

## **2019 HIV Epidemiology Annual Report Executive Summary**

The 2019 HIV Epidemiology Annual Report presents another year of improvement in new HIV diagnoses and care outcomes. Nevertheless, some of the disparities observed in previous years have continued. To further understand these disparities, we have included new data and analyses in this report about social determinants of health among people newly diagnosed with HIV.

### **Trends and disparities in new diagnoses**

- New HIV diagnoses declined 19% from 204 diagnoses in 2018 to 166 diagnoses in 2019. This compares to a 13% decline between 2017 and 2018.
- Rates of new diagnoses for both Black/African American and Latino men declined in 2019 after annual increases during 2016-2018.
- Black/African American men and women had the highest HIV diagnosis rates by race, with rates per 100,000 population of 79 and 22, respectively, followed by Latinx men and women.
- The number and proportion of diagnoses among PWID declined in 2019 after annual increases during 2015-2018.
- The number and proportion of diagnoses among people experiencing homelessness declined in 2019 after annual increases during 2016-2018.
- HIV diagnosis rates were higher among people who live in areas that have a higher percentage of people below the federal poverty level, a higher percentage with less than a high school education, and a lower median household income.

### **Trends and disparities in care outcomes**

- 95% of new diagnoses in 2019 were linked to care within one month of diagnosis compared to 90% in 2018.
- 81% of new diagnoses in 2018 were virally suppressed within 12 months after diagnosis and the vast majority were virally suppressed within six months of diagnosis.
- Median time from diagnosis to first care visit declined from 7 days in 2015 to 2 days in 2018.
- Median time from diagnosis to viral suppression declined from 79 days in 2015 to 46 days in 2018.
- Compared to the overall proportion of viral suppression among PLWH (75%), viral suppression was lower for women (71%), Black/African Americans (70%), PWID (66%), MSM-PWID (69%), TWSM- PWID (67%), and was particularly low among people experiencing homelessness (39%).
- Three-year survival following an AIDS diagnosis was lowest among Black/African Americans (82%) compared to other races; and PWID (79%) compared to other transmission categories.
- The proportion of HIV-related deaths declined from 44% in 2014 to 29% in 2018.

These data show that San Francisco continues to make progress in HIV prevention and care and is on track toward Getting to Zero new infections and deaths. The recent declines in new diagnoses in populations who had no declines or an upward trend in past years is encouraging. Nevertheless, some vulnerable populations are still disproportionately affected by higher HIV diagnosis rates and poorer care outcomes. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has added significant new challenges in managing the HIV epidemic due to reduced HIV testing and care utilization. We will continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on persons living with HIV in San Francisco using surveillance data in coming reports.

