

## National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Facts and Statistics

Men who have sex with men (MSM) continue to be the risk group most severely affected by HIV and AIDS. Additionally, this is the only risk group in the U.S. in which the annual number of new HIV infections is increasing. There is an urgent need to expand access to proven HIV prevention interventions for gay and bisexual men, as well as to develop new approaches to fight HIV in this population.

- Men account for 70 percent of persons living with HIV/AIDS.
- MSM account for nearly half of the more than one million people living with HIV in the U.S.
- The rate of new HIV diagnoses among MSM is more than 44 times that of other men.
- MSM are the only risk group in the U.S. in which new HIV infections are increasing.
- Sexual risk factors account for most HIV infections in MSM. Not using a condom during anal sex continues to be a significant threat to the health of MSM.
- The use of alcohol and illegal drugs continues to be prevalent among some MSM and is linked to risk factors for HIV infection and other STDs.
- Most new infections among white MSM occur among those aged 30-39, followed by those aged 40-49.
- There are more new HIV infections among young black MSM (aged 13–29) than among any other age and racial group of MSM.
- The number of new infections among black MSM is roughly twice that of their white and Hispanic counterparts.
- Among Hispanic MSM, most new infections occur in the youngest age group, 13-29.
- Black and Hispanic men are more likely than white men to be given a diagnosis of HIV infection in the late stages of infection, often when they already have AIDS.