

HIV/AIDS:

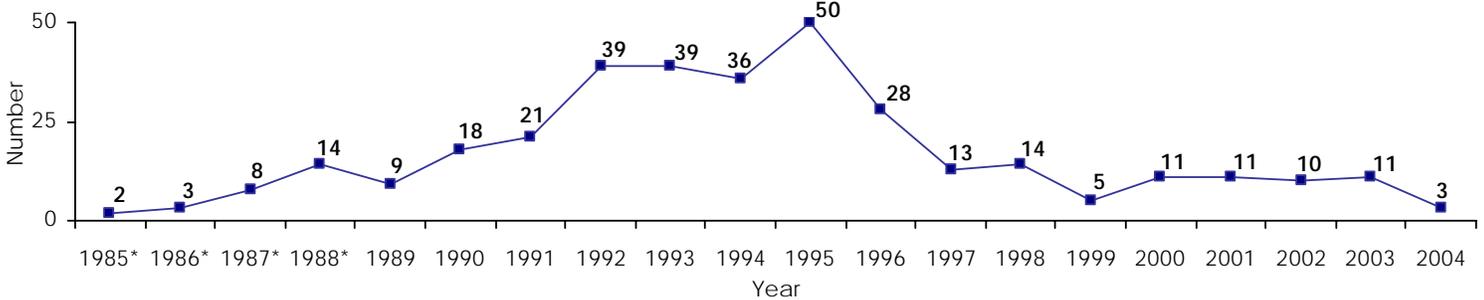
MORTALITY, BEHAVIORS, TESTING, & AWARENESS

The summer of 2006 marks the 25th commemoration of the first scientific recognition of the AIDS epidemic. AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) is a medical disorder characterized by a loss of immunity. AIDS is the end stage of an infection from a retrovirus known as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).¹ Today, more than 40 million people are living with HIV around the world, and an estimated one million people are living with HIV in the United States.³ In Idaho, there were 740 reported individuals living with an HIV or AIDS diagnosis as of December 2004.⁴

MORTALITY

Since the initial reports of AIDS cases 25 years ago, HIV and AIDS has been responsible for an estimated 25 million deaths around the world, including more than 500,000 deaths in the U.S.³ Between 1985 and 2004, there were a total of 345 deaths due to HIV/AIDS to Idaho residents.¹ The graph below shows a considerable decline in HIV/AIDS mortality since the mid 90's. However, the number of newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases has outnumbered HIV/AIDS deaths every year resulting in an increasing prevalence of individuals living with HIV/AIDS.⁴

Number of Idaho Resident Deaths Due to HIV/AIDS, 1985-2004¹



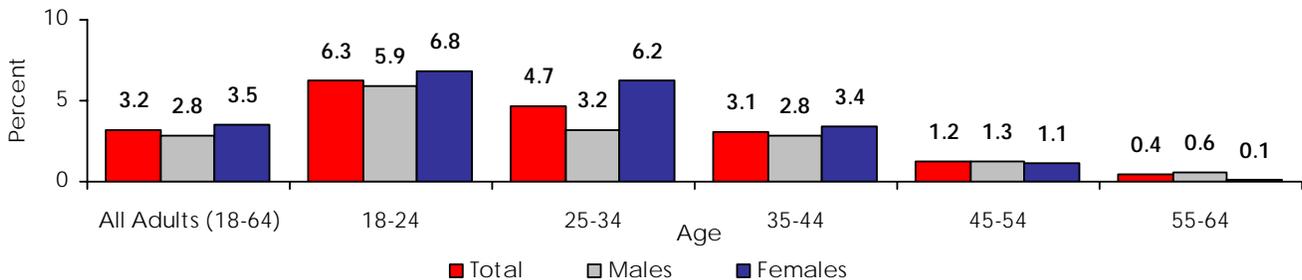
*1985-1988 are based on the literal information found on death certificate. 1985 and 1986 are for Idaho residents occurring in Idaho.

BEHAVIORS

High-risk HIV behaviors were defined as participation in any of the following behaviors: used intravenous drugs in the past year, was treated for sexually transmitted or venereal disease in the past year, was given or received money or drugs in exchange for sex in the past year, or had anal sex without a condom in the past year.

In 2004, 3.2 percent of Idaho adults aged 18 to 64 reported they had participated in high-risk HIV behaviors. Overall, there were no significant differences between men and women in reporting high-risk HIV behaviors. Among age categories, adults aged 18 to 34 were significantly more likely to participate in high-risk HIV behaviors than those 35 to 64. Adults aged 35 to 54 were significantly more likely to participate in high-risk HIV behaviors than those 55 to 64.

Percent of Idaho Adults Aged 18 to 64 Who Reported Participation In High-Risk HIV Behaviors, 2004²

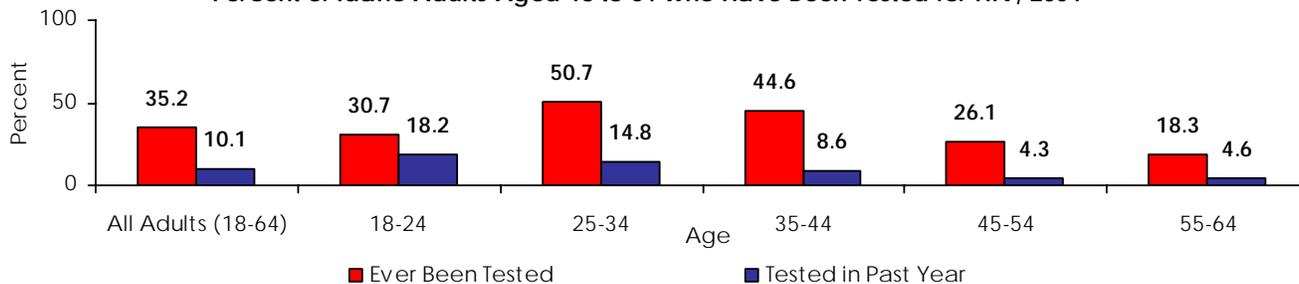


- When compared with those who did not report high-risk HIV behaviors, Idaho adults aged 18 to 64 who did report high-risk HIV behaviors were significantly more likely to:
 - Have ever been tested for HIV
 - Have had an HIV test in the previous year
 - Report being counseled by a health professional about condom use to prevent STD transmission
 - Report binge drinking or heavy drinking in the past month
 - Have used illicit drugs in the previous year
 - Report current cigarette smoking

TESTING

In 2004, 35.2 percent of Idaho adults aged 18 to 64 had ever been tested for HIV and 10.1 percent had been tested in the past year. There were no significant differences in HIV testing between men and women. Among age categories, adults aged 25 to 44 were significantly more likely to have ever had an HIV test than any other age group. Adults aged 18 to 34 were significantly more likely to have been tested for HIV in the past year than older age groups.

Percent of Idaho Adults Aged 18 to 64 Who Have Been Tested for HIV, 2004²



The three most common reasons for having an HIV test were:

1. Routine medical check-up (21.5 percent)
2. It was required (20.2 percent)
3. Pregnancy (18.6 percent)

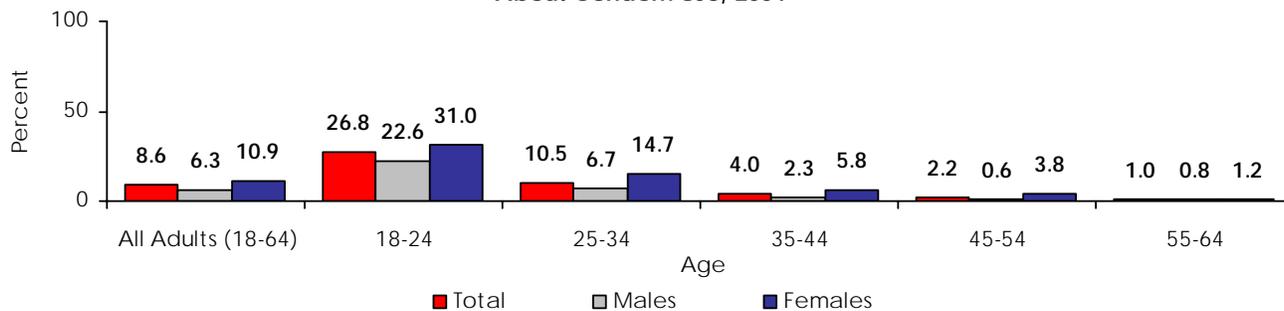
The three most common locations for getting an HIV test were:

1. Private doctor or HMO (38.2 percent)
2. Clinic (26.5 percent)
3. Hospital (18.9 percent)

AWARENESS

In 2004, 8.6 percent of Idaho adults aged 18 to 64 reported they had been talked to by a health professional about preventing sexually transmitted diseases through condom use. Women were significantly more likely to have been counseled about condom use than men (10.9 percent compared with 6.3 percent). Both men and women aged 18 to 24 were significantly more likely to be advised about condom use than any other age group. Among 18 to 24 year olds, women were significantly more likely than men to be spoken to about using condoms to prevent sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Percent of Idaho Adults Aged 18 to 64 Who Were Counseled by a Health Professional About Condom Use, 2004²



Idaho adults aged 18 to 64 were read two statements about HIV and were asked if they thought the statement was true or false. The statements and results are as follows:

1. A pregnant woman with HIV can get treatment to help reduce the chances that she will pass the virus on to her baby.
 - 24.6 percent responded "false." Men were significantly more likely than women to believe no such treatment is available (32.8 percent and 16.5 percent respectively). Adults who did not graduate high school were significantly more likely than college graduates to believe no such treatment is available (36.4 percent compared with 20.5 percent).
2. There are medical treatments available that are intended to help a person who is infected with HIV to live longer.
 - 3.0 percent responded "false." Adults who did not complete high school were significantly more likely than college graduates to believe no such treatments are available (8.5 percent compared with 1.2 percent).

References:

1. Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Health, Bureau of Health Policy and Vital Statistics, Boise, Idaho.
 - Mortality Data: ICD-9 Codes (1987-1998): 042-044. ICD-10 Codes (1999-2004): B20-B24.
 - Data for 1985-1998 have been revised using ICD-9 codes and comparability ratios.
2. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2004. Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Health, Bureau of Health Policy and Vital Statistics, Boise, Idaho.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Spotlight: Commemorating 25 Years of HIV/AIDS*, June 5, 2006, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/spotlight.htm> (accessed June 13, 2006).
4. Idaho STD/AIDS Program, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Health, Boise, Idaho.