

***HAF v. Bruno* Background: Communities Disproportionately Affected by AIDS and HIV**

Latina/os

Number of Latina/os in Queens

Total Queens Population (2000 Census):	2,229,379
Total Latino Population in Queens:	556,605

Roughly 25% of the Queens population is Latina/o.

According to more detailed numbers, Jackson Heights (HAF's old neighborhood) has a higher percentage of Latina/os than Woodside (HAF's new building).

Jackson Heights Latino Pop (1990):	56,357 – 43.7%
Woodside Latino Pop (1990):	29,076 – 30.7% ¹

Number of Latina/os with AIDS/HIV

NYC

Latino Commission on AIDS reports:

- While NY has only 9% of the Latina/os in the US, it accounts for over 30% of the Latino AIDS cases across the nation and territories.

Nationally

The CDC reports:

- 15% of Latino men who have sex with men are infected with HIV.
- 82% of the new AIDS cases among women in the US in 1998 were among African-Americans (62%) and Latinas (19%)
- In nine cities, including New York, AIDS is the leading cause of death for women between the ages of 22 and 44.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that:

- While Latina/os represent approx. 12% of the US population, approximately 18% of reported AIDS cases are Latina/os.
- Latina/os account for 20% of all new HIV cases.

¹ The U.S. Census Bureau has not yet released a neighborhood by neighborhood breakdown of race/ethnic statistics from the 2000 Census. Jackson Heights Statistical Info: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/qn3lu.html>
Woodside Statistics Info: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/qn2lu.html>.

Transgender People

Number of Transgender People with AIDS/HIV

- A 1990's survey published in *JAMA* (Journal for the American Medical Association) found that 14.3% of transgender MTFs (Male to Female) were HIV positive.²
- In a 1998-99 Los Angeles County study of 244 MTF transsexuals 22% of those in the study group were HIV positive (versus only a fraction of 1% of the general population of the US that is thought to be HIV positive). In a follow-up survey, it was determined that for a group of 100 transsexuals, the infection rate was 3.4%.³
- In a study published in July 2000 entitled *Epidemiologic Profile of HIV and AIDS in Los Angeles County*, 40% of MTFs surveyed who were between ages 30-39 tested positive for HIV.
- In another study presented at the 1999 National HIV Prevention Conference, of the transgender people who participated, only 48.2% had ever been tested and 19.6% tested positive. (Another 3.6% refused to divulge the results.)⁴

Public health officials believe transgender people are at increased risk for AIDS because they 1) cannot afford necessary medical services and often inject black market hormones, which often means sharing needles, 2) are not necessarily reached by gay health organizations, particularly because many do not identify as gay, and 3) due to lack of social acceptance, are at greater risk for substance abuse, including IV drug use. At this time, there is very little information about the rate of infection among transgendered people.

² Valleroy, Linda A. et al. *HIV Prevalence and Associated Risks in Young Men Who Have Sex With Men*. *JAMA*, Vol. 284, No. 2. 2000.

³ Siegal, Nina. *A Plague Undetected*. Salon.com. March 28, 2001.
<http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2001/02/28/transgender/print.html>. Cites research by Paul Simon, a medical epidemiologist with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services that was published in *AIDS*.

⁴ Sykes, DL; Truax, SR. *Factors Related to HIV Risks in Transgender People*. California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS.