

# HIV/AIDS in Santa Cruz County

**A report summarizing HIV/AIDS local data  
and trends through 2005**



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## Executive Summary of the 2005 HIV/AIDS Report

- The number of persons in Santa Cruz County living with AIDS going into the year 2005 was estimated to be 248, or approximately 43% of all persons ever diagnosed with AIDS in the county. During 2005 more persons were diagnosed with AIDS (10) than died (7), continuing a trend of many years' standing.
- Men who have sex with men (MSM) remains the largest risk category of persons diagnosed with AIDS (66% of all county residents ever diagnosed, and 46% during 2001-2005). Injection drug use (IDU) continues to be the second-most reported manner of contracting HIV (12% overall, 19% during 2001-2005). An additional 13.5% of cases in 2001-2005 shared both of these risk factors. Heterosexual contact is the other major mode of transmission (16.2% of cases during 2001-2005).
- With HIV non-AIDS cases now reportable, this document provides an overview of all newly identified HIV cases reported to the Health Services Agency. Among HIV non-AIDS cases, MSM continues to be the mode of transmission most often reported. During 2005 there were 15 new HIV-positive cases; 10 of those identified MSM behavior as their mode of transmission.
- The California Department of Health Services in conjunction with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initiated an Interstate Duplication Evaluation Project (IDEP) in July 2002, in response to duplication of HIV and AIDS records in the national database. California received 22,474 pairs of potential duplicates with other states. California was determined to be the state of residence at diagnosis for 4,008 interstate duplicates and 2,341 California AIDS cases were found to have been diagnosed earlier in another state. The Santa Cruz County database was updated in December of 2004, and 22 cases were found to be duplicates that had been diagnosed at an earlier date in another state. Those duplicate cases were deleted from the Santa Cruz County data system, and therefore the 2005 Annual HIV/AIDS report reflects 22 fewer AIDS cases.
- Because persons with AIDS are living longer, probably due to the newer therapies, there are more and more persons who have AIDS in combination with other chronic diseases associated with older age, such as diabetes, heart disease, and diseases of the liver, such as hepatitis C-associated cirrhosis.

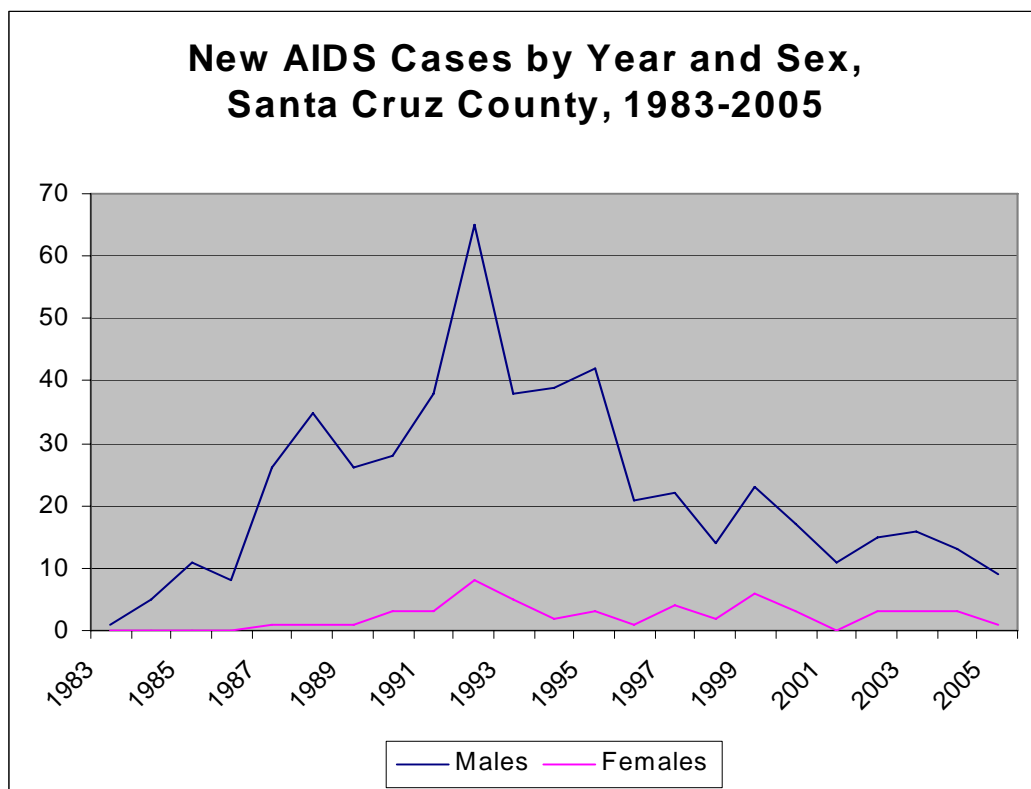
## New AIDS Cases by Year, Gender, Mode of Transmission, Race/Ethnicity, and Age, Santa Cruz County, 1983 - 2005

The following charts and table show the annual new AIDS case data for each of the years since 1983.

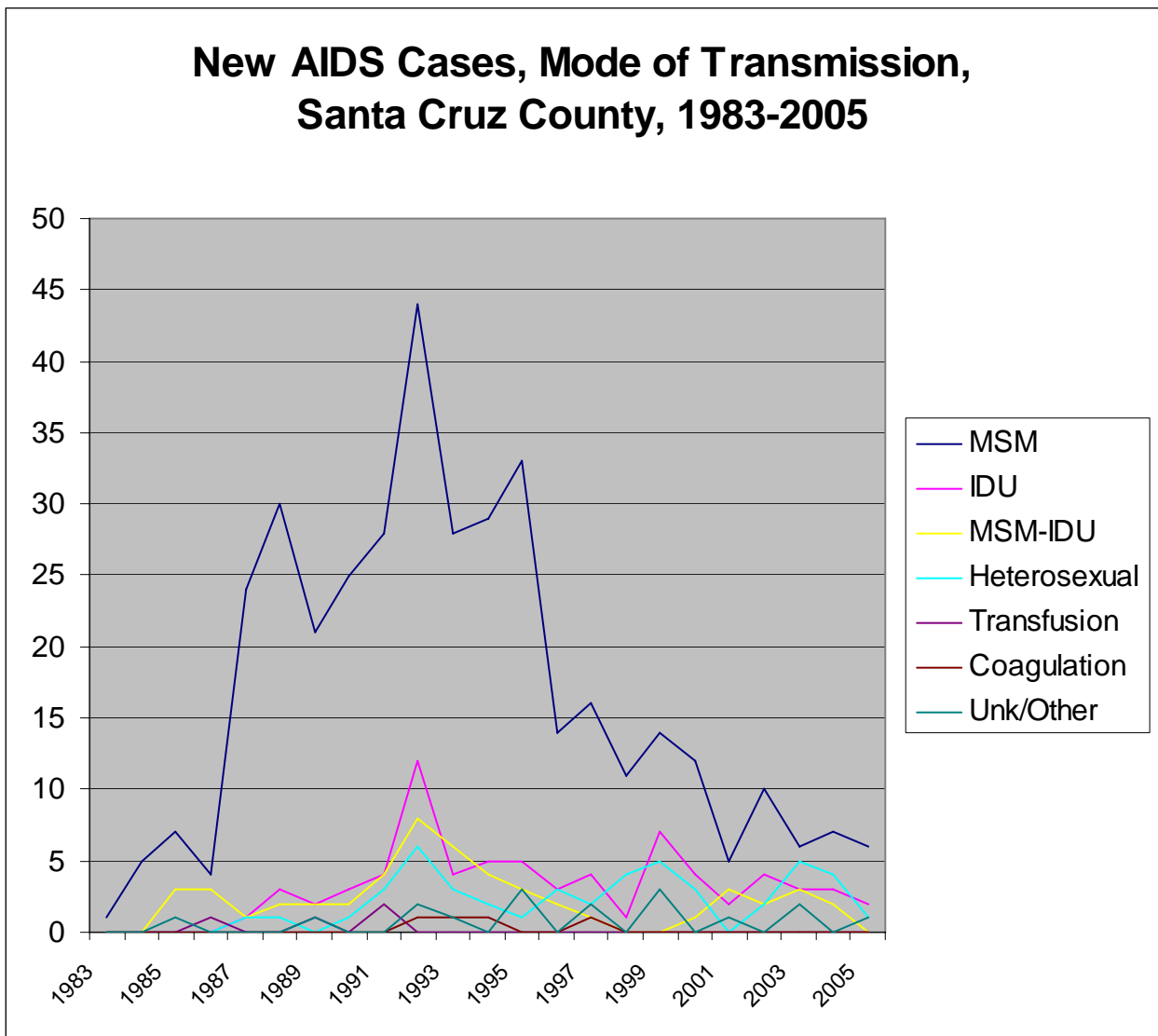
The first graph shows the number of new cases per year, by gender. The total number of persons ever diagnosed with AIDS whose primary residence was Santa Cruz County is 576 (3 children and 573 adolescents and adults). The range is from one person diagnosed in 1983 to 72 persons diagnosed in 1992. In 2005, 10 persons who claimed residence in Santa Cruz County were diagnosed with AIDS. Over 90% of all cases diagnosed during this 23-year period were in males.

The graph shows that new local AIDS case numbers peaked in 1992 and have declined substantially since then. This matches the situation statewide as well as in most California counties. The large decline in new cases is generally attributed to persons with HIV initiating anti-retroviral therapy that both inhibits the onset of AIDS and reduces the risk of transmission of HIV.

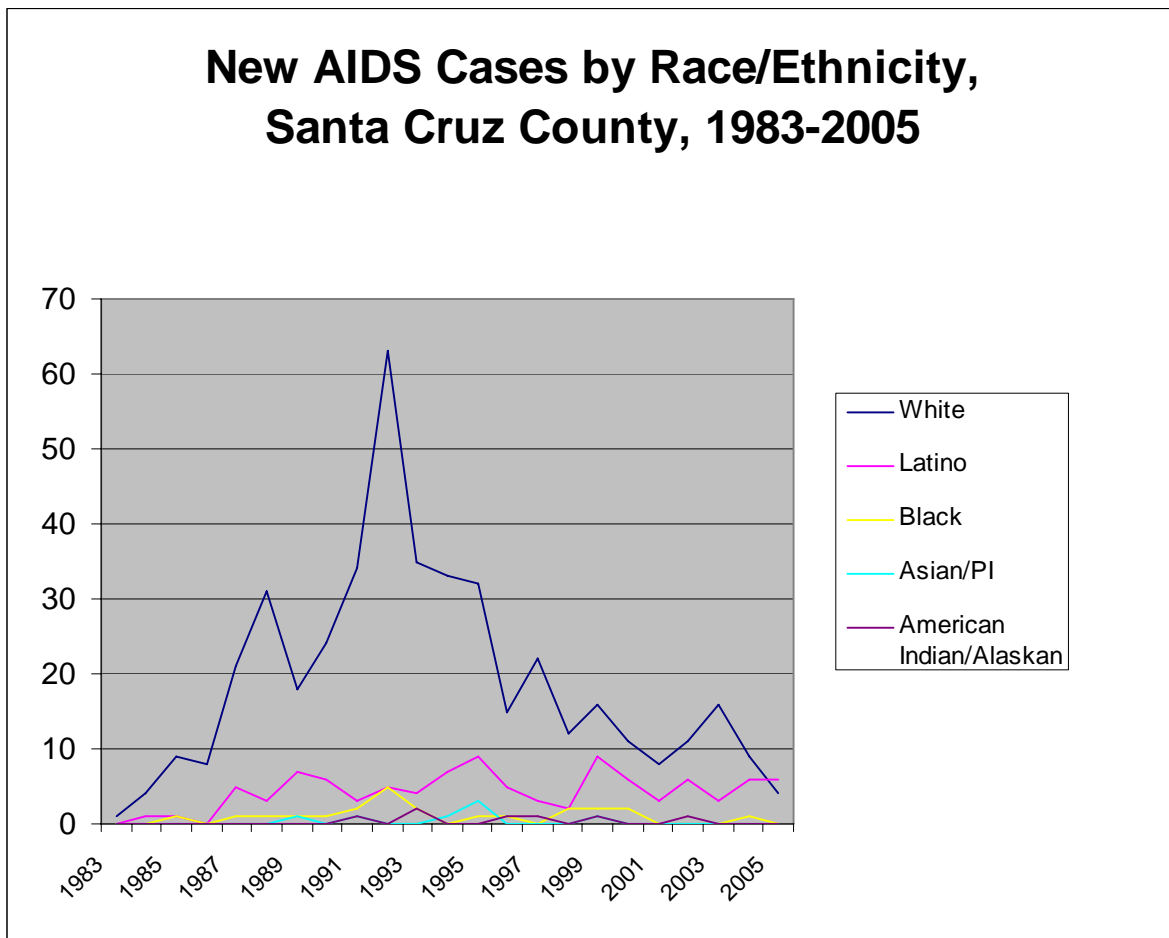
Of the 576 persons who have ever been counted in the Santa Cruz database as local residents with AIDS, there are 248 survivors, representing approximately 43% of persons ever diagnosed with AIDS.



The most common mode of transmission is sexual contact between men. This is also true statewide. In Santa Cruz County, as statewide, male-to-male sexual transmission has accounted for a smaller share of transmissions as the years go by, while remaining the most commonly reported transmission route. From 1999-2005, male-to-male transmission (in the absence of injection drug use) accounted for just under half of new cases (six out of ten new cases in 2005). Infections associated with injection drug use are accounting for larger shares of cases in many jurisdictions in California, although in Santa Cruz County this trend has leveled off at about 20% of all new cases in recent years; in 2005, two out of ten new AIDS cases in Santa Cruz County were attributed to injection drug use. The third largest transmission category over the full period comprises individuals with both male-to-male sexual contact and injection drug use. Another mode of transmission that has been increasing in California is heterosexual exposure (without indication of injection drug use), but in Santa Cruz County this trend too has leveled off in recent years; in 2005, only one of the ten local cases fit this category.

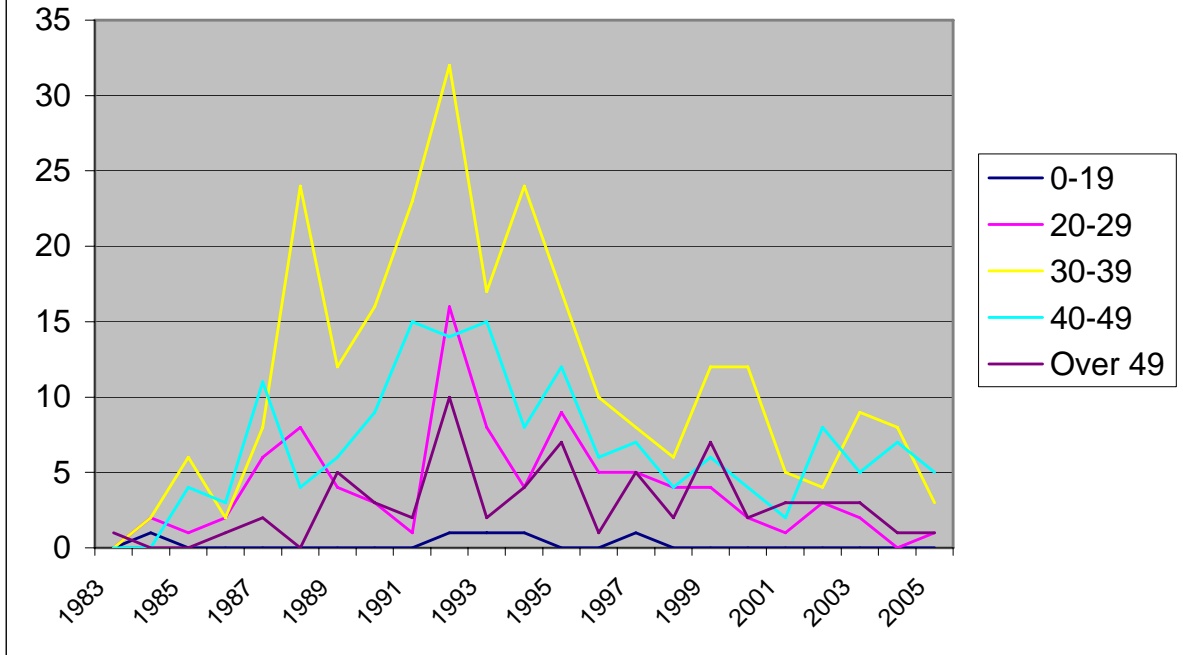


In Santa Cruz County and throughout the State, AIDS has become, over time, a disease that affects a disproportionate share of minority populations. White non-Latinos, the largest racial/ethnic group in Santa Cruz County (about 65% of the county population), accounted for the largest number of total cases 1983-2005 (76%). But in 2005, Whites accounted for only four of the ten cases (40%). Latinos account for only about 27% of the population, but accounted for 60% of new AIDS cases in 2005. This is due to a continued steep drop in non-Latino cases, while the numbers of Latino cases have not been diminishing. The African-American population has had a disproportionate share of AIDS cases over the years. The total of 23 ever-reported African-American cases represents nearly 4% of all cases, while African-Americans represent only about 1% of the county population. However, only one new African-American AIDS case has been reported since 2000.



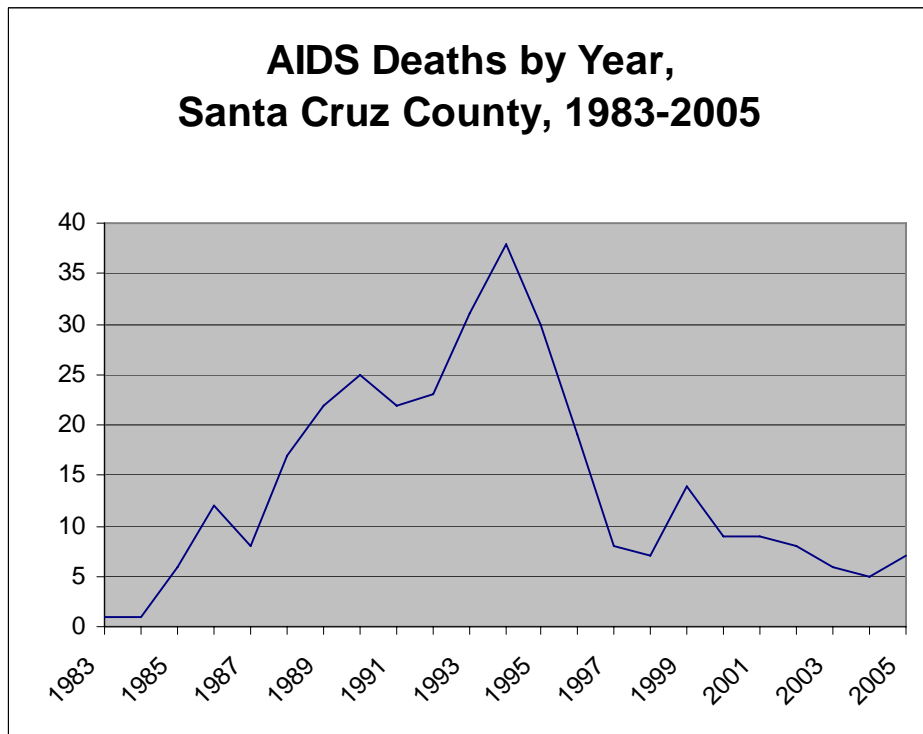
AIDS is often not diagnosed until a person has been infected with HIV for as many as ten years or more. In Santa Cruz, the AIDS diagnosis is most common among persons in their thirties and forties. However, each year there are those in their twenties who are diagnosed with AIDS, which indicates that HIV infection may be occurring among teenagers.

## New AIDS Cases by Age Group, Santa Cruz County, 1983-2005



Seven persons who had ever received an AIDS diagnosis died in 2005.

## AIDS Deaths by Year, Santa Cruz County, 1983-2005

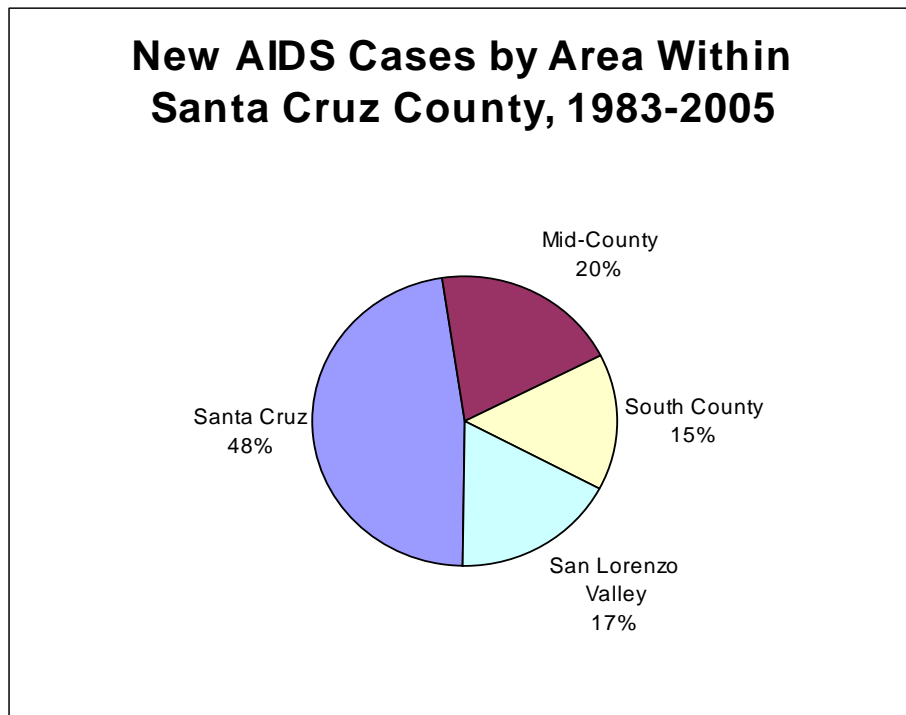


## ZIP Code at Time of Diagnosis, Santa Cruz County, 1983 - 2005

The chart and table below show (by ZIP code) where in Santa Cruz County persons with AIDS resided when they were diagnosed.

Persons diagnosed with AIDS have lived in nearly every part of the county. The distribution of new cases roughly reflects the population distribution of the county, with the largest numbers of cases coming from the city of Santa Cruz, the UCSC area, Watsonville, Aptos, Soquel, Boulder Creek, Capitola, and Felton, respectively.

The largest number of persons newly diagnosed with AIDS has been in and around the City of Santa Cruz (including UCSC and Live Oak), comprising about 274 persons with new AIDS diagnoses since 1983 (48% of all cases). The mid-county area of Capitola, Soquel, and Aptos has accounted for about 20% of cases. The southern area of the county, defined as Freedom, Watsonville, and Aromas, has about 15% of cases. The San Lorenzo Valley communities of Scotts Valley, Felton, Ben Lomond, Brookdale, and the Summit area account for about 17% of cases.



On a per-capita basis, the picture is somewhat surprising. The ZIP code 95060 (city of Santa Cruz) had a rate of almost 4 diagnoses (total from 1983-2005) per 1000 current residents, while the ZIP code 95076 (Watsonville) had a rate of less than 1 per 1000; all other ZIP codes with substantial populations had rates intermediate between those two. There was no apparent geographic pattern across the county.

**New AIDS Cases by Year and ZIP Code at Time of Diagnosis,  
Santa Cruz County, 1983 - 2005**

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total	
95001	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
95003	0	1	0	3	5	2	0	4	5	6	4	7	3	2	2	2	1	3	0	0	1	1	1	1	53
95004	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
95005	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	3	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
95006	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	6	5	4	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	30
95007	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
95010	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	1	2	11	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	28
95018	0	0	2	0	1	3	0	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	3	1	2	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	26
95019	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	8
95030	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
95041	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
95060	0	2	2	1	6	9	8	10	7	17	14	5	16	8	10	9	15	7	4	6	7	5	1	1	169
95061	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8
95062	1	0	1	1	4	6	4	5	7	12	9	6	9	2	4	0	3	3	1	1	2	2	2	3	86
95064	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
95065	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	10
95066	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	15
95067	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
95073	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	2	2	3	1	5	1	3	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	31
95076	0	0	3	0	3	2	8	4	4	8	2	5	9	4	2	3	3	5	4	2	2	3	1	1	77
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	1	5	11	8	27	36	27	31	41	73	43	41	45	22	26	16	29	20	11	18	19	16	10	576	



## AIDS Cases by Race/Ethnicity, Age Group, Mode of Transmission, and Gender, Santa Cruz County, 1983 - 2005

The following tables provide more detailed breakdowns of the 576 AIDS cases ever diagnosed and counted in the local database. One table shows race/ethnicity cross-referenced with mode of transmission, and further divided between males and females; the other table shows age group cross-referenced the same way.

A notable feature is that women account for 31 of the 47 cases (66%) attributed to heterosexual contact. This is in accord with data worldwide showing that women are more susceptible than men to heterosexual transmission. Injection drug use (IDU), by contrast, is a mode of transmission occurring mainly among males (75%). Also noteworthy are the relatively low proportion of men who have sex with men (MSM) and relatively high proportion of IDU reported among African-Americans.

**Note:** The following tables use these abbreviations:

- \* Trans. Recipient = Transfusion or Transplant Recipient
- \* NIR = No Identifiable Risk

### AIDS Cases by Race/Ethnicity, Mode of Transmission, and Gender, Santa Cruz County, 1983-2005

Ethnicity/Race	MSM		IDU		MSM/IDU		Hetero- sexual		Hemo- philiac		Trans. Recipient		NIR		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
White	296	0	39	16	39	0	5	25	3	1	3	0	8	2	437
Latina/o	67	0	7	2	6	0	7	4	0	0	0	1	6	0	100
African American	11	0	6	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Asian or Pacific Islander	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7
American Indian/Alaskan	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Other or Unknown	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>576</b>

### AIDS Cases by Age Group, Mode of Transmission, and Gender, Santa Cruz County, 1983-2005

Age Group	MSM		IDU		MSM/IDU		Hetero- sexual		Hemo- philiac		Trans. Recipient		NIR		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
0-19	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	5
20-29	51	0	5	6	11	0	4	10	1	0	0	0	3	0	91
30-39	179	0	26	8	28	0	6	9	1	0	0	0	3	0	260
40-49	109	0	13	4	12	0	3	7	0	1	1	0	5	0	155
Over 49	40	0	10	0	1	0	3	5	0	0	2	1	3	0	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>576</b>

**HIV Non-AIDS Cases by Year,  
Mode of Transmission, Race/Ethnicity, and Age,  
Santa Cruz County, July 1, 2002 - December 31, 2005**

The Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, in compliance with the State Department of Health Services, began data collection of HIV-positive non-AIDS cases as of July 1, 2002, and continues to update and maintain data through the HIV/AIDS Reporting Surveillance System. (Surveillance reporting prior to July 1, 2002, consisted of AIDS cases only, determined by a low CD 4 or T-cell count and/or the presence of an HIV-positive status, in conjunction with one of the 26 AIDS-related opportunistic infections.)

The data in the table on the next page reflects the HIV-positive non-AIDS cases through December 31, 2005. The majority of the 166 cases are persons who tested positive for HIV prior to July 1, 2002. Because data collection did not begin until July 1, 2002, there is no record of which year these individuals tested positive; therefore, they are listed in the 2002 column.

Fifteen of the 166 individuals were newly diagnosed during 2005. Of the 15 newly identified positives, 8 were White, 5 Latino, and 1 Black. Ten were MSM, 2 were injection drug users, and 1 was by heterosexual contact. Eleven were male and 4 were female. Four were in their 20s, 4 in their 30s, and 7 in their 40s. These proportions are not significantly different from the patterns seen for AIDS diagnoses in recent years; however, the numbers are too small to make highly informative comparisons.

Given the delay in identifying cases and reporting them to the Health Services Agency, it is possible that more new cases identified in 2005 will be reported to HSA in 2006. These cases would appear in the 2006 annual report as new cases for 2005.

## HIV Non-AIDS Cases by Year, Mode of Transmission, Race/Ethnicity, and Age, Santa Cruz County

Gender	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
Male	104	15	7	11	137
Female	22	0	2	4	28
<b>Total</b>	126	15	9	15	165

Mode of Transmission	2002		2003		2004		2005		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Men Who Have Sex w/ Men (MSM)	85	0	9	0	6	0	10	0	110
Injection Drug Users (IDU)	7	3	2	0	0	0	1	1	14
MSM or IDU	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
Heterosexual Exposure	3	14	1	0	0	2	0	1	21
Transfusion Recipient	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
Coagulation Disorder	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Risk Not Reported or Other	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	8
<b>Total</b>	104	22	15	0	7	2	11	4	165

Race/Ethnicity	2002		2003		2004		2005		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
White	80	14	10	0	7	1	5	3	120
Latina/o	16	4	2	0	0	1	4	1	28
African American	5	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	8
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other or Unknown	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
<b>Total</b>	104	22	15	0	7	2	11	4	165

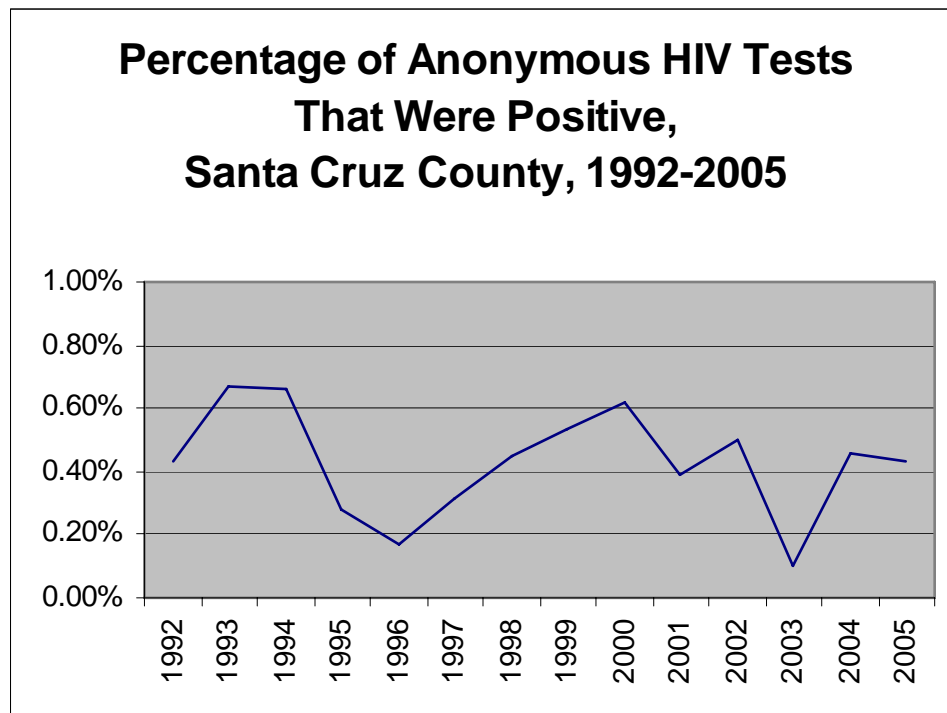
Age Category	2002		2003		2004		2005		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
0-19	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
20-29	13	5	3	0	1	1	3	1	27
30-39	26	8	5	0	5	1	2	2	49
40-49	38	4	6	0	1	0	6	1	56
Over 49	25	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	30
<b>Total</b>	104	22	15	0	7	2	11	4	165

## Anonymous and Confidential HIV Testing Data, Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, 1992 - 2005

The Health Services Agency offers anonymous testing for HIV infection to persons who provide demographic information, but who are not identified by name. By April of 2005, all of our testing sites had converted to rapid HIV testing. The OraQuick ADVANCE Rapid HIV-1/2 antibody test provides individuals with a result in 20 minutes, vs. two weeks offered by standard HIV testing. The number of tests per year varies. In 2005, HSA performed 1,386 such tests. A person can be tested more than once; therefore, the 1,386 represents tests, rather than unique individuals.

The individuals represented by the 115 positive tests from 1992 onward may have already been counted as AIDS or HIV non-AIDS cases in the preceding pages of the report (i.e., duplication may have occurred).

The chart below shows the percentage of positive tests each year since 1992. The percent positive ranged from a low of 0.1% in 2003 to a high of almost 0.7% in 1993 and 1994. In 2004 and 2005, 0.43% and 0.46% of tests were positive.



The positive HIV testing data parallels the AIDS data, in that MSM comprise the most infections (55% of all positive tests), followed by IDU (12%) and MSM/IDU (11%). Males account for 90% of the positive tests. Whites account for 65% of positive tests and Latinos account for 23% of positive tests. However, in recent years the relative percentage of Latinos compared to whites has been increasing, and in 2005 there were four Latino positives compared to only two whites.

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	TOTAL	
# Tested	2,537	1,804	3,485	2,109	2,359	2,227	2,001	1,498	1,299	1,291	1,201	1,025	1,970	1,386	26,192	
# Positive	11	12	23	6	4	7	9	8	8	5	6	1	9	6	115	
% Positive	0.43%	0.67%	0.66%	0.28%	0.17%	0.31%	0.45%	0.53%	0.62%	0.39%	0.50%	0.10%	0.46%	0.43%	0.46%	

	1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		TOTAL	% of Pos.	
RISK	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	T	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	T	
MSM	6	7	11	5	2	5	3	4	4	4	3	3			6	4	63	55%													
IDU	1	3	3		1	1	1	1	1	1	1																1	12	2	12%	
MSM or IDU	2			1	1	1	3			1	2																	11	2	11%	
Prt. HIV+ or at risk		1	1	1	2					1																	1	3	5	7%	
Transfusion				2																								3		3%	
Mult. Sex Prt.				1						1																		2		2%	
Prt. w/Mult. Sex Prt.	1			2																								3		3%	
Hetero. Contact										1				1	1													3	1	4%	
Risk Info. Missing				2							1																	4	1	4%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	10	1	11	1	23	6	4	7	8	16	2	6	2	4	1	5	1	1	9	4	2	104	9	2	100%						

	1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		TOTAL	% of Pos.			
RACE	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	T	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	T			
White	10	1	9	14	3	4	3	5	4	2	4	1	1	2	1													2	66	7	1	65%	
Latina/o			2	4	2					3	2	1	2	1	2	3													1	4	26	1	23%
African American				2									1	1	1														4	1	4%		
Asian Pacific Isl.				1						1																			2	1	3%		
Native American				1	1																								3		3%		
Other				2																									3		3%		
<b>TOTAL</b>	10	1	11	1	23	6	4	7	8	16	2	6	2	4	5	1	1	9	4	2	104	9	2	100%									

(Totals may not add to 100%, due to rounding and/or multiple risk factors.)

**KEY:**

M = Male, F = Female, T = Transgender

Prt. = Partner

Mult. = Multiple

Hetero = Heterosexual

## **Estimate of Local HIV Morbidity**

HIV became reportable by a non-name code to the California Department of Health Services as of July 2002. As of December 31, 2005, 166 HIV non-AIDS cases in Santa Cruz County had been reported to the California Department of Health Services.

There are, by estimate of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 40,000 new HIV infections per year in the United States. Santa Cruz County has approximately 0.08% of the national population, so it can be estimated that about 32 (40,000 x 0.0008) new infections occur annually in Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz County tends to have a slightly lower rate of AIDS diagnoses than the national rate, so this methodology may result in an overestimate, and the actual number may be closer to 25 new infections annually.

HIV incidence and prevalence are very difficult to estimate. Various methods have been developed to estimate the number of seropositives locally. Seropositives include both those who have HIV or AIDS and know it, and those who are infected and do not know it. The total number of persons with HIV in Santa Cruz County is the sum of (a) persons living with AIDS, who number about 248, and (b) those reported with HIV but not AIDS (166), and (c) those infected with HIV who are unaware of their status. By some estimates, about 25% of persons with HIV are unaware of their status; calculating from the numbers for (a) and (b), we can estimate (c) at about 138, for a total of about 552 HIV-positive persons in the county. Some other estimates put the percentage of infected-and-unaware higher; in any case, there are probably well over a hundred Santa Cruz County residents who are HIV-positive and not yet aware of it.