

HIV in the United States: The Stages of Care

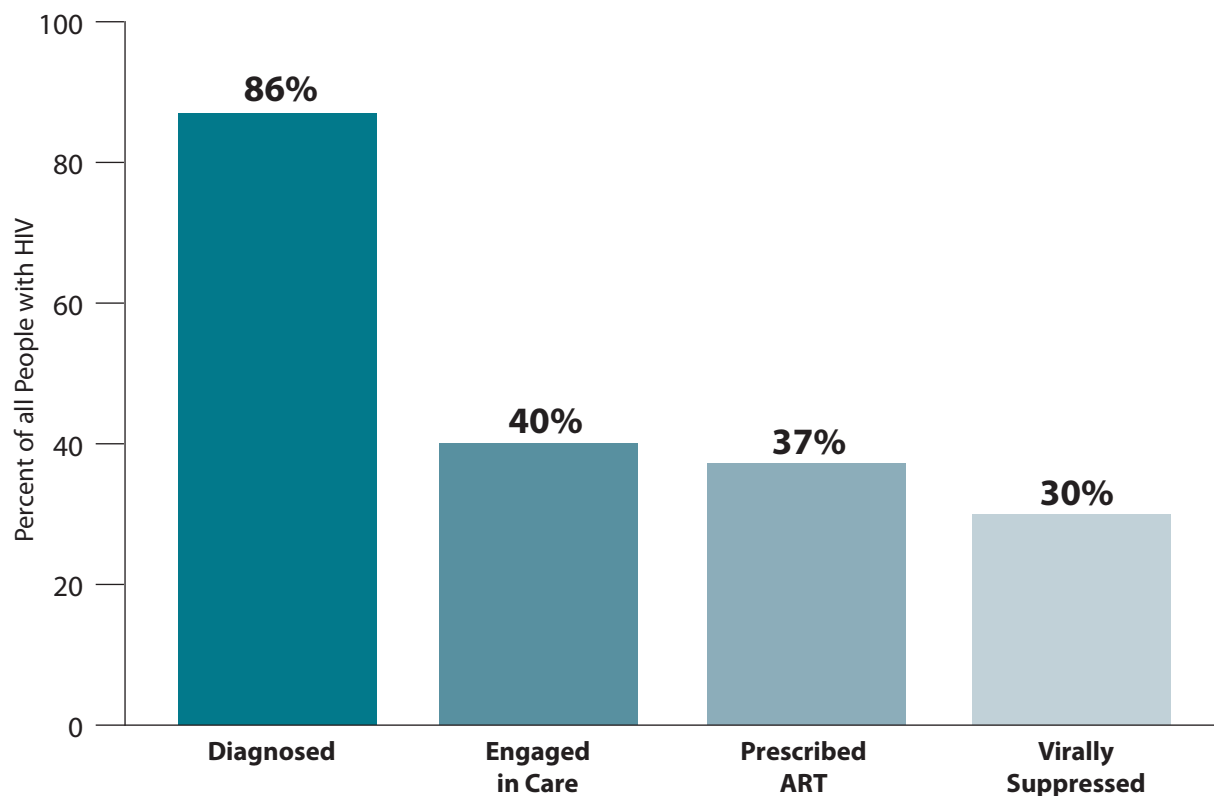
In November 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published a comprehensive analysis showing that only one-third of the 1.2 million Americans living with HIV have their virus under control.

The study, based on HIV prevalence data from 2011 and other data sources, includes information on the proportion of people engaged in each of the main stages of HIV care:

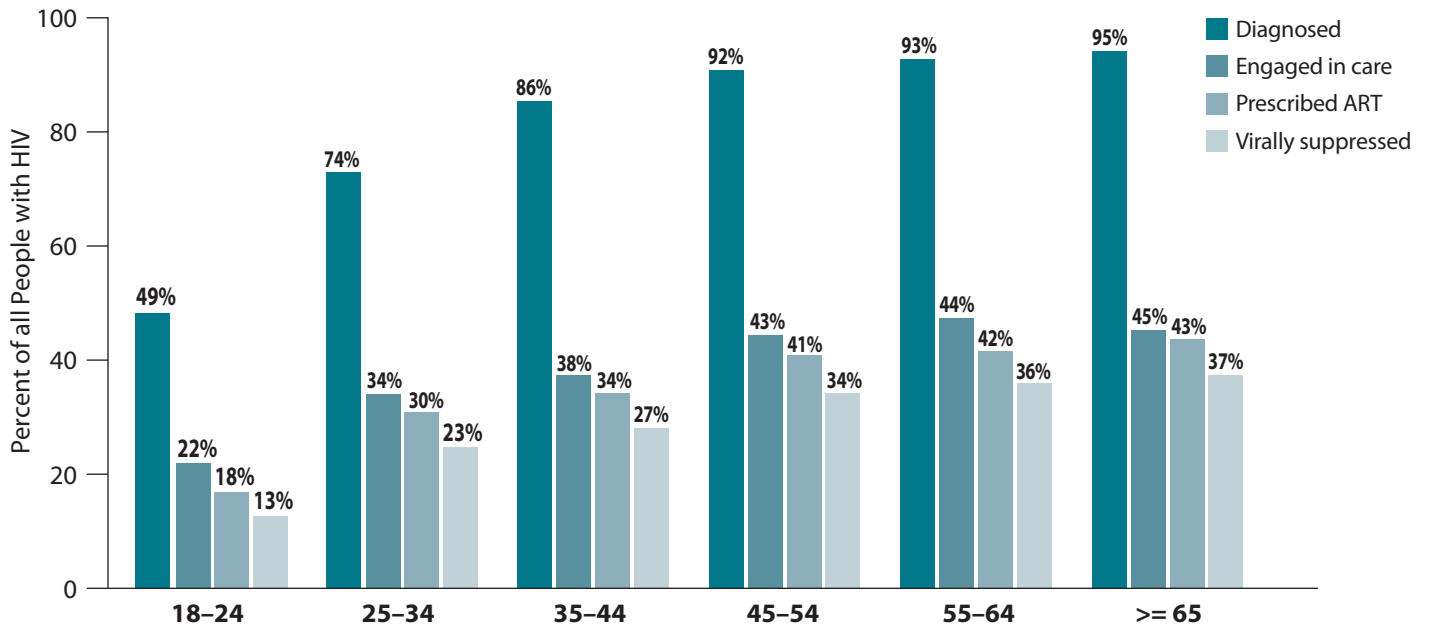
- HIV testing and diagnosis
- Engagement in care
- Provision of antiretroviral therapy
- Achieving “viral suppression,” by using treatment to keep HIV at a level that helps individuals stay healthy and reduces the risk of transmitting the virus to others

The analysis also provides the the most up-to-date look at HIV care by age, race/ethnicity, gender, and risk group. These findings are summarized in the charts below.

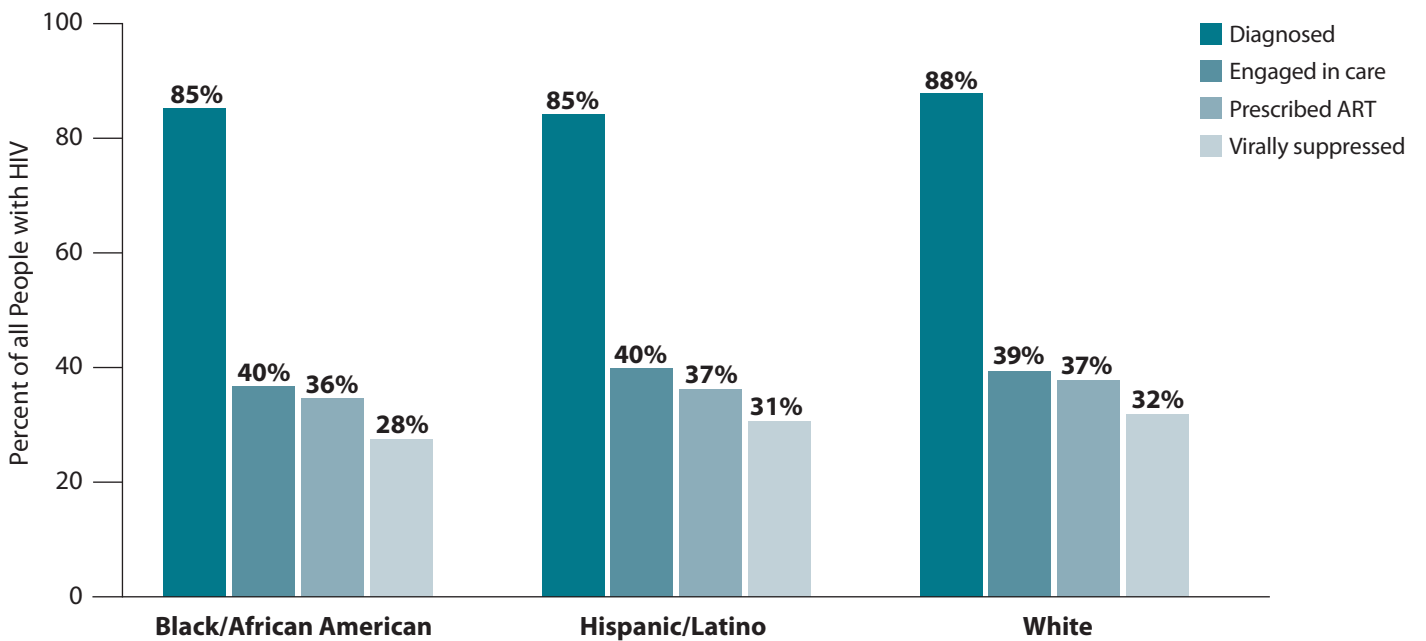
OVERALL: Of the 1.2 million Americans living with HIV, only 30 percent are virally suppressed.



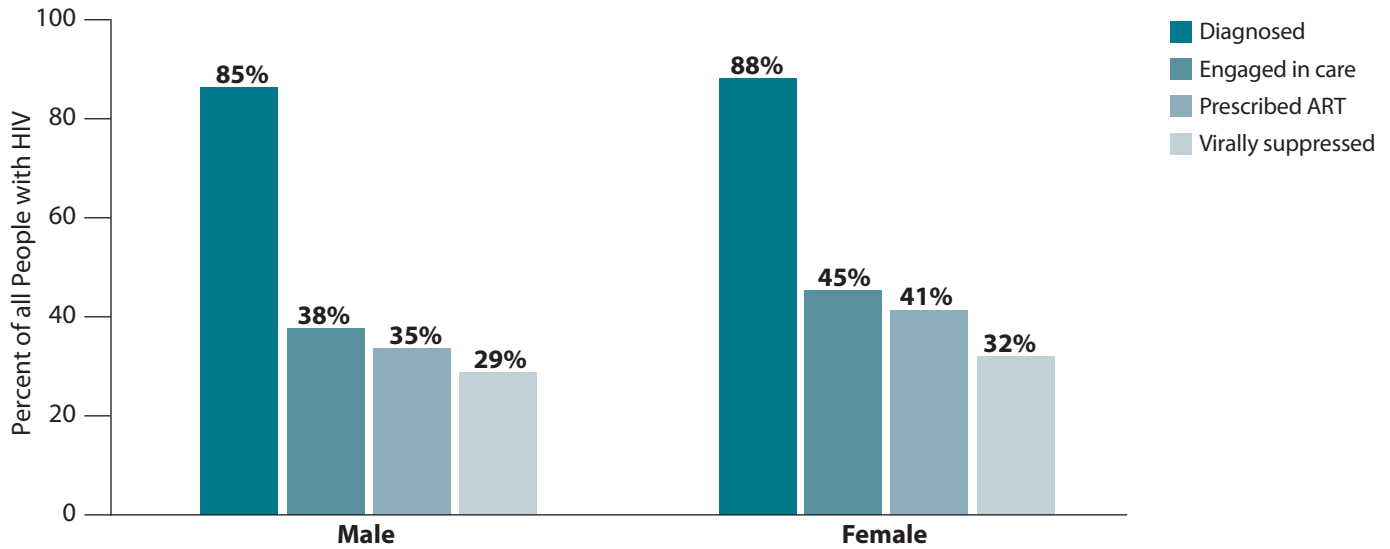
BY AGE: Younger Americans are least likely to have their virus in check.



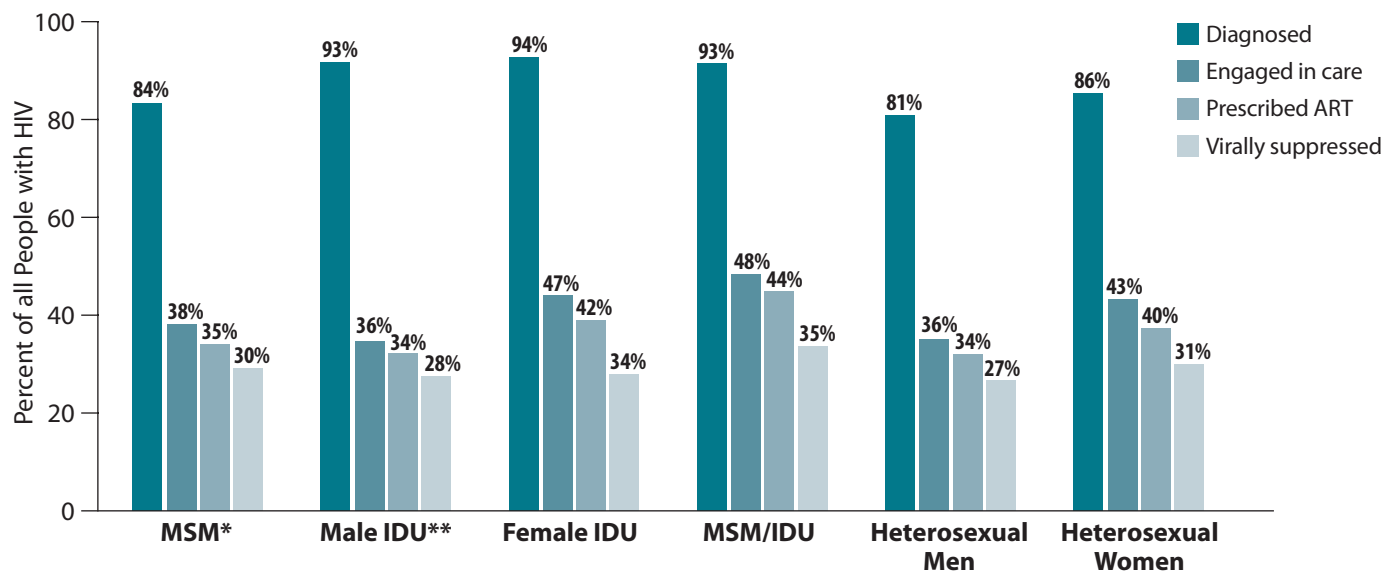
BY RACE/ETHNICITY: Low levels of viral suppression are seen across racial and ethnic groups.



BY GENDER: Men and women are equally likely to be virally suppressed.



BY RISK GROUP: Across all risk groups, roughly a third have their virus in check.



* The term men who have sex with men (MSM) is used in CDC surveillance systems because it indicates the behaviors that transmit HIV infection, rather than how individuals self-identify in terms of their sexuality

** IDU = Injection drug user

Closing the Gaps

To reduce the impact of HIV in the United States, improvements are needed at each stage of the process with particular efforts to reduce disparities by age. HIV testing is a first critical step in HIV prevention, and the only way to identify the nearly one in seven — more than 168,000 — Americans with HIV who do not know they are infected. In addition, ensuring that people have access to care, stay in care and remain on treatment will increase the proportion of HIV-infected individuals who achieve and maintain viral suppression, which is critical to improve health and realize the full potential prevention benefits of treatment.

Source: CDC. Vital Signs: HIV Diagnosis, Care, and Treatment Among Persons Living with HIV — United States, 2011. *MMWR* 2014;63(Early Release):1-6.