

# HISPANIC EQUITY BRIEFS

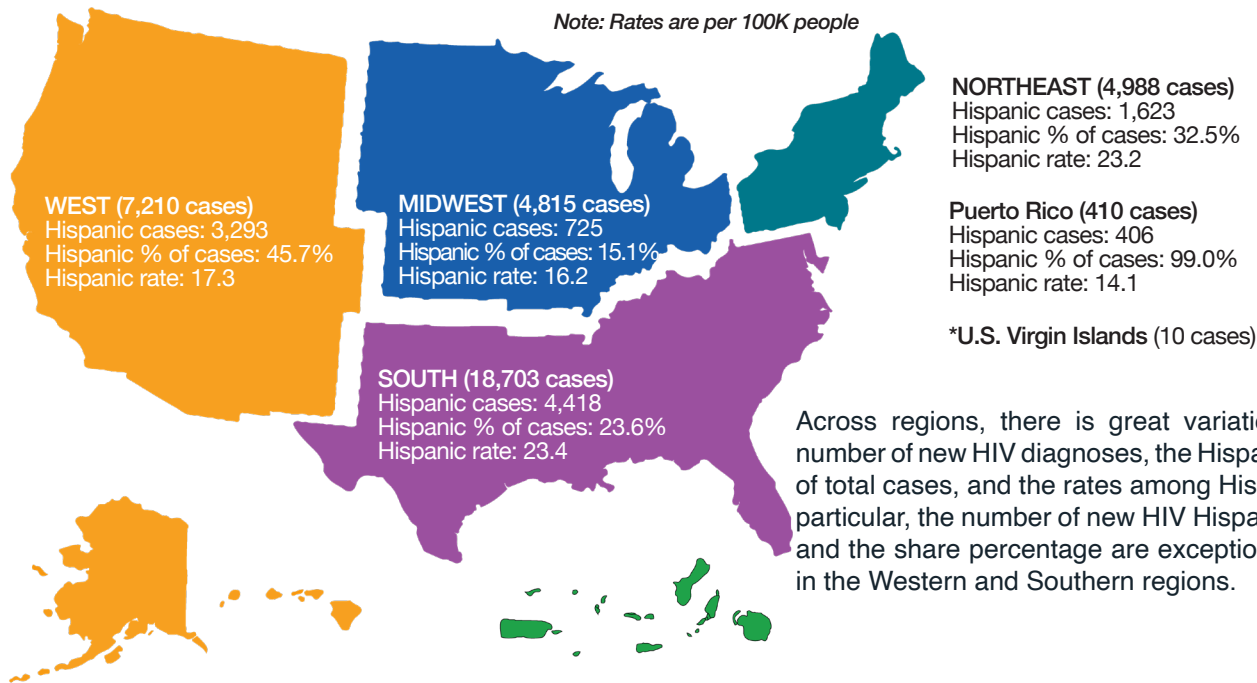
## HIV Diagnoses among U.S. Hispanics: Trends and Inequities

Over the past decades, state and local HIV prevention efforts, including Ending the Epidemic strategies, led to notable reductions in new HIV diagnoses across various subpopulations. However, this progress has been uneven. In some states, the number of new diagnoses has decreased more slowly for Hispanics<sup>1</sup> compared to the whole population.

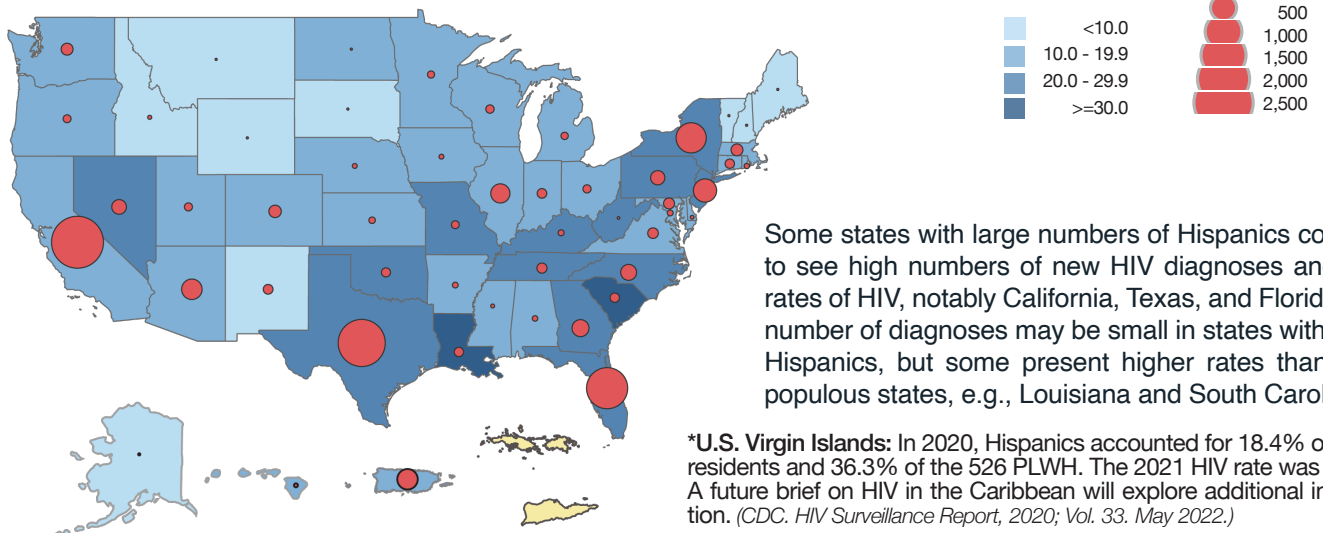
HIV rates, the number of cases per 100K people, allow for comparisons between populations of different sizes. While decreasing in many states, HIV rates have increased in others with significant Hispanic populations. Historically, New York and California, two states with large Hispanic populations, have consistently felt the impact of HIV.

However, Hispanic populations are growing across most Southern and Western states, and these regions accounted for 73.8% of the HIV cases among U.S. Hispanics in 2021. Furthermore, progress continues to be uneven for Hispanic gay/bisexual men and men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender women, and newly settled immigrants.

### HIV diagnoses and rates among Hispanics by Region, 2021



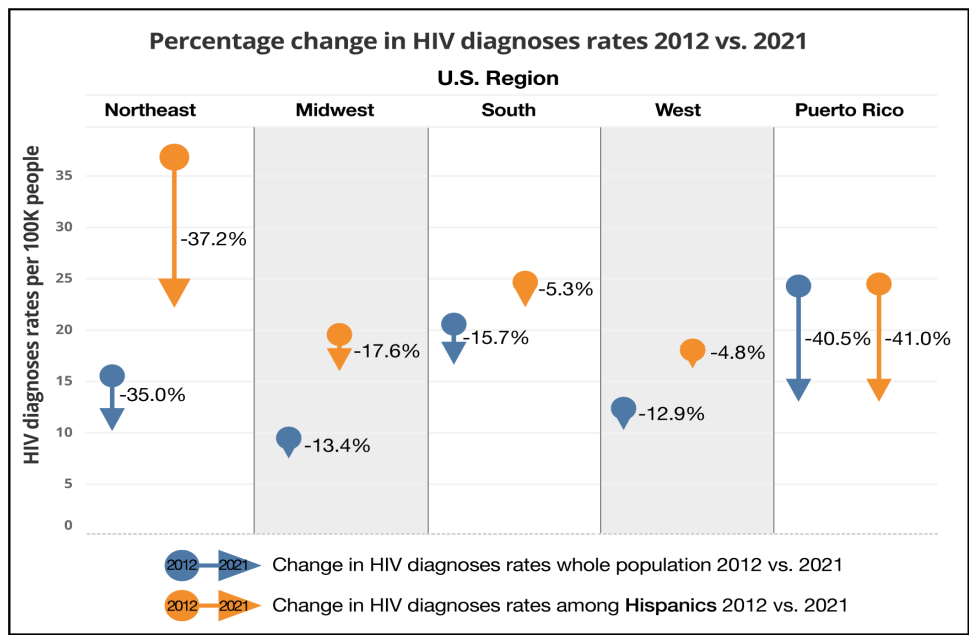
### HIV diagnoses and rates among Hispanics by State, 2021



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The charts below display changes in HIV diagnosis rates among Hispanics (first chart) and the number of HIV Diagnoses among Hispanic MSM (second chart) compared to the total population between 2012 and 2021. Upward and downward arrows indicate an increase or decrease. Rates offer a perspective that considers the at-risk population's absolute numbers and size. Hence, they provide a way to compare the HIV impact across different populations and geographies. When identifying areas for prevention and intervention, rates provide a good understanding of populations and areas needing more focused attention.

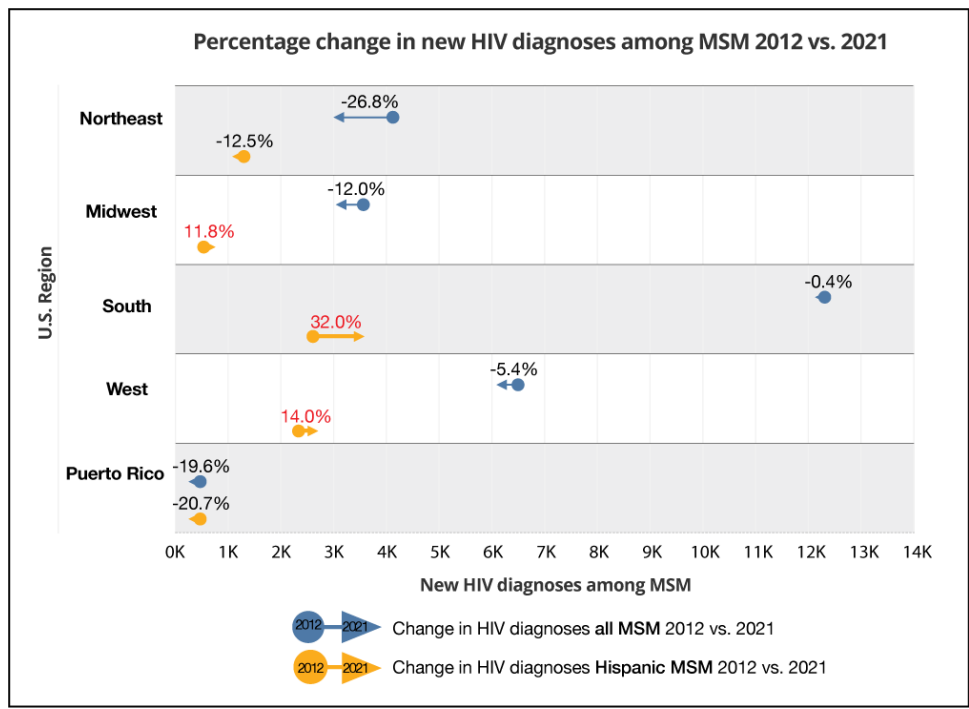
### HIV diagnoses rates among Hispanics by region, 2012 versus 2021



HIV rates decreased across all regions from 2012 to 2021, including among Hispanics. However, the rates among Hispanics continue to be higher than for the whole population across all regions.

The reductions in HIV rates have been uneven across regions and among Hispanics. For instance, the rate decreases in the South and the West were lower for Hispanics than for the whole population.

### Number of new HIV diagnoses among Hispanic MSM by region, 2012 versus 2021

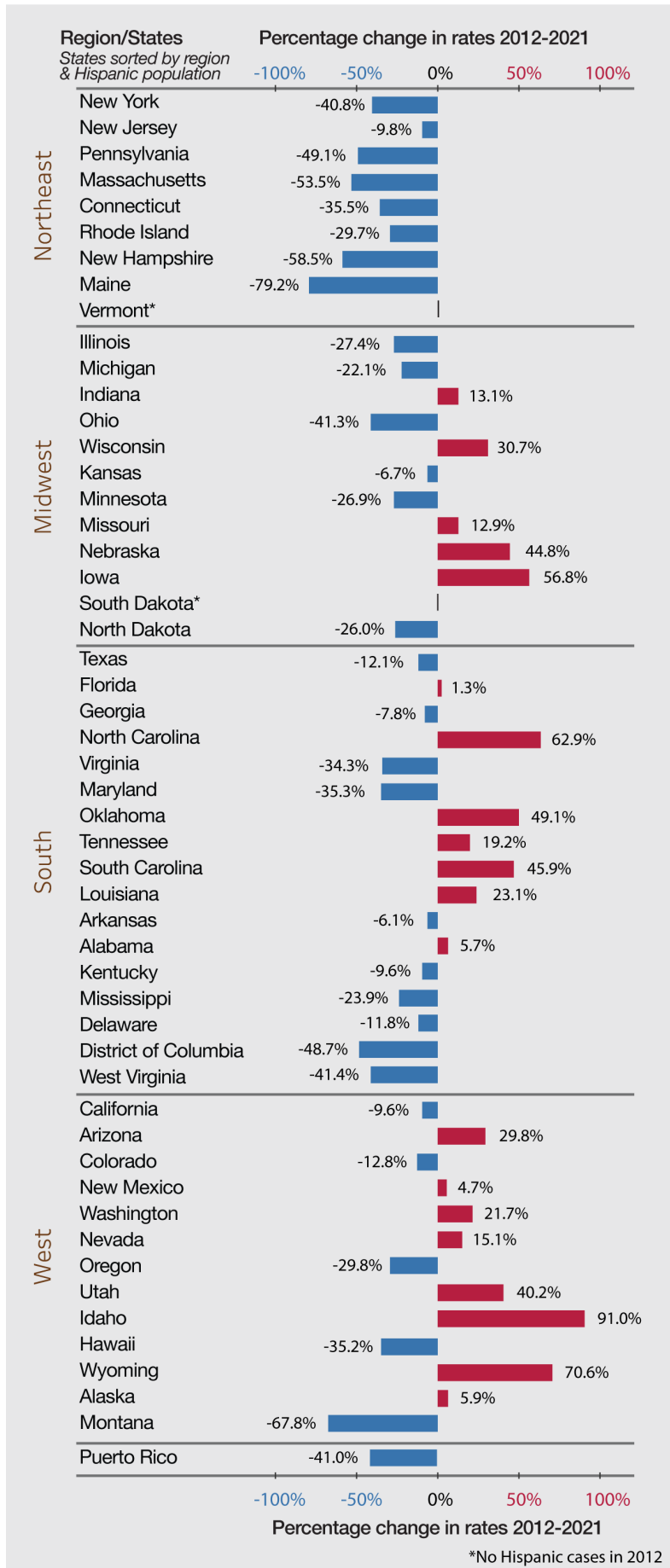


The number of new HIV diagnoses among all gay and bisexual men and men who have sex with men (MSM) has unevenly decreased across regions.

For instance, the number of cases among all MSM barely decreased in the South compared to more considerable reductions in the Northeast.

Among Hispanic MSM, rather than decreasing, the number of cases increased in the Midwest, the West, and the South.

## Percentage change in HIV rates among Hispanics by region and state, 2012 versus 2021



This chart displays changes in HIV diagnosis rates among Hispanics between 2012 and 2021 by region/state. Rates are per 100K people. Some states with smaller Hispanic populations may present fewer cases but higher rates than larger states with more Hispanic residents. For complete information on HIV rates and cases per state, visit us at [+tableau+public](#)

HIV rates among Hispanics vary significantly across different regions and states. Puerto Rico and most of the Northeastern states experienced great reductions in HIV rates among Hispanics from 2012 to 2021. In contrast, the declines were uneven in other U.S. regions, and some states saw increased rates.

Some states with large Hispanic populations had remarkable decreases in Hispanic rates (e.g., New York, Pennsylvania, and Illinois), and others had smaller declines (e.g., New Jersey, California, and Georgia). In contrast, other states, e.g., Florida, North Carolina, Arizona, and New Mexico, saw increases.

While the number of new HIV cases among Hispanics may be smaller in states with fewer Hispanics, many of these states saw increased HIV rates among Hispanics. For instance, the rates grew in Indiana, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and South Carolina.

U.S. Region	2012	2021
Midwest	6.8%	6.9%
Northeast	21.1%	15.5%
South	35.8%	42.2%
West	29.0%	31.5%
Puerto Rico	7.2%	3.9%

Between 2012 and 2021, the share of U.S. HIV diagnoses among Hispanics decreased in the Northeast and Puerto Rico. In the meantime, it remained stable in the Midwest and increased in the South and the West.

## 2021 HIV data in the states with the highest Hispanic populations

U.S. Region	State	Hispanic Population 2021	Hispanic Cases 2021	Hispanic Rate 2021	Percentage change in rates 2012 vs. 2021
<b>Midwest</b>	Illinois	1,846,085	311	17.2	-27.4%
<b>Northeast</b>	New York	3,156,442	773	24.7	-40.8%
	New Jersey	1,588,619	457	28.9	-9.8%
	Pennsylvania	820,704	172	21	-49.1%
	Massachusetts	701,814	119	16.9	-53.5%
<b>South</b>	Texas	9,285,706	1880	20.3	-12.1%
	Florida	4,902,448	1434	29.4	1.3%
	Georgia	838,417	245	29.3	-7.8%
	North Carolina	795,820	214	27	62.9%
	Virginia	683,034	95	14	-34.3%
<b>West</b>	California	12,565,852	2285	18.1	-9.6%
	Arizona	1,841,803	355	19.3	29.8%
	Colorado	1,014,500	130	12.8	-12.8%
	New Mexico	856,592	80	9.4	4.7%
	Washington	791,717	121	15.3	21.7%
	Nevada	739,502	182	24.6	15.1%
<b>U.S. Territories</b>	Puerto Rico	2,880,237	406	14.1	-40.1%

Geographic diversity in new HIV diagnoses and rates reflects the vast range in the historical, cultural, political, social, economic, and migratory conditions in which risk occurs. Furthermore, uneven HIV trends reflect unequal risks of infection and underlying persistent inequalities across the U.S. and subpopulations.

Particularly in poor urban and rural areas, adverse health outcomes result from overlapping syndemics. These multiple epidemics interact with structural poverty; restrictive health policies; workforce shortages; inadequate insurance coverage; stigmatization of mental illness, substance use, and sex; underfunded services; institutionalized racism, homophobia, and xenophobia; and other fundamental causes of disease.

Hispanic populations are growing across most States, including the South and the Midwest. Simultaneously, there is an increase in Hispanic HIV rates outside the states and cities traditionally impacted by HIV. The progress has been uneven for Hispanic MSM, transgender women, and newly settled immigrants.

We must tailor and segment effective prevention strategies and develop new ones to address our geographic and cultural diversity. We also require a more granular, targeted, community-engaged, and culturally responsive approach to research, policy, and implementation of the Ending the HIV Epidemic strategies.

### Thanks to our coworkers and external partners who provided feedback for this brief.

1. For simplicity, we use the overarching term Hispanic to refer to diverse self-identifications within our communities, including those related to race/ethnicity, family origin, and gender expression (e.g., Hispanic, Latino, Cuban-American, or Latinx).

#### Selected articles

- Guilamo-Ramos, V., Thimm-Kaiser, M., & Benzekri, A. (2023). Is the USA on track to end the HIV epidemic?. *The Lancet HIV*, 10(8), e552-e556.
- Sullivan, P. S., Johnson, A. S., Pembleton, E. S., et al. (2021). Epidemiology of HIV in the USA: epidemic burden, inequities, contexts, and responses. *The Lancet*, 397(10279), 1095-1106.
- Guilamo-Ramos, V., Thimm-Kaiser, M., Benzekri, A., Chacón, G., et al. (2020). The invisible US Hispanic/Latino HIV crisis: addressing gaps in the national response. *American Journal of Public Health*, 110(1), 27-31.
- Singer M, Clair S. Syndemics and Public Health: Reconceptualizing disease in bio-social context. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. 2003;17(4):423-441.
- Link BG, Phelan J. Social conditions as fundamental causes of disease. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 1995;35 (Extra Issue: Forty Years of Medical Sociology: The State of the Art and Directions for the Future):80-94.

#### Data sets

IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org).  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) NCHHSTP AtlasPlus  
U.S. Census Bureau. Population Division. State Characteristics Population Estimates (2012-2021)

#### Technical notes

HIV Diagnosis data came from the NCHHSTP Atlas Plus interactive tool which contains CDC's HIV surveillance data. Rates were calculated similarly as described in the tool's technical notes. Hispanic and total population estimates of persons 13 years and older for all states and the District of Columbia came from the U.S. Census Bureau's corresponding vintage year estimates (2010-2019 and 2020-2022). Hispanic and total population estimates for Puerto Rico derived from the American Community Survey multi-year samples, collected from IPUMS USA. As a result of different population denominators, calculated rates may not be exactly the same as the rates from NCHHSTP Atlas Plus.

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### Institute for Latinx Health Equity

The ILHE is the research and policy dissemination program of the Latino Commission on AIDS and the Hispanic Health Network.  
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