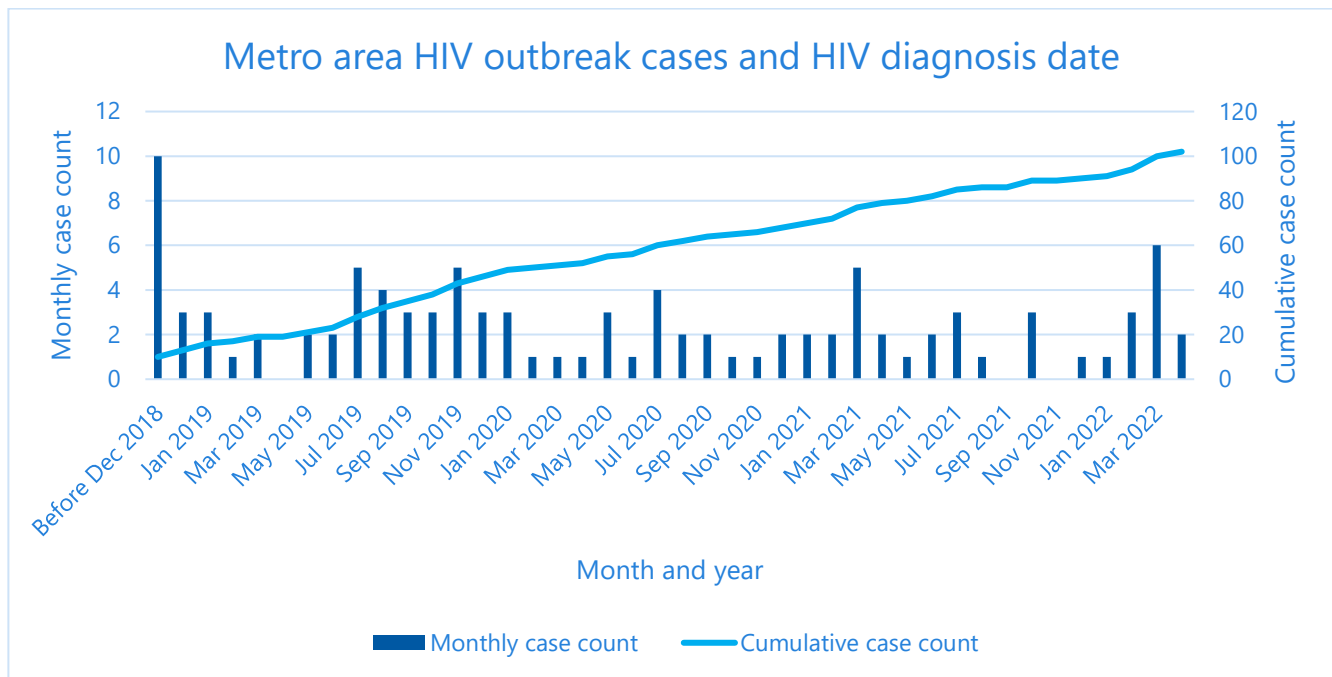


# HIV outbreak in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties: case characteristics – June 23, 2022

As of June 23, 2022, there are 102 HIV outbreak cases in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties among people who inject drugs (PWID) and/or who have a history of unsheltered homelessness. June 2022 is the 43rd month of the HIV outbreak; the HIV outbreak was retroactively determined to have begun in December 2018. This document describes the sociodemographic and epidemiological characteristics of the HIV outbreak cases.

## HIV outbreak cases over time

All cases diagnosed since December 2018 are epidemiologically linked to other outbreak cases as an injection drug equipment-sharing partner, sex partner, or encampment contact. You can find a full list of case counts and cumulative case counts by month and year in Appendix A: case count and cumulative count by month table. Unfortunately, two individuals have passed away between Dec 2018 – June 2022. They are still included in the counts below.



# Demographics

## County

County	Case count	Percentage of cases
Hennepin	82	80.4%
Ramsey	20	19.6%
Total	102	-

## Race/ethnicity

The American Indian population is experiencing the greatest systemic barriers to HIV-related health information and service access in this HIV outbreak, including access to HIV prevention and care. This is demonstrated through empirical evidence, including information gathered through Hennepin County Public Health’s community engagement efforts. Inequitable access to the social determinants of health (like housing, income, education, and healthcare) has resulted in the American Indian population being overrepresented in the outbreak. Addressing this HIV outbreak will require a cross-sector approach that addresses structural racism and the social determinants of health.

Race/ethnicity	Case count	Percentage of cases	Rate per 100,000 †
Not Hispanic (NH), White	43	42.2%	3.7
NH, American Indian/Alaska Native	32	31.4%	292.8
NH, Black or African American	14	13.7%	5.8
Hispanic, any race(s)	5	4.9%	3.5
NH, multiple races	5	4.9%	6.2
NH, Asian/Pacific Islander	3	2.9%	1.6
Total	102	-	2.8

† Population denominators from 2020 Census and include Hennepin County and Ramsey County combined.

## Multi-racial American Indian population

During [SHAPE 2018](#), Hennepin County Public Health engaged with American Indian community leaders. They recommended including all individuals who identify as American Indian within that demographic category, regardless of whether they identified as American Indian alone or in combination with other races. Three of the five individuals who indicate multiple races identify as American Indian. Rates were calculated using these modified race/ethnicity groupings.

Race/ethnicity	Case count	Percentage of cases	Rate per 100,000 †
Not Hispanic (NH), American Indian/Alaska Native (alone or in combination)	34	34.0%	43.1
NH, multiple races (not including American Indian/Alaska Native)	2	2.0%	26.7
Total	102	-	2.8

† Population denominators from 2020 Census and include Hennepin County and Ramsey County combined. NH, American Indian/Alaska Native population includes anyone identifying as such either alone or in combination with any other race(s). NH, multiple races (not including American Indian/Alaska Native) includes anyone identifying as more than one race but not American Indian/Alaska Native.

## Gender identity

Gender identity	Case count	Percentage of cases
Male	72	70.6%
Female	27	26.5%
Trans woman	3	2.9%
Total	102	-

## Risk factors

Individuals can have more than one risk factor.

Risk Factor	Case count	Percentage of cases
Injection drug use (IDU) alone	48	47.1%
Men who have sex with men (MSM)/IDU	49	48.0%
Encampment connection	49	48.0%
History of sex work	15	14.7%
History of incarceration	12	11.7%

Men who have sex with men (MSM) is based on sex assigned at birth, not gender identity, in line with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) definition. Both cis men and trans women who have sex with men are classified as MSM. While the majority of cases are among people who inject drugs (PWID), cases are included if they have lived in an encampment in Minneapolis or St. Paul or are "named as a sex partner to a case meeting other outbreak-related criteria."

## Drug(s) used

50% of cases (n=40) reported drug use at the time of their case interview. Some noted using more than one drug. This information was last updated on August 20, 2021.

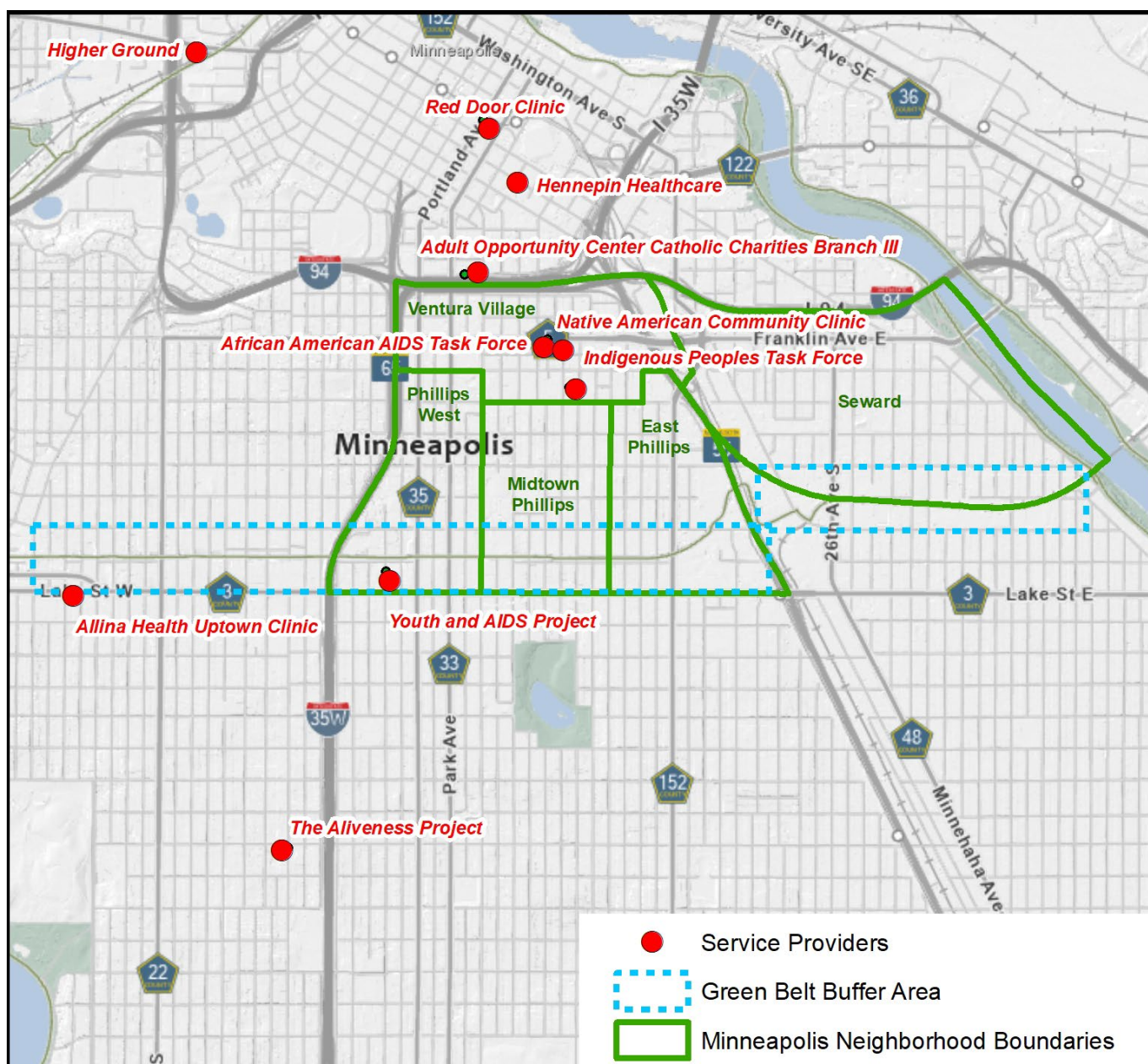
Drug	Case count	Percentage among cases reporting drug use
Cocaine	8	20%
Crack	6	15%
Heroin	14	35%
Meth	34	85%
Poppers	5	13%
Other	13	33%

## Age at time of HIV diagnosis

Age group	Case count	Percentage of cases
18-19	1	1.0%
20-24	10	9.8%
25-29	29	28.4%
30-34	21	20.6%
35-39	17	16.6%
40-44	8	7.8%
45-49	7	6.8%
50-54	4	3.9%
55-59	3	2.9%
60+	2	1.9%
Total	102	-

## HIV outbreak response and service provider map

Many outbreak cases are encamped along the Midtown Greenway and the five highlighted neighborhoods of Minneapolis. Most HIV outbreak cases have received their *most recent* HIV medical care at Hennepin Healthcare. Allina Health Uptown Clinic and Native American Community Care also provide HIV medical care. Hennepin County Public Health emphasizes *most recent* HIV medical care as evidence suggests many of these patients are not retained in HIV medical care. Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program funded community-based organizations, like the African American AIDS Task Force, Indigenous Peoples Task Force, The Aliveness Project, and Youth and AIDS Projects, are serving HIV outbreak cases and are geographically located in the area where most identified unsheltered people with HIV reside. Health Care for the Homeless is providing services at encampments, the Adult Opportunity Center Catholic Charities Branch III, and Higher Ground. Red Door Clinic, part of Hennepin County Public Health, has conducted testing, disease investigation, and linkage services for HIV outbreak cases.



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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 612-596-8699.

## Appendix A: case count and cumulative count by month table

Month and year	Case count	Cumulative case count
Before December 2018	10	10
December 2018	3	13
January 2019	3	16
February 2019	1	17
March 2019	2	19
April 2019	0	19
May 2019	2	21
June 2019	2	23
July 2019	5	28
August 2019	4	32
September 2019	3	35
October 2019	3	38
November 2019	5	43
December 2019	3	46
January 2020	3	49
February 2020	1	50
March 2020	1	51
April 2020	1	52
May 2020	3	55
June 2020	1	56
July 2020	4	60
August 2020	2	62
September 2020	2	64
October 2020	1	65
November 2020	1	66
December 2020	2	68
January 2021	2	70
February 2021	2	72
March 2021	5	77
April 2021	2	79
May 2021	1	80
June 2021	2	82
July 2021	3	85
August 2021	1	86
September 2021	0	86
October 2021	3	89
November 2021	0	89
December 2021	1	90
January 2022	1	91
February 2022	3	94
March 2022	6	100
April 2022	2	102



