

HEZ DATA DICTIONARY



Total Living HIV Case Rate

Description: Living HIV case rates per 100,000 population, with or without an AIDS diagnosis.

Age: Includes ages 13+ years at time of HIV diagnosis; rates are not age-adjusted.

Age-Adjustment: A methodology used to compare rates among populations with differing age distributions.

Year(s) of Data Included:

Numerator (Living HIV Cases Data): Diagnosed with HIV by 12/31/2009 and reported by 12/31/2010

Denominator (Population Data): 2000 population projected to 2009 population

Resident Allocation: Includes all reported HIV cases among Maryland residents.

Data Suppression: Zip codes with a population less than 5,000 are suppressed. Zip codes with less than 5 cases are suppressed.

Limitations: Data consists only of diagnosed and reported HIV infections. Zip code is based on address at diagnosis and is missing for 5-10% of cases.

Data Interpretation: This rate expresses the health of the zip code from the perspective of living HIV cases. It corrects for differences in population size between zip codes. Therefore, this rate is appropriate for comparing the relative health among zip codes from the perspective of living HIV cases.

Data Sources: The numerator (Living HIV Cases Data) is legally mandated HIV case surveillance data of diagnoses reported by physicians, facilities, and laboratories, with follow-up investigations by state and local health departments. Deaths are reported by physicians, facilities, and Maryland Death Registry or identified through matches with the Maryland Death Registry, Social Security Master Death File, and National Death Index. The denominator (Population Data) is 2000 U.S. Census population numbers by zip code within each county, adjusted for proportion of 2000 Census population by county that were age 13+, and projected to 2009 using Maryland Department of Planning intercensal population estimates by county.

Data Reference: Center for HIV Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Evaluation, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Maryland Department of Planning; U.S. Census Bureau.