

## HIV/AIDS Case Surveillance Reporting and Definitions Used in Nevada

HIV/AIDS surveillance in Nevada requires the collaboration of several state and local agencies: Carson City Health and Human Services, Nevada State Health Division, Nevada State Department of Corrections, Southern Nevada Health District, and Washoe County Health District. The overall goal of HIV/AIDS surveillance is to provide current information on HIV/AIDS trends to increase awareness of the disease, identify HIV testing needs, to maintain education and prevention efforts, and to reduce the incidence of HIV infection. The tasks to achieve this include soliciting, receiving, reviewing, and filing HIV/AIDS case reports in a timely manner; determining if case reports meet the HIV infection or AIDS case definitions, or both; ensuring the collection of all required information (e.g., thorough follow-up investigation); and maintaining a complete and accurate HIV/AIDS surveillance database.

AIDS was first recognized in 1981 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Statewide surveillance for AIDS in Nevada began in 1982. In 1992, Nevada initiated mandatory reporting of HIV infection by name. The purpose was to find persons with early HIV infection and ensure that they were educated about their disease and referred to appropriate treatment. Therefore, Nevada has a surveillance system for both HIV infection and AIDS. Once an HIV case becomes an AIDS case, the HIV and AIDS surveillance system is updated to reflect that occurrence. Nevada utilizes the CDC –developed HIV/AIDS Reporting System (HARS) for the HIV/AIDS registry in the state.

Typically, HIV/AIDS data has a 6-month to a year reporting delay in order to improve completeness and allow time for intrastate and interstate de-duplication of case reporting. There are several ways to report HIV and AIDS data, including:

**AIDS diagnosis:** Persons who are classified as having HIV and either one or more AIDS-defining opportunistic infection or a laboratory test indicating suppressed CD4+ cell counts of less than 200 cells/ $\mu$ L or 14%. States only report using this definition if the individual was residing in their state at the time of diagnosis.

**Concurrent HIV/AIDS:** An AIDS diagnosis within 31 days of an HIV diagnosis is considered concurrent. Persons concurrently diagnosed with HIV and AIDS are included in the totals of both HIV diagnoses and AIDS diagnoses. States only report using this definition if the individual was residing in their state at the time of diagnosis.

**HIV diagnosis:** A diagnosis of HIV infection is generally based on a positive Western blot test in adults and a positive PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test in infants less than 18 months of age. States only report using this definition if the individual was residing in their state at the time of diagnosis.

**HIV (not yet AIDS):** This definition is reserved for persons with a diagnosis of HIV that has not transitioned to AIDS based on immunology or an AIDS-defining opportunistic infection. States only report using this definition if the individual was residing in their state at the time of diagnosis.

**Persons living with HIV/AIDS in Nevada:** This data shows the number of persons currently living in Nevada that have a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. These persons may or may not have been residing in Nevada at the time of their diagnosis.