

HIV / AIDS Surveillance System



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State Web Site:	https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/hab/Pages/default.aspx
National Web Site:	https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/hiv-surveillance.html

Sources of Information for the Surveillance System

There are several statutes which pertain to the reporting of HIV/AIDS related lab results to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Public Health, HIV/AIDS Branch, HIV/AIDS surveillance program. Below are listed some of the most comprehensive statutes and regulations.

1. KRS 211.180 Section (1) (b) states the Cabinet shall adopt regulations specifying the information required in and a minimum time period for reporting a sexually transmitted disease. It also establishes that the Cabinet requires cases of HIV to be reported by name and other relevant data.
2. KRS 311.282 states physicians licensed shall not be civilly or criminally liable for disclosure of information to the Cabinet for HIV/AIDS reporting purposes.
3. KRS 214.625 states that no person who has obtained or has knowledge of a test result shall disclose or be compelled to disclose the identity of any person upon whom a test is performed, or results of the test that permit the identification of the subject of the test, except to those with a legitimate need to know including the Cabinet in accordance with rules for reporting and controlling the spread of disease as required by law.

HIV / AIDS

4. According to state regulation 902 KAR 2:020, Section 13, physicians, hospitals, laboratories, counseling and testing sites, and health professions licensed under KRS chapters 311-314 are required to report HIV and AIDS cases to the Kentucky Department for Public Health. New HIV reporting regulations were adopted on July 15, 2004. The regulations require HIV cases to be reported by name and no longer by a 'Unique Identifier.' AIDS cases have always been reported by name.

The surveillance branch is funded entirely from a federal grant through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct HIV surveillance and epidemiological activities.

Description of the Data Collected

HIV/AIDS data available to the public includes demographic information including race/ethnicity, sex, age at diagnosis, county of residence/area development district (ADD), modes of exposure to infection, year of diagnosis, and year of report for adults/adolescents and pediatric cases.

Strengths of the Data

The HIV/AIDS registry provides a population data set of reported HIV infections in Kentucky from mandatory lab reporting and medical record abstractions. Data are collected on standardized forms and include demographics (race/ethnicity, age groups and sex), mode of exposure, year of diagnosis, year of report, area development district (ADD), county of residence, laboratory and clinical information. The program processes clinical and immunologic lab data in a systematic manner which makes the registry robust. Data are managed using a series of standardized algorithms to decipher incoming data on previously existing cases or on new cases that need to be investigated. Surveillance performance standards and data quality are monitored at least monthly and lab data are imported into the registry routinely.

Data Limitations

HIV data are not always reported in a timely manner. As a result of reporting delays, case numbers for the most recent years of diagnosis may not be complete and therefore, not reliable for use in trend analyses. HIV/AIDS data provided by the Kentucky Department for Public Health are not adjusted for reporting delays. Another limitation of HIV/AIDS data includes the number of cases reported with undetermined mode of exposure information. The existence of large percentages of infections without known modes of transmission poses a barrier to provision of effective responses to the epidemic within the groups in question. Enhanced surveillance activities have been implemented to attempt to resolve case reports with missing mode of exposure information.

Specific Uses of Information

- Provides population level information of Kentucky's HIV/AIDS cases reported to the Department for Public Health.
- Provides data to create and evaluate prevention efforts and service initiatives for HIV/AIDS prevention specialists and community planning groups.
- Provides data for the evaluation of existing HIV/AIDS care and supportive services and the creation of new services to address unmet needs and service gaps.
- Provides data for grant applications for HIV/AIDS prevention and care services.
- Identify target populations that are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Used to assess Kentucky's progress regarding the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS), including information on the continuum of care— from diagnosis to viral suppression.

System Evaluation

The HIV registry is evaluated annually utilizing quality control standards developed by the CDC. Additionally, HIV data are monitored on a monthly basis to evaluate the progress of these performance standards.

Data Set Availability

Kentucky HIV/AIDS raw data are not available for public use due to security and confidentiality restrictions. Aggregate data requests can be filled at the public's request with identified restrictions at no cost. A copy of the data request form can be found in the appendix. For requests, please contact Bob Ford at bob.ford@ky.gov or (502) 564-6539 ext. 4285 or Julie Kauzlarich at julie.kauzlarich@ky.gov.

Data Release Policy

An integral part of public health surveillance is the dissemination of data to public health agencies, case providers, and the general public. Surveillance data are needed in order to analyze emerging and prevalent trends at the state and local level, as well as to effectively plan and evaluate prevention and care programs.

Key Components of Data Release:

- The data release policy of the Kentucky HIV/AIDS Program is based on three main factors: (1) the recipient of the data, (2) population size of the data region, and (3) time period. In no circumstances shall data be released if it is determined that the data may compromise surveillance activities or affect the public perception of confidentiality of the surveillance system.
- HIV/AIDS data are released in aggregate to ensure the security and confidentiality of reported cases. Data release policies exist for HIV/AIDS data release of any nature. A strict data release policy is necessary because release of certain types of data, even without names, could identify a case. Those individuals granted access to data must sign confidentiality agreements, with the understanding that the data are to be used only for those purposes listed in the agreements.

Data Publications

The HIV/AIDS program publishes data through an annual surveillance report, an integrated epidemiologic profile produced every 5 years with annual updates to the epidemiologic data, factsheets of selected populations or regions and supplemental reports. The program's publications can be accessed at the HIV/AIDS Web site: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/hab/Pages/reports-stats.aspx>. A host of additional resources including HIV prevention and care services data and external internet links to national HIV data are also available on our web site. Interactive maps for national and state level HIV data are also available at <https://aidsvu.org/> and <https://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/atlas/index.htm>.

Suggested Data Citation

Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *HIV/AIDS Surveillance*. Frankfort, Kentucky: Cabinet for Family and Health Services, Kentucky Department for Public Health, [**data year**].

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