

# AT YOUR SERVICE

NEWS FROM THE VAN BUREN AND CASS DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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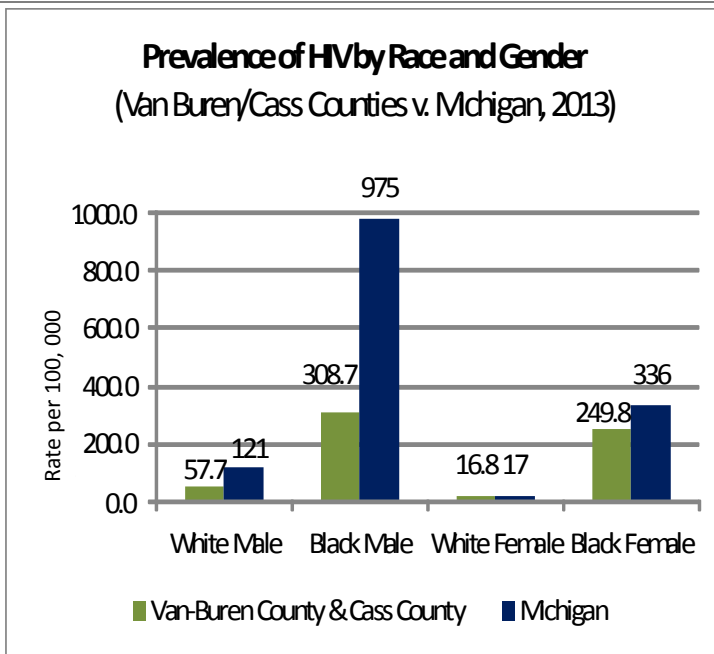
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Recently, there have been several new cases of HIV in teenagers in Michigan's three Southwest counties (Berrien, Van Buren and Cass). This serves as a reminder that HIV is still with us!

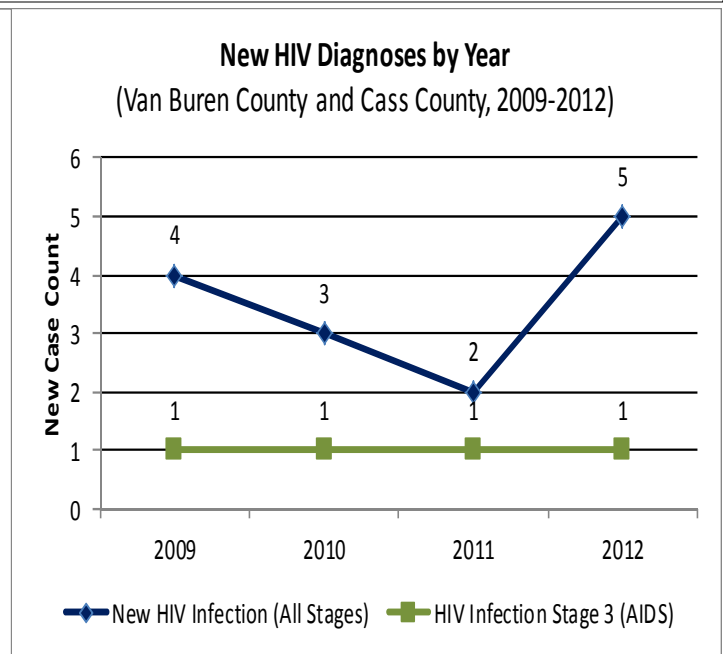
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than one million people in the United States are living with HIV. About one in five (20%) of people living with HIV is currently unaware of their infection. Although there has been substantial progress made in combating the HIV epidemic, the impacts of this disease remain severe.

The strongest risk factor for HIV continues to be men who have sex with men (MSM). This underscores the need to sustain and re-invigorate prevention efforts for gay and bisexual men of every race and to ensure that each generation is effectively reached.

We know that early diagnosis and treatment of HIV can greatly improve medical outcomes; therefore, we must continue to encourage our community members to get tested for HIV and know their status in order to improve community health and reduce the onward transmission of HIV.



**Figure 1.** Prevalence of HIV by race and gender in Van Buren and Cass Counties, compared to the state of Michigan.



**Figure 2.** New HIV diagnoses in Van Buren and Cass Counties, by Year.

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