

HIV/AIDS Surveillance Fact Sheet - 2014

Bahamas Ministry of Health

January 2016

Between 1985 and 2014, 13,366 persons were diagnosed with HIV in The Bahamas. More than a third of these cases have died of AIDS related causes (35%). At the end of 2014, 8,630 persons were listed as living with HIV in The Bahamas as determined by HIV surveillance methods. This means that roughly 1 in 50 persons living in The Bahamas in 2014 were HIV positive. Males made half (51%) of persons living with HIV (PLHIV).

In 2014, 267 persons were diagnosed as HIV positive in The Bahamas. The majority of these persons had not progressed to AIDS (76%), while 24% developed AIDS by the end of 2014 (Fig 1). HIV was shown to affect persons in The Bahamas across a broad spectrum of demographic groups. While males and females have historically experienced similar trends in new diagnoses, males slightly outnumbered females in new diagnoses in 2014 (55% vs. 44%). Persons aged 30-39 accounted for 23% of new diagnoses and persons born in The Bahamas accounted for 66% of new cases in 2014. There were two cases of mother-to-child transmission in 2014, accounting for 3% of births to HIV positive women in 2014.

93 persons were reported to have died of AIDS in The Bahamas in 2014.

HIV Quick Facts:

- **13,366** HIV diagnoses in The Bahamas between 1985-2014
- **4,710** documented AIDS-related deaths between 1985 and 2014 (93 in 2014)
- **8,630** persons living with HIV at the end of 2014
- **1 in 50** persons in The Bahamas is HIV positive (estimated 2% prevalence)
- **267** new HIV diagnoses in 2014
- **2** HIV positive babies born in 2014

Fig. 1: HIV disease progression among newly diagnosed cases, The Bahamas, 2014 (n=267).

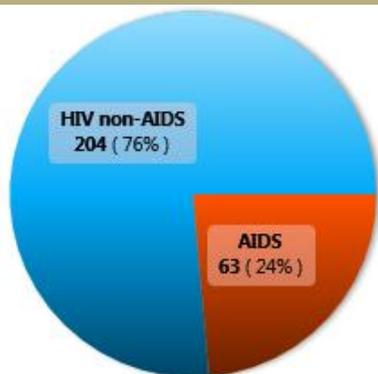


Fig. 2: Number of new HIV diagnoses by Age Group and Sex, The Bahamas, 2014 (n=267).

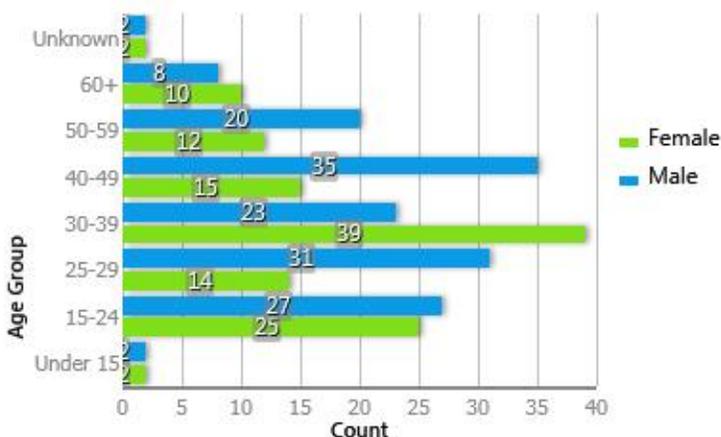


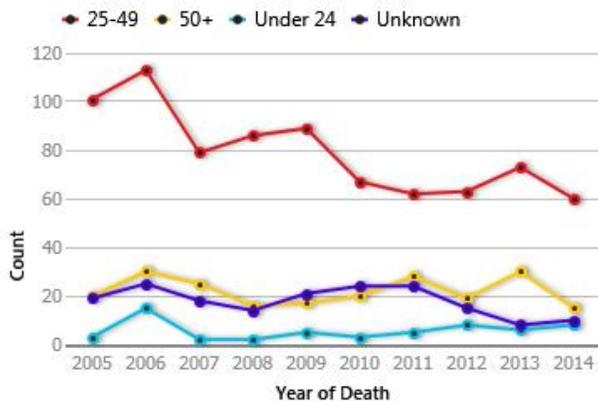
Table 1. Demographic characteristics of newly diagnosed HIV cases, The Bahamas, 2014.

		n	%
Sex	Male	148	55%
	Female	119	45%
Age Group	Under 1	2	<1%
	1-14	2	<1%
	15-24	52	19%
	25-29	45	17%
	30-39	62	23%
	40-49	50	19%
	50-59	32	12%
	60+	18	7%
	Unknown	4	1%
Country of Origin	Bahamas	177	66%
	Other	73	27%
	Unknown	17	6%
AIDS Stage at the end of 2014	HIV (non-AIDS)	204	76%
	HIV and AIDS in the Same Year	63	24%
Vital Status at end of 2014	Alive	254	95%
	Dead	13	5%
	Total	267	100%

AIDS Deaths

Between 2004 and 2014, 1255 persons died of AIDS-related causes in The Bahamas, with an average of 126 deaths per year. The age-adjusted death rate decreased from 38 to 22 deaths per 100,000 persons in this time period. The majority of AIDS Deaths in this time period occurred in males (58%), persons born in The Bahamas (84%) and 30-39 year olds (29%).

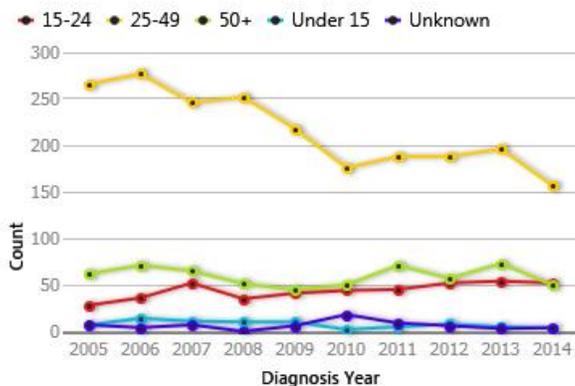
Fig 3. Number of AIDS deaths by gender, The Bahamas, 2005-2014.



New HIV Diagnoses

The annual number of newly diagnosed HIV positive cases decreased by 28% from 370 in 2005 to 267 in 2014. Although new diagnoses have decreased among most demographic groups, cases among 15-24 year olds increased by 85% between 2005 (28 cases) and 2014 (52 cases). Cases among males in this age group tripled between 2005 (9 cases) and 2014 (27 cases).

Fig. 4. Number of newly reported HIV cases by age group and gender, The Bahamas, 2005-2014.

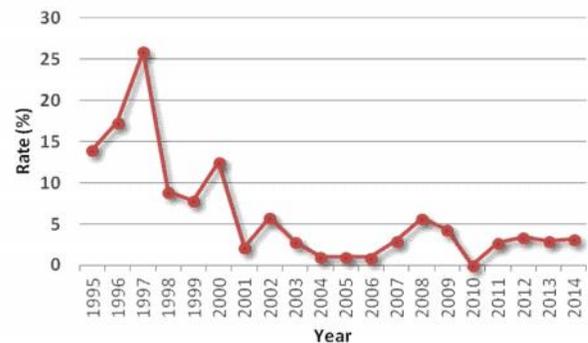


While the overall number of new HIV diagnoses decreased between 2005 and 2014, the number of cases among persons who identified as being born outside of The Bahamas increased by 16% between 2010 (77 cases) and 2014 (89 cases).

Mother-to-Child Transmission

Of the 64 infants born to HIV positive mothers in 2014, 2 became infected with HIV. This resulted in a 3.1% mother-to-child transmission rate. Both HIV positive births occurred in women who had refused to take or adhere to HIV treatment during pregnancy.

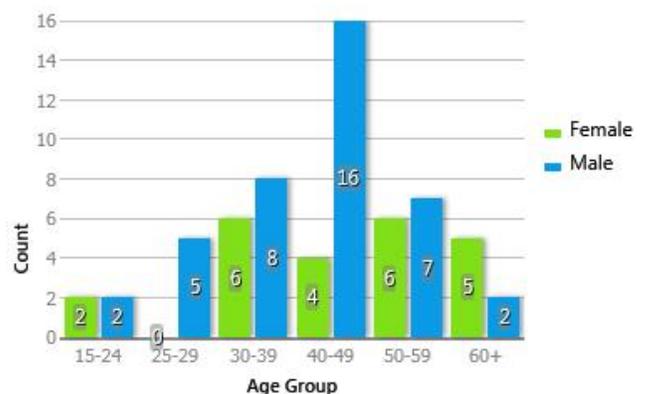
Fig 5. Rate of mother-to-child HIV transmission by year, The Bahamas, 1995-2014



Late Testers

Twenty-four percent of persons who tested positive for HIV in 2014 received a diagnosis of AIDS by the end of 2014 (n=63). The majority of these "late testers" were male (63%), 40-49 years old (32%) and born in The Bahamas (63%). Nineteen percent of late testing AIDS cases also died in 2014 (n=12).

Fig 6. Number of late-testing AIDS cases by sex and age group, The Bahamas, 2005-2014.



For more information on HIV and AIDS in The Bahamas, contact...

- The National HIV/AIDS Centre, Bahamas Ministry of Health (323-5968)
- Health Information and Research Unit, Bahamas Ministry of Health (502-4700)