Foreign Born

The U.S. Census Bureau uses the term “foreign born” to refer to anyone who is not a U.S. citizen at birth (U.S. Census Bureau). The U.S. foreign-born population increased from 4.7% to 12.9% of the population from 1970 to 2010 (U. S. Census Bureau, 2014). In Illinois, an estimated 13.8% of the population was foreign born from 2009–2013 (U.S. Census Bureau).

HIV Disease Diagnoses

Approximately 16% of persons diagnosed with HIV from 2007–2010 in the United States were foreign born (Prosser, Tang, & Hall, 2012). From 2009–2013, of the 9,002 new HIV disease diagnoses in Illinois, 1,450 persons had missing information on country of birth. Among the 7,552 individuals with country of birth information, 9.6% were foreign born. Annually, foreign-born individuals accounted for 8.3–11.2% of new HIV disease diagnoses in Illinois from 2000–2013.

Region of Origin

The country of birth for the largest number of Illinois foreign-born cases (n=377) from 2009–2013 was Mexico. The country with the next largest number of cases was Nigeria (n=27). By continent/region, the highest number of foreign-born cases were from Latin America (n=457) which includes Mexico.

Figure 1. Foreign-Born Resident Proportion of HIV Disease Diagnoses by Year of Diagnosis, Illinois, 2000–2013

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, June, 2014

Sex

Among foreign-born cases from 2009–2013, the proportion of females (25.6%) was higher than among U.S.-born cases (18.3%). This likely reflects higher levels of transmission among women in the country of birth. Foreign-born women may also be at higher risk of intimate partner sexual violence, which is associated with increased risk of acquiring HIV (CDC, 2014; Vaughn, Salas-Wright, Cooper-Sadlo, et al., 2015).

Figure 2. HIV Disease Diagnoses among Foreign-Born Residents by Region of Origin, Illinois, 2009–2013

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, June, 2014

Figure 3. HIV Disease Diagnoses by Sex and Nativity, Illinois, 2009–2013

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, June, 2014
**Transmission Risk Category**

Among foreign-born cases, a higher proportion reported heterosexual contact as a risk factor for transmission compared to U.S.-born cases (33% vs. 17%). Similarly, a lower proportion of foreign-born cases reported MSM as a transmission risk factor – 57% compared to 74% among U.S.-born cases. A higher rate of perinatal exposure was reported among foreign-born cases (1.7% vs. 0.3%).

**Figure 4. HIV Disease Diagnoses by Transmission Risk Category and Nativity, Illinois, 2009–2013**

![Diagram showing HIV disease diagnoses by transmission risk category and nativity]

*Note:* 18% of U.S. born and 21% of foreign-born cases had no transmission category identified.

*Source:* Illinois Department of Public Health, June, 2014

**Age at Diagnosis**

Age at diagnosis of individuals diagnosed with HIV disease from 2009–2013 differed by nativity. Among foreign-born cases, 2.8% were ≤13 years at diagnosis compared to 0.4% of U.S.-born cases. This likely reflects the higher rates of perinatal transmission among the population. Among foreign-born cases, a lower proportion of individuals with HIV disease were 13–24 years at diagnosis compared to U.S.-born cases, (11.6% vs. 34.4%).

**Figure 5. Proportion of HIV Disease Diagnoses by Age at Diagnosis and Nativity, Illinois, 2009–2013**

![Bar chart showing proportion of HIV disease diagnoses by age at diagnosis and nativity]

*Source:* Illinois Department of Public Health, June, 2014

**Prevalence**

At the end of 2013, of the 36,064 persons living with HIV disease (PLWHA) in Illinois, 2,954 were foreign born. There has been a sharp increase in the number of foreign-born PLWHA in Illinois since the year 2000. This increase is likely due to both improved
treatment regimens, which have resulted in increased survival, as well as increased levels of immigration.

**Figure 6. Foreign-Born Residents Living with HIV Disease by Year, Illinois, 1982–2013**

AIDS Diagnoses
The number of AIDS diagnoses among foreign-born PLWHA in Illinois increased in the early nineties, as seen with the epidemic overall. The increase in AIDS diagnoses in the early 2000s likely reflects the increased number of foreign-born individuals living in Illinois after 2000. Since 2004, AIDS cases among foreign-born PLWHA have declined overall.

**Figure 7. AIDS Diagnoses among Foreign-Born Residents by Year of Diagnosis, Illinois, 1981–2013**

Mortality
Despite increasing numbers of foreign-born PLWHA in Illinois, the number of deaths in this population have declined since peaking in 1994.

**Figure 8. Deaths among Foreign-Born Residents Living with HIV Disease by Year of Death, Illinois, 1982–2013**

Sources:
- Illinois Department of Public Health, June, 2014
- Illinois Department of Public Health, April, 2015