppression, defined as a CD4+ T-lymphocyte count less than 200/ $\mu$ L or less than 14 percent of total lymphocytes, has been reported as the initial AIDS-defining condition for 7,868 cases.

## Disease Diagnoses\* Among Adult AIDS Cases by Half Year of Diagnosis

New York State, December 31, 1993



\* Based on initial AIDS-defining condition(s).

† Pulmonary tuberculosis was added to the AIDS case definition on January 1, 1993.

‡ Kaposi's Sarcoma accounted for 80.4% of total reported AIDS-defining malignancies.

§ CD4+ T-lymphocyte count <200/ $\mu$ L or 14% of total lymphocytes. This criterion was added to the AIDS case definition on January 1, 1993.

⇒ Data for 1992 and 1993 are incomplete due to delay in case reporting.