Iowa Department of Public Health
Promoting and Protecting the Health of Iowans

Thomas Newton, MPP, REHS
Director

Chester J. Culver
Governor

Patty Judge
Lt. Governor

Date: April 7, 2009

To: HIV/AIDS Surveillance Group

From: Jerry Harms, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Coordinator

Re: 2008 End-of-Year HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report

Those of you who are familiar with the HIV/AIDS surveillance report will notice a few changes in this issue. Regardless of whether you are a first-time or a continuing reader, please share with us your thoughts about the report and the new format. As always, we welcome and appreciate your feedback.

You will find that there are three sections to the report. Section 1 discusses the sources and characteristics of surveillance data and defines some of the terms found in the report. Section 2 describes data and trends while referencing five tables and eleven figures located in Section 3. Some of the tables, while formatted differently than in past reports, will seem familiar. Others, such as *Table 2.2 Iowa HIV Diagnoses by Gender, Age at Diagnosis, Race/Ethnicity, Country of Birth, and Mode of Exposure by Year of Diagnosis: 1998 through 2008*, are new. Likewise, most of the figures will be familiar. They include charts, graphs, and maps identifying trends in HIV diagnoses over time and describing the characteristics (age, race, sex, mode of exposure, and county of residence) of the persons who have been diagnosed. One interesting new chart is *Figure 2.9 Current Age vs. Age at Diagnosis*. That chart clearly demonstrates that most Iowans living with HIV/AIDS were diagnosed between the ages of 25 and 44 years and are now between the ages of 35 and 54.

Here are a few points of interest drawn from the 2008 data.

- There were 108 HIV diagnoses in 2008, down from the record-setting 128 diagnoses reported in 2007.
- The number of males diagnosed in 2008 decreased, but still accounted for 82% of HIV diagnoses.
- HIV diagnoses increased among persons 13 to 24 years of age.
- Diagnoses among persons 25 to 44 years of age decreased, but still accounted for over half of new HIV diagnoses in 2008.
- In terms of HIV infection, African Americans, Hispanics, and foreign-born blacks continue to be over-represented compared to the sizes of their populations in Iowa. However, it is important to keep in mind that non-Hispanic whites account for over 70% of HIV diagnoses and persons living with HIV/AIDS.
- Male-to-male sex continues to account for more than half of exposures to HIV.
- There were 65 AIDS diagnoses in 2008 compared to 67 in 2007.
- HIV/AIDS prevalence continues to increase in Iowa. There were 1,616 persons living with HIV/AIDS in Iowa on December 31, 2008, up from 1,522 a year earlier. This equates to 53.8 persons per 100,000 population at the end of 2008, compared to 51.0 per 100,000 population at the end of 2007.

For questions about the surveillance report, please call me at 515-242-5141 or email to jharms@idph.state.ia.us.