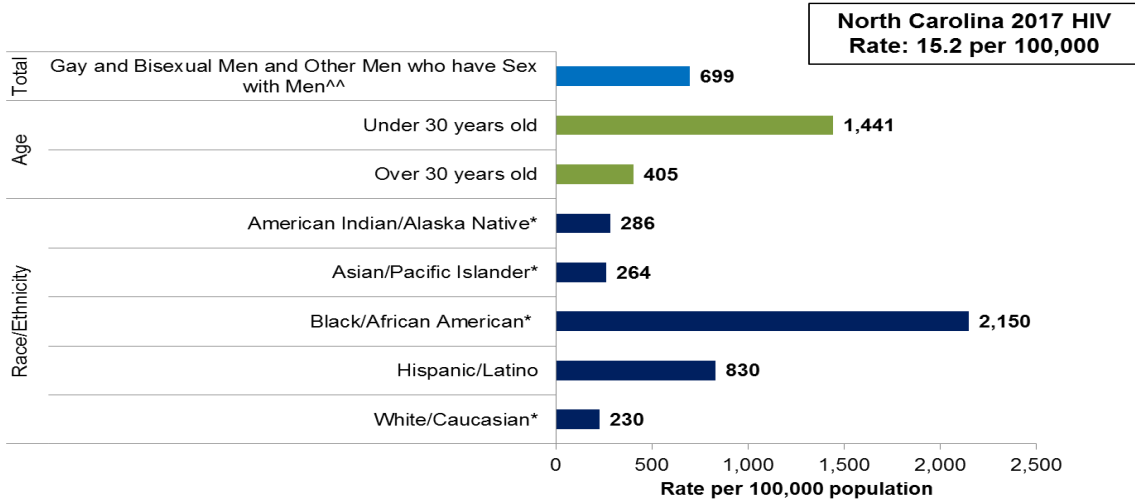


# Health Equity and HIV in North Carolina, 2017: Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men



The highest rates of HIV in North Carolina are among men of color who report sex with men.

Rates of HIV among gay, bisexual, and other men who report sex with men^^ based on estimated population in North Carolina.



^^Unknown risk has been redistributed. People who were classified as MSM and IDU were excluded. See Grey et al. resource in side bar for more information on estimations.  
\*Non-Hispanic/Latino.

5 out of 10 people living with HIV in North Carolina are gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men



- HIV diagnosis rates are much higher for young gay and bisexual men of color than among other North Carolina residents.
- Once in care, the disparity in health outcomes is much smaller, demonstrating that the access to care, supported by programs such as Ryan White and HMAP, reduces disparities.
- Friends and family of people living with HIV can support their loved ones and the community by supporting their medical care. Treatment leads to viral suppression; people virally suppressed cannot transmit HIV to others.

Get real, get tested!

An estimated 70% of those unaware of their HIV status are gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men.



Want More Information?

HIV/STD Facts and Figures

<http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/stds/figures.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Information on Health Disparities in HIV  
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/healthdisparities/>

National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) HIV Prevention and Health Equity  
<https://www.nastad.org/domestic/hiv-prevention-health-equity>

Estimated rates based by Grey et al. <https://publichealth.jmir.org/2016/1/e14/>

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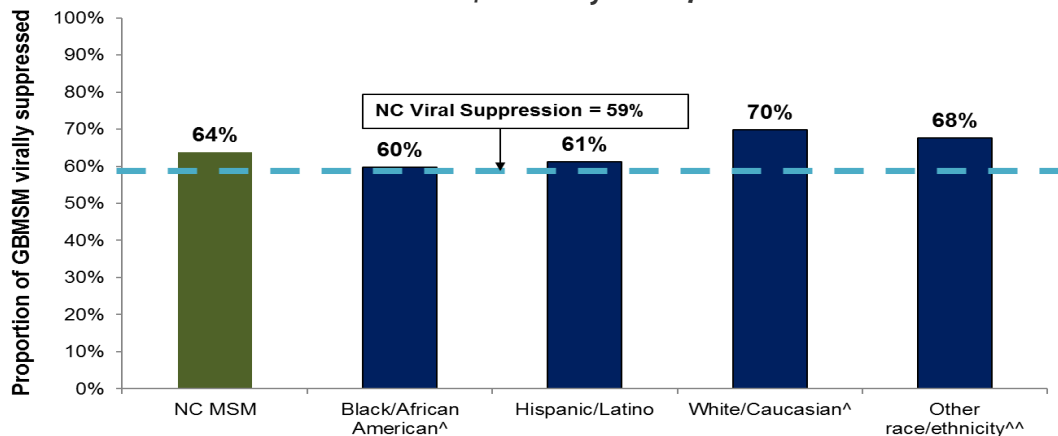
Created by the HIV/STD/  
Hepatitis Surveillance Unit,  
Communicable Disease Branch  
11/28/2018

# Health Equity and HIV in North Carolina, 2017: Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men



Most men living with HIV in North Carolina are virally suppressed.

Viral Suppression among Gay, Bisexual, and Other Men who have sex with Men by Race/Ethnicity in 2017



<sup>^</sup>Non-Hispanic/Latino.

<sup>^^</sup>Other includes American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Multiple Race.

Successful treatment leads to viral suppression; once suppressed, HIV cannot be transmitted to others. Due to strong public health partnerships, North Carolina is on track to meet and exceed the National HIV/AIDS Strategy viral suppression goal of 85% viral suppression by 2020. Once in care, all race/ethnicities have suppression rates higher than the state average.

## What is North Carolina doing about health disparities?

- ◆ People living with HIV are involved in planning and policy development; this is a core priority of the Communicable Disease Branch.
- ◆ Ryan White providers are involved in the [end+disparities Collaborative](#), which is a national project aimed at reducing disparities in viral load suppression for gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men of color, Black/African American and Hispanic/Latina women, transgender people, and youth who are Ryan White recipients.
- ◆ NC promotes cultural competency trainings for local and state staff and HIV medical providers and their office staff across the state (resources in side bar).
- ◆ NC is working to strengthen relationships with community groups supporting Latinos living with HIV and is applying for grants to support these efforts.
- ◆ NC supports integrating substance abuse treatment services with HIV and sexually transmitted disease (STD) care by providing HIV and STD testing in substance abuse treatment settings.
- ◆ Syringe support services protect users against transmission of diseases by shared injection works. The North Carolina Division of Public Health provides support to this public health intervention as permitted by our funders.
- ◆ NC recognizes that syndemics (linked disease transmission, such as HIV and syphilis among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men) are important to incorporate into diagnosis and treatment. Prevention and care activities incorporating syndemic disease strategies are more supportive and efficient for the consumer and more effective for both provider and consumer.

## What CLINICIANS can do

Structural factors, such as the environment in which people live, wealth/poverty, and education, affect health. Providers should consider these structural factors in their understanding of patient disease and interaction with care.

North Carolina Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities  
<http://www.ncminorityhealth.org/>

National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) for the US 2020 Goals:  
<https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/national-hiv-aids-strategy/nhas-update>

Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) Campaign  
<https://www.preventionaccess.org/about>

### Cultural Competency Trainings:

- [Cultural Competency for Health Professionals \(Duke University\)](#)
- [Introduction to Cultural Competency and Title VI \(UNC-Chapel Hill\)](#)
- [Cultural Competency Training \(North Carolina Collaborative Training Institute\)](#)

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 Department of Health and Human Services • Mandy Cohen MD, MPH, Secretary  
 Division of Public Health • Beth Lovette, Acting Division Director  
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Created by the HIV/STD/Hepatitis Surveillance Unit, Communicable Disease Branch  
 11/28/2018