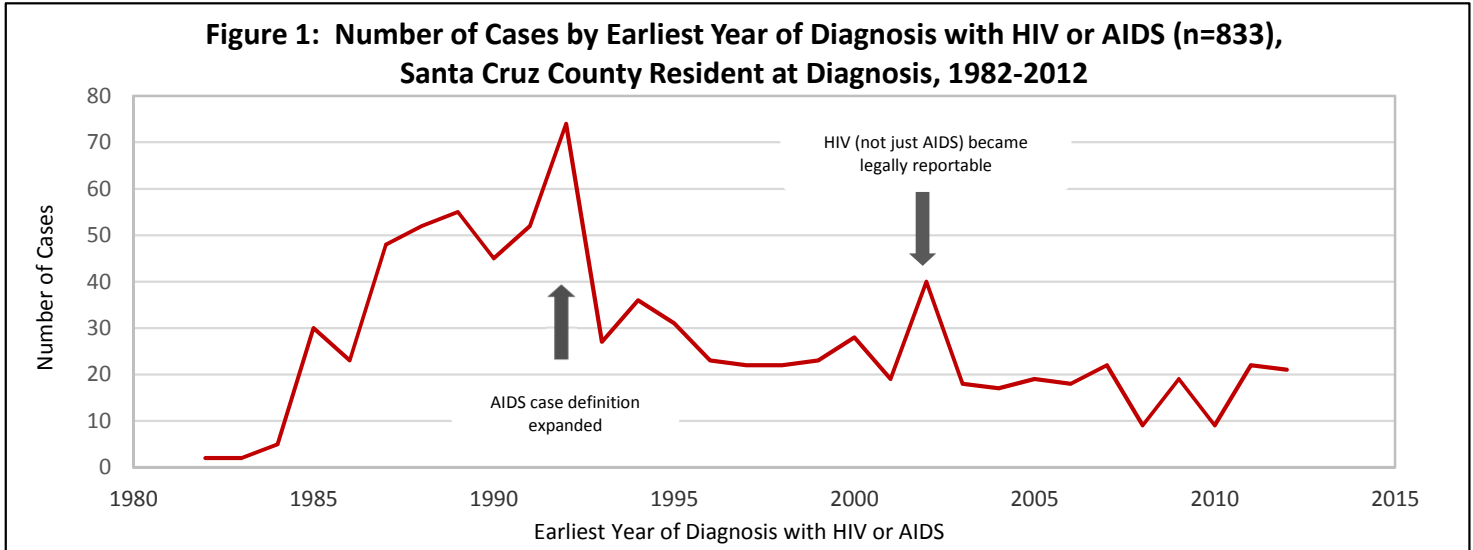


HIV & AIDS, Santa Cruz County, 1982-2012

Data represent cases diagnosed through 12/31/2012, and are current as of 7/30/2014.



HISTORY OF HIV/AIDS SURVEILLANCE

Over the years, surveillance of HIV/AIDS has evolved with increased understanding of the etiology and transmission. Initially, only Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was reportable. An expansion of the AIDS case definition in 1993 which included a lab results created a national increase in cases of 111%. On July 1, 2002, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) became reportable by non-name code; then on April 17, 2006, HIV cases were finally reported with names in California. The latest change to disease reporting, effective April 11, 2014, has moved HIV into stages of infection based on CD4+ T-lymphocyte counts, HIV stage 3 is equivalent to AIDS.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HIV/AIDS INCIDENCE

The number of persons being diagnosed with HIV has been decreasing since the peak in 1992 when 74 Santa Cruz County residents were diagnosed in one year (Figure 1). However, new infections continue to be diagnosed, with an average of 17 new cases per year between 2003 and 2012, or 6.8 per 100,000 population. Since the beginning of the epidemic, 833 Santa Cruz County residents have been diagnosed with HIV; 672 have AIDS.

Table 1 characterizes the 174 cases diagnosed between 2003 and 2012. The vast majority of these cases are males; most are White; 36% were diagnosed between the ages 35 and 44; and nearly 75% of males were exposed to HIV through male-to-male sexual contact. Comparing 2003-2007 to 2008-2012, cases reporting any injection drug use (IDU) decreased dramatically from 18% to 5%. A slight increase in the percentage of Latino cases, and a slight increase in cases residing in South County was also noted.

Table 1: Characteristics of Patients with New HIV Diagnosis (n=174), Santa Cruz County, 2003-2012

SEX	#	%
Male	152	87%
Female	22	13%

AGE AT DIAGNOSIS (years)	#	%
18 - 24	21	12%
25 - 34	40	23%
35 - 44	62	36%
45 - 70	51	29%

ETHNICITY	#	%
Latino	65	37%
White	89	51%
Black	9	5%
Asian	5	3%
Other	6	3%

MODE OF EXPOSURE	#	% of Males
MALES		
Male-to-Male Sex (MSM)	113	74%
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	7	5%
MSM & IDU	5	3%
High-risk Heterosexual Contact (HR)	7	5%
IDU & HR	3	2%
MSM & IDU & HR	1	1%
No identified risk	16	11%
FEMALES		
High-risk Heterosexual Contact (HR)	16	73%
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	1	5%
IDU & HR	4	18%
No identified risk	1	5%
TOTAL	174	100%

PRESUMED LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

Of the 833 Santa Cruz County residents diagnosed with HIV between 1982 and 2012, 102 are known to have moved out of Santa Cruz County. An additional 38 HIV positive persons have moved into Santa Cruz County, and 387 have died -- leaving 382 people presumed living with HIV/AIDS in Santa Cruz County. This equates to a prevalence rate of 142.8 cases per 100,000 population.

Table 2 presents the characteristics of the people presumed living with HIV/AIDS in Santa Cruz County. The majority are males; most are White; the largest number are currently between the ages of 45 and 64; and, two-thirds have stage 3 HIV (AIDS). Nearly half of the persons live in North County (Santa Cruz and Bonny Doon).

Taking into account the population distribution, the HIV/AIDS demographic distributions are generally similar with a few exceptions. For example, 1% of the total population is black, but 3% of the HIV cases are black. Another example is sex, about half the population is male, but 87% of cases are males.

DEATHS AMONG HIV/AIDS CASES

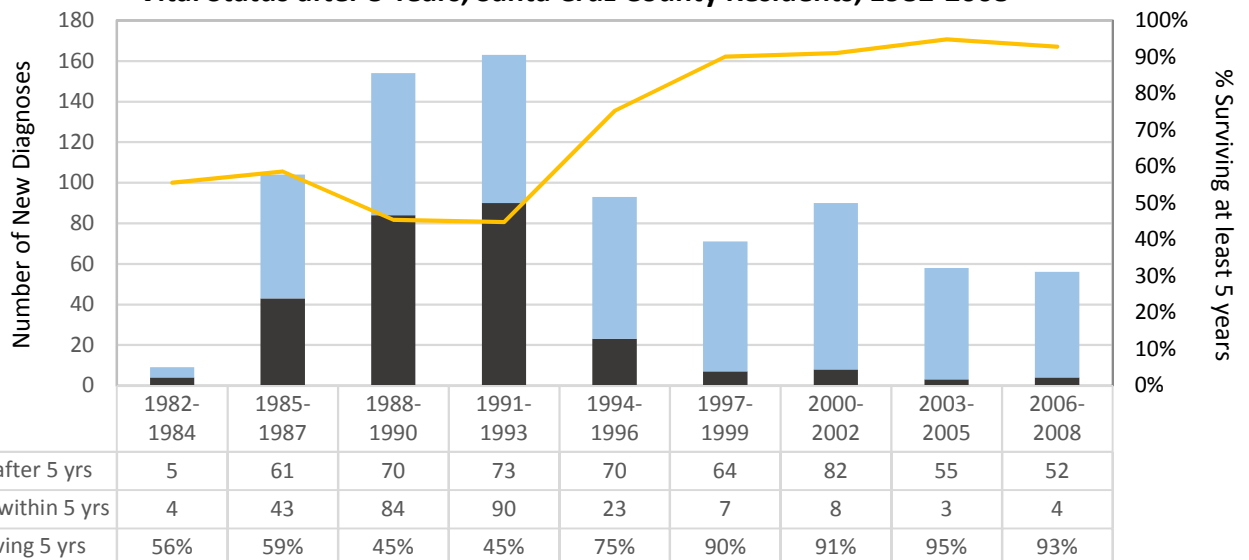
Before the mid-1990's, highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART) did not exist. This therapy drastically reduced the fatality rate associated with HIV/AIDS. Prior to HAART, nearly half of HIV/AIDS cases died within five years. Since HAART, less than 10% of cases died within five years of diagnosis. Figure 2 shows the increase in surviving more than five years among cases being diagnosed after the mid-1990's.

Table 2: Characteristics of People Presumed to be Living with HIV/AIDS (n=382), Santa Cruz County, as of December 30, 2012

HIV STAGE	#	%
HIV only	132	35%
AIDS	250	65%
SEX		
Male	332	87%
Female	50	13%
CURRENT AGE		
17 - 24	6	2%
25 - 44	109	29%
45 - 64	233	61%
65 - 81	34	9%
ETHNICITY		
Latino	118	31%
White	235	62%
Black	13	3%
Asian and Pacific Islander	12	3%
Other	5	1%
CURRENT AREA OF RESIDENCE ¹		
North County	184	48%
Mid-County	63	16%
South County	86	23%
Santa Cruz Mountains	35	9%
Scotts Valley	14	4%
TOTAL	382	100%

1) North County = Santa Cruz and Bonny Doon; Mid-County = Aptos, Capitola and Soquel; South County = Corralitos, Freedom, La Selva Beach and Watsonville; Santa Cruz Mountains = Ben Lomond, Boulder Creek, Brookdale, Felton and Mt. Hermon.

Figure 2: Number of HIV/AIDS Cases by Earliest Year of Diagnosis and Vital Status after 5 Years, Santa Cruz County Residents, 1982-2008*



* The time period ends at 2008 to allow five years to elapse.