

From: [FAIR Foundation](#)
To: ["Eve Mokotoff";](#)
CC:
Subject: RE: January 2009 HIV/AIDS report- slides available
Date: Friday, February 20, 2009 1:30:00 PM
Attachments: [MI exposure catagories.jpg](#)
[MI risk transmission catagories.jpg](#)

Dear Eve,

Thank you for your continuing updates. A few months ago we noticed that the CDC was not reporting heterosexual contact correctly as in their previous publications/ online, etc. so we wrote to the CDC Director and asked that they correct the omission. Kevin Fenton, MD, Director of the CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD & TB Prevention wrote back and agreed with us and stated they would change their reporting and they have done so.

Specifically, they started omitting "high-risk" from their definition of heterosexual sex as well as their definition of high-risk where it is stated as being "contact with a person known to have, or be a high risk, for HIV infection."

I note your PowerPoint presentation also is not complete in that it only states "heterosexual" and not "high-risk heterosexual" and it does not include the definition (see attached pictures from your PPT).

I hope you will consider directing that all further publications, including online presentations and brochures, etc. clarify this matter by replacing "heterosexual" with "high-risk heterosexual" and that you include the definition in each instance to eliminate the erroneous impression that all heterosexual sex can lead to HIV infection.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Our letter to the CDC Director with illustrations of the error http://fairfoundation.org/news_letter/2008/03sept/07-01-08_to_Gerberding_define_hetero_sex.pdf

Letter from Dr. Fenton: Kevin Fenton, MD, Director of the CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD & TB Prevention http://fairfoundation.org/news_letter/2008/03sept/CDC-Fenton.pdf

Sincerely yours,

Richard

Dr. Richard Darling, DDS: [Past National Public Citizen of the Year \(NASW\)](#)

President and CEO: [The FAIR Foundation](#)

Founder: [The FAIR Foundation Liver Disease & Transplant Support Group](#)

Author: [Coma Life](#), an autobiographical memoir of life "within" coma and survival over hepatitis C induced liver cancer, coma, 3 liver transplants, heart attack, diabetes & Muscular Dystrophy (Myasthenia Gravis)

Address: 78629 Bougainvillea Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92211 Ph: 760-200-2766

From: mihivstats-owner@mail.localhealth.net [mailto:mihivstats-owner@mail.localhealth.net] **On Behalf Of** Eve Mokotoff

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2009 11:01 AM

To: mihivstats@localhealth.net

Subject: January 2009 HIV/AIDS report- slides available

Dear Colleagues:

Attached please find a powerpoint presentation you can use that displays much of the information in the January 2009 Quarterly HIV/AIDS Report. Please look at the notes that accompany some of the slides for additional information. We hope you find it useful.

Regards,

Eve

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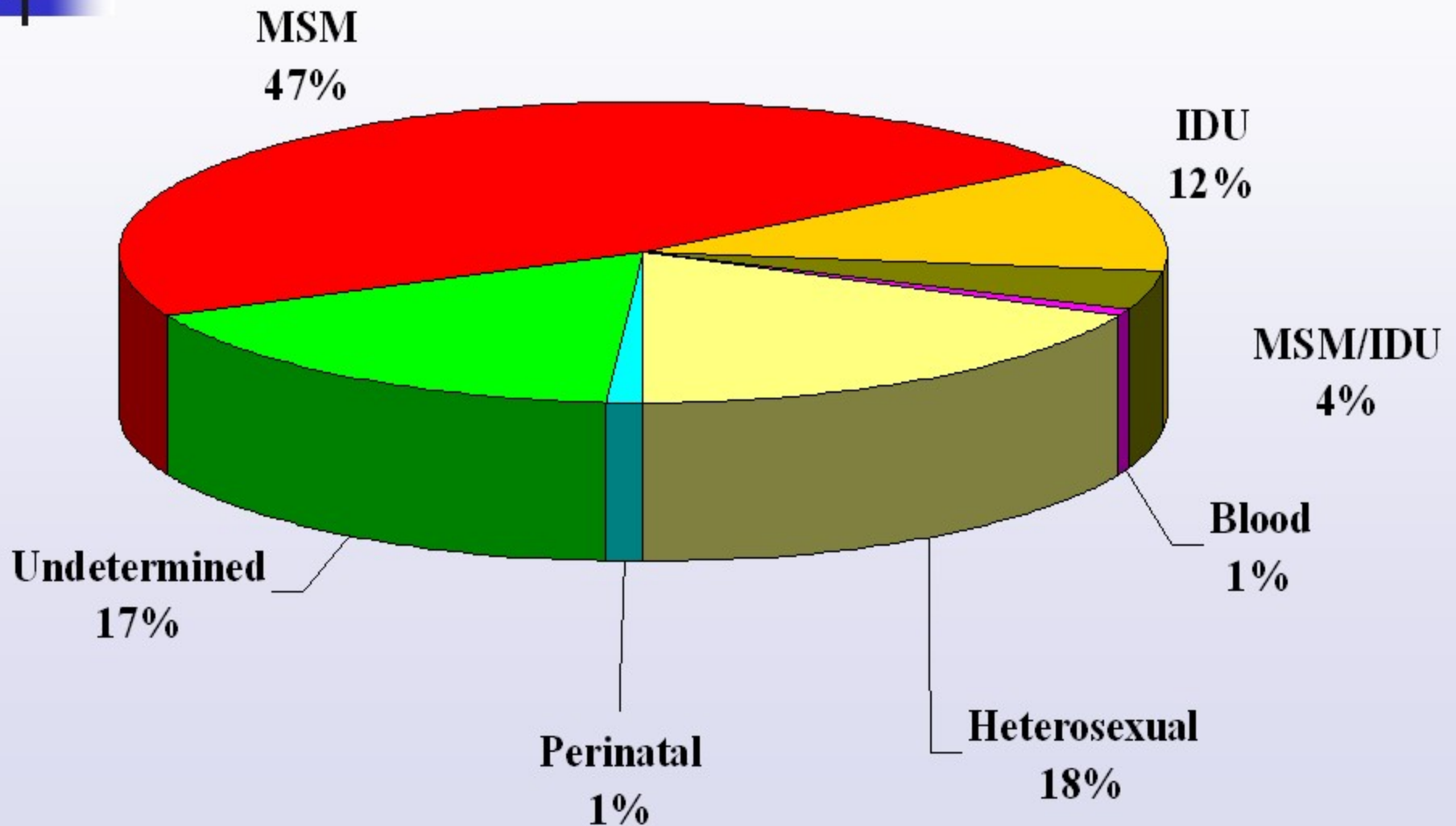
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Version: 8.0.237 / Virus Database: 270.11.1/1962 - Release Date: 02/20/09

07:26:00

Persons Living with HIV/AIDS by Risk (n=13,878)

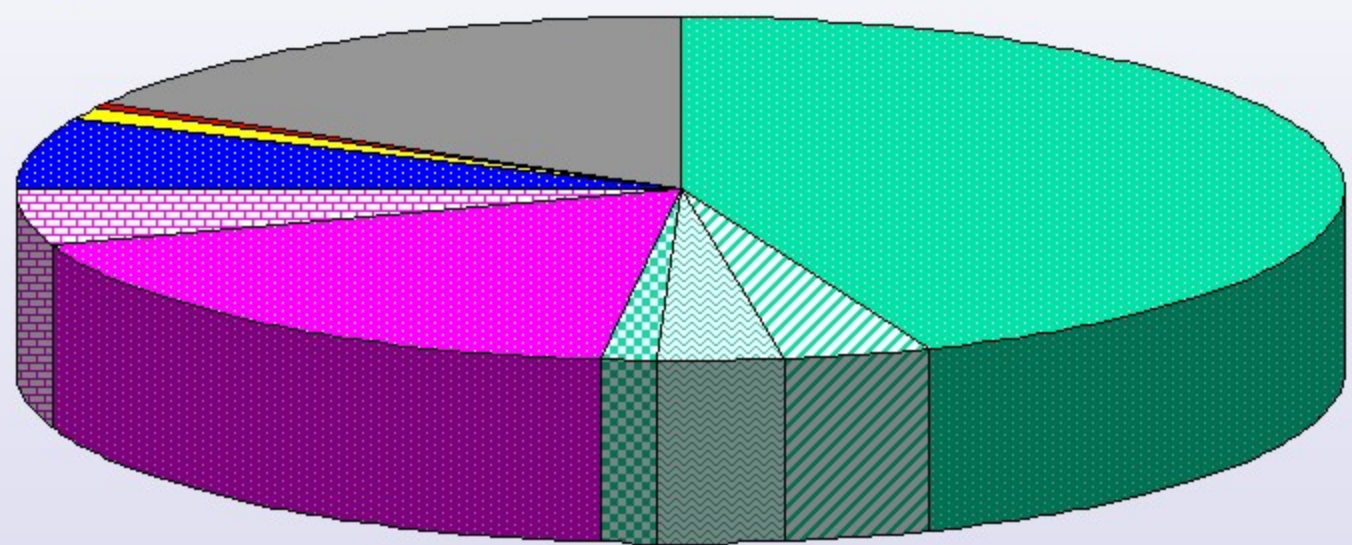


Exposure Categories for Prevalent HIV/AIDS Cases (n=13,878)



Any IDU 16%

Any MSM 52%



Any Heterosexual 42%

- MSM-44%
- ▣ MSM & HRH-4%
- ▤ MSM & IDU-3%
- ▥ MSM, IDU & HRH-1%
- ▦ MSM & Blood Products-0%
- Heterosexual-18%
- ▧ HRH & IDU-5%
- IDU-6%
- ▨ IDU & Blood Products-0%
- Perinatal Exp-1%
- Blood Products-1%
- Undetermined-17%

NOTE: The “Any” percentages on this slide overlap

Reply From: Eve Mokotoff [mailto:mokotoffe@michigan.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 7:43 AM
To: fair@dc.rr.com
Subject: RE: January 2009 HIV/AIDS report- slides available

Dear Dr. Darling:

The reason that our pie charts omit the word "high risk" is because our definition of heterosexual is broader than that used by the CDC. Omitting the term "high risk" was intentional and not an error.

Many HIV-infected women do not have enough information about their male partners to meet the narrow CDC definition of high risk heterosexual sex. Nonetheless there is every reason to believe that they were infected from having sex with a man. Continuing to use the narrow definition that CDC uses results in many female cases of HIV being classified as "undetermined" and results in prevention planning groups and other data users being given less information than is available. If you look a bit more closely at the slides that I sent, you will see that they say that they are meant to be a companion piece to our quarterly statistical report. That report contains our definition and further clarifies how we classify heterosexual transmission. I encourage you to look at the report, including the "Front matter" that discusses this issue. This report is available at:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Jan_2009_265353_7.pdf

Specifically I refer you to page ii and Table 2.

Saying that women are infected from heterosexual sex does not mean "that all heterosexual sex can lead to HIV infection." However, I would argue that heterosexual sex with an infected partner can and does lead to HIV infection. I realize that if women always knew this that they would meet CDC's definition of "high risk heterosexual" but my extensive experience with HIV/AIDS surveillance has taught me that this is often not the case, hence the need for a presumed heterosexual definition for women.

Regards,

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