

HIV/AIDS Disparities in Medicare Fee-For-Service Beneficiaries



Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) interferes with the immune system causing increased susceptibility to common infections. Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops in the last stage of the disease when the immune system becomes too weak to fight off infections. There is no cure for HIV/AIDS but medication can slow down the progression of the disease and with new treatments, people with HIV can live long healthy lives. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an estimated 1.2 million people in the United States

have HIV and nearly one in seven of them (14%) do not know that they have it.¹ In 2018, men who have sex with men accounted for 69% of all new HIV diagnoses in the United States. Blacks/African Americans account for a higher proportion of new HIV diagnoses and people with HIV, compared to other races/ethnicities. In 2018, blacks/African Americans accounted for 42% of the 37,832 new HIV diagnoses in the U.S.²

Data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS's) Chronic Conditions Data Warehouse indicates that 0.4% of all Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries had claims with a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS in 2018.³ Figure 1 shows the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among males (0.6%) were higher than females (0.2%), and the beneficiaries under age 65 had much higher prevalence rate (1.6%) compared to 65 and older (0.1%). The prevalence varies among beneficiaries by race and ethnicity as shown in Figure 2, highest among Black/African American beneficiaries (1.6%), followed by Hispanic (0.7%), American Indian/Alaska Native (0.4%), White (0.2%), and Asian/Pacific Islander (0.1%) beneficiaries. [The Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool](#) developed by CMS Office of Minority Health shows the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among Medicare FFS beneficiaries varied by geographic

Figure 1. Prevalence of HIV/AIDS Among Medicare FFS Beneficiaries by Sex and Age Groups, 2018

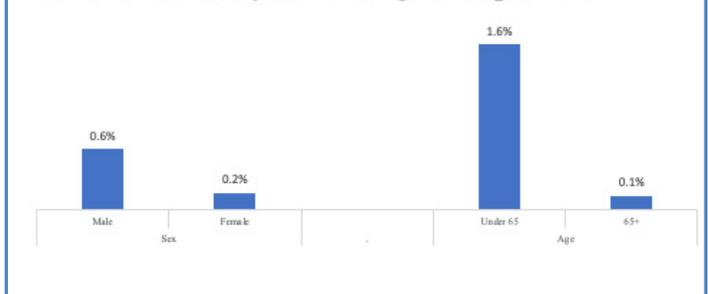
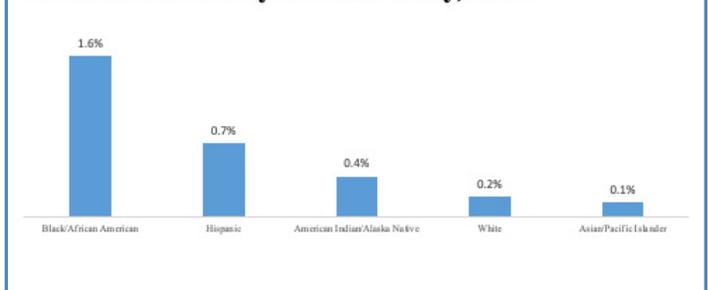
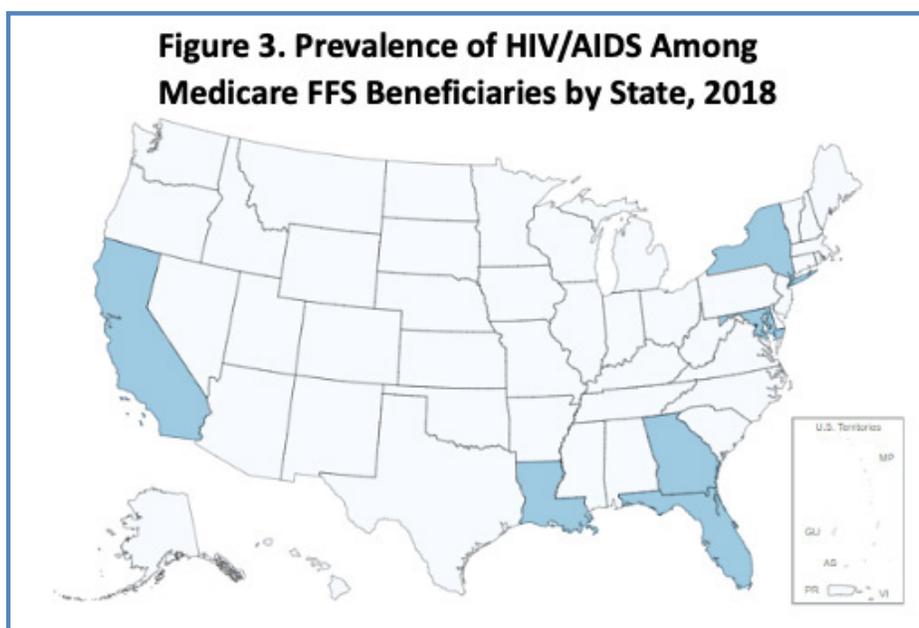


Figure 2. Prevalence of HIV/AIDS Among Medicare FFS Beneficiaries by Race/Ethnicity, 2018



areas in 2018.⁴ Figure 3 shows District of Columbia, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland and New York had higher prevalence rates.

The National HIV/AIDS Strategy, a five-year plan that was first released in July 2010 and updated in July 2015, has three major goals: reducing new infections, increasing access to care and improving health outcomes among people living with HIV, and reducing disparities and health inequities.⁵ Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program’s “[The Minority AIDS Initiative](#)” improves access to HIV care and health outcomes for disproportionately affected minority populations. Medicare beneficiaries have access to the care they need to live healthy, long lives. Medicare Part B covers an HIV screening if beneficiary is age 15–65, or younger than 15 or older than 65 and are at an increased risk for HIV.



Beneficiary Resources

- Medicare and You: Medicare Handbook
- Medicare and You (Video)
- What Are HIV and AIDS?
- HIV Consumer Info Sheets
- Is my test, item, or service covered? - HIV screenings
- Get Your Medicare Wellness Visit Every Year
- Find HIV Prevention Services Near You

Provider Resources

- Connected Care Chronic Care Management Toolkit
- National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States
- HIV Nexus: CDC Resources for Clinicians
- Clinical guidelines for care and treatment of people with HIV
- Medicare Preventive Services Provider Resources

References/Sources

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/statistics.html>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV and African Americans.
<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/raciaethnic/africanamericans/index.html>
3. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Chronic Conditions Data Warehouse.
<https://www2.ccwdata.org/web/guest/medicare-tables-reports>
4. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool.
<https://data.cms.gov/mapping-medicare-disparities>
5. National HIV/AIDS Strategy.
<https://www.aids.gov/federal-resources/national-hiv-aids-strategy/overview/>

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