

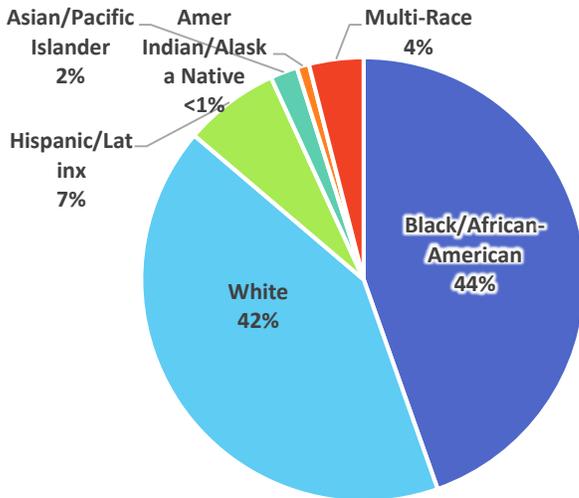


# At-Risk Populations for HIV in Ohio

HIV and its criminalization don't impact all of Ohio's population in the same way.

The most at-risk sub-population groups for HIV include racial and ethnic minorities, the LGBTQ+ community, young people, people who inject drugs (PWID), and sex workers.

## HIV Transmission Rates in Ohio by Race/Ethnicity<sup>1</sup>



**Black/African-American Ohioans** make up only **12.5%** of Ohio's population, but account for **45%** of new HIV diagnoses.

That's a rate **nearly 7x higher** than that for white Ohioans.

**Hispanic/Latinx Ohioans** make up just **4%** of Ohio's population, but account for **7%** of new HIV diagnoses.

That's a rate **more than 3x higher** than that for white Ohioans.

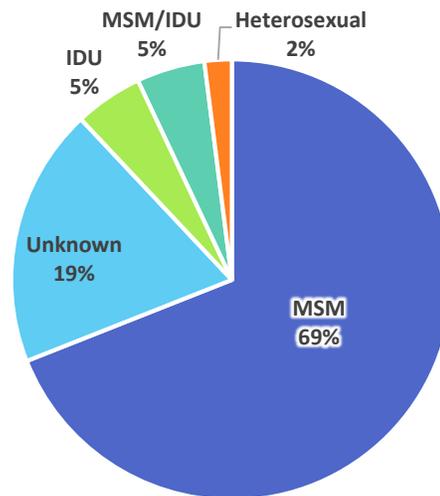
## HIV Transmission Rates by Exposure Categories

In Ohio, male-to-male contact is the leading mode of HIV transmission.

**Men who have sex with men (MSM)** make up just over **3%** of Ohio's population, but account for **nearly 70%** of new HIV transmissions.

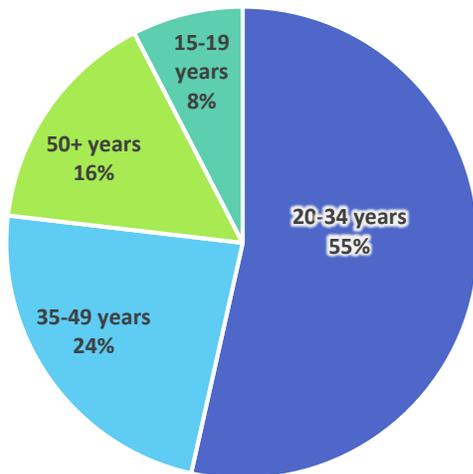
**Injection drug use (IDU)** and a combination of **MSM/IDU** both account for **10%** of HIV transmissions.

These data also highlight the intersection between IDU and HIV transmission and the importance of ensuring access to harm reduction programs as a form of prevention.



<sup>1</sup> The Ohio-specific data is sourced from the Ohio Department of Health, 2017 HIV Surveillance Annual Report

## HIV Transmission Rates by Age



**Over half** of new HIV diagnoses in Ohio were for people aged **20-34 years old**.

More specifically, HIV diagnoses were highest among Ohioans aged **25-29 years old (29.8%)** and Ohioans aged **20-24 years old (24%)**.

These data suggest that more needs to be done to ensure that young people have access to quality healthcare and that they can partake in prevention methods.

Young gay and bisexual men have been particularly disproportionately impacted by the HIV epidemic. Addressing how equitable prevention and care is available to various overlapping population sub-groups is essential.

### **Why does HIV impact these at-risk populations at higher rates than for other groups?**

Members of these population sub-groups more likely to face higher levels of discrimination and stigma in various facets of their life, not the least of which is in their ability to access affordable and equitable healthcare. They are also more likely to live in poverty, to face food and housing insecurity, to face health disparities, and to have less access to affordable healthcare.

These compounding societal and economic factors result in a higher rates of HIV transmission.

**But it's not just about higher HIV transmission rates. Ohio's HIV criminalization statutes are disproportionately enforced among these same sub-population groups.**

Members of these population sub-groups are also more likely to live in communities where Ohio's HIV criminalization statutes are enforced disproportionately and in communities that face over-policing.

This leads to these population sub-groups being overrepresented in our criminal justice system and even less able to access the necessary healthcare, support services, and safety net programs that are so essential to helping them lead healthy and stable lives.

**Ohio must work to address both the socioeconomic factors that lead to higher rates of HIV transmissions among Ohio's most at-risk populations and to erase the criminalization of people living with HIV from its laws.**