

HIV among Transgender Persons in New York City 2009-2013



**HIV Epidemiology and Field Services Program
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

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<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/dires/hivepi.shtml>

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Who is Considered Transgender by NYC HIV/AIDS Surveillance?

- **Persons whose current gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth***
- **Persons classified as transgender can be of any sexual orientation, and may or may not have received hormone therapy or sex reassignment surgery**

* “Sex assigned at birth” refers to male or female sex that was assigned to a person at birth based on their anatomy. The phrase is equivalent in meaning to “sex at birth” and acknowledges that, for instance, some transgender persons assigned male sex at birth and identifying as women may feel that they were always female, in spite of their anatomy.

How is Transgender Status* Collected by NYC HIV/AIDS Surveillance?

- **Collected routinely since 2005 for newly reported cases**
- **Must be reported by medical provider as transgender or documented in medical record, either of which may reflect patient report**
- **Requires accurate collection of both sex assigned at birth and current gender identity**
- **Surveillance classifies all transgender persons as one of:**
 - **Transgender woman (MTF) = male-to-female, male sex assigned at birth and identifies as a woman**
 - **Transgender man (FTM) = female-to-male, female sex assigned at birth and identifies as a man**

* “Transgender status” refers to whether data indicate that a person is or is not transgender. Some refer to this as “transgender identity,” although some transgender persons may identify as a man or woman only and not as transgender per se.

New HIV Diagnoses among Transgender Persons in NYC, 2009-2013

Basic Statistics

- **212 new HIV diagnoses in 2009-2013**
 - 210 transgender women (MTF; 99%)
 - 2 transgender men (FTM; 1%)
- **Includes 22 diagnoses of HIV concurrent with AIDS* (10%) in 2009-2013**
- **Transgender persons comprised 1% of all new HIV diagnoses in NYC in 2009-2013**

*AIDS diagnosed within 31 days of HIV; suggests late diagnosis of HIV.

As reported to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by June 30, 2014.

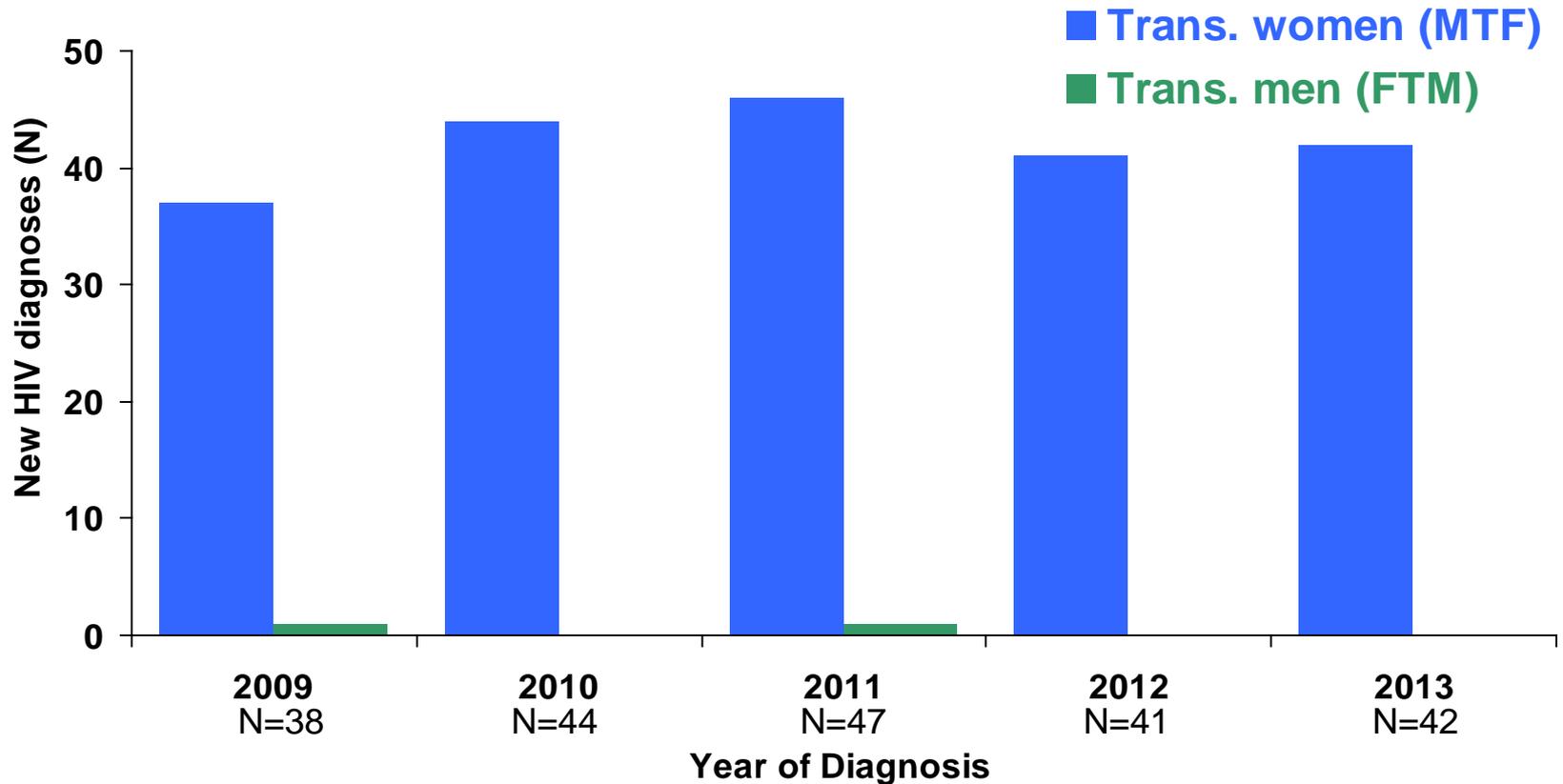
New HIV Diagnoses among Transgender Persons in NYC, 2013

Basic Statistics

- **42 new HIV diagnoses in 2013**
 - 42 transgender women (MTF; 100%)
 - 0 transgender men (FTM; 0%)
- **Includes 3 diagnoses of HIV concurrent with AIDS* (7%) in 2013**
- **Transgender persons comprised 1% of all new HIV diagnoses in NYC in 2013**

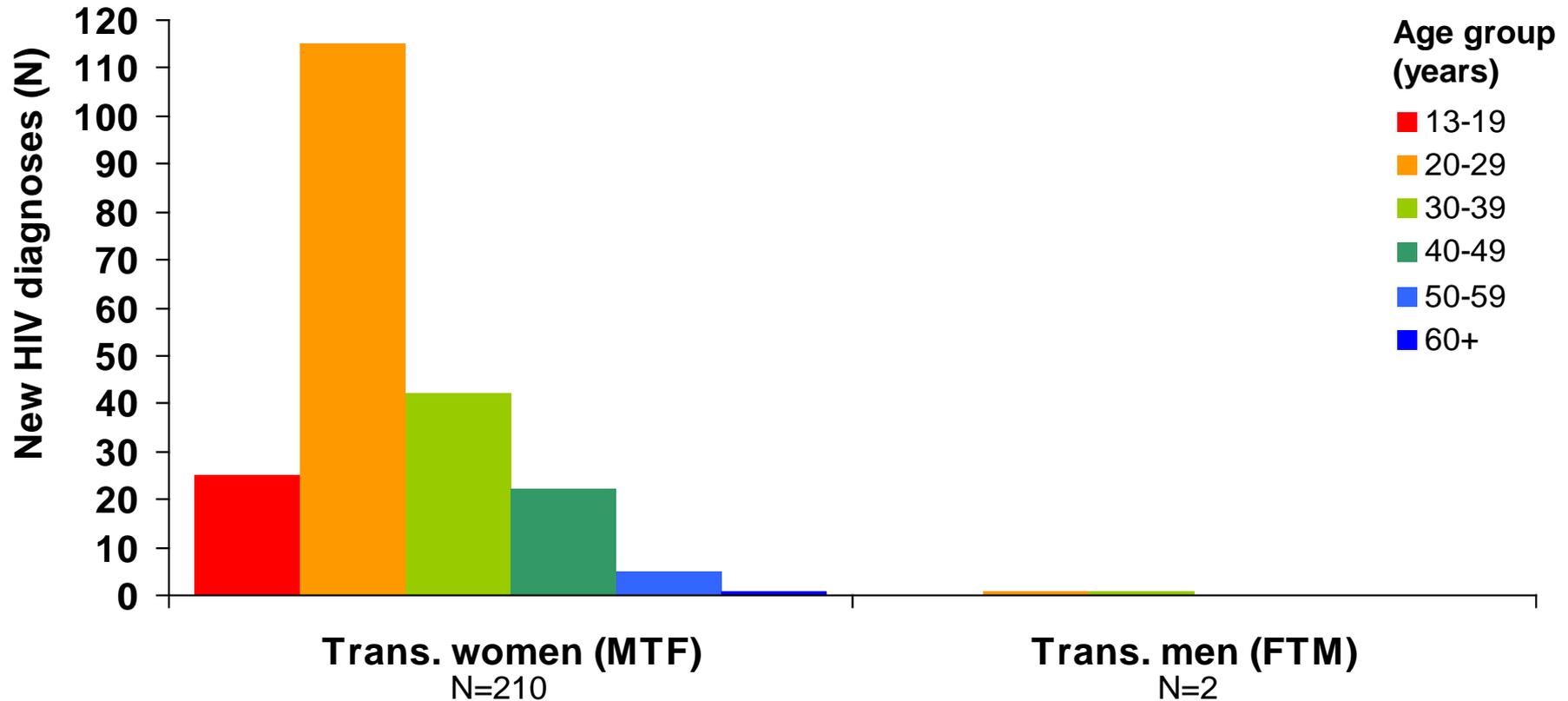
*AIDS diagnosed within 31 days of HIV; suggests late diagnosis of HIV.

New HIV Diagnoses among Transgender Persons by Gender Identity and Year of Diagnosis in NYC, 2009-2013



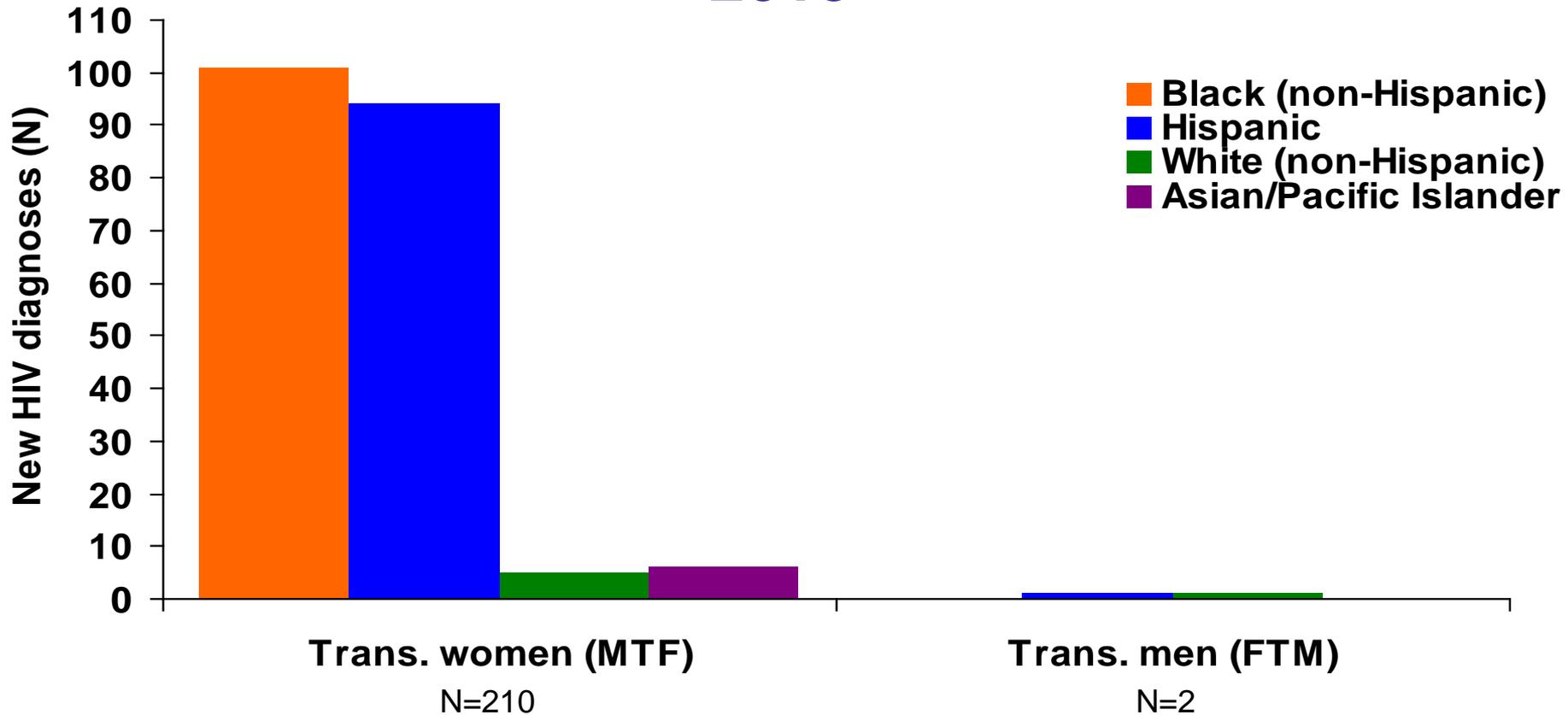
Between 2009 and 2013, 212 transgender persons were newly diagnosed with HIV. This included 37-46 transgender women (MTF) and 0-1 transgender men (FTM) each year.

New HIV Diagnoses among Transgender Persons by Gender Identity and Age at Diagnosis in NYC, 2009-2013



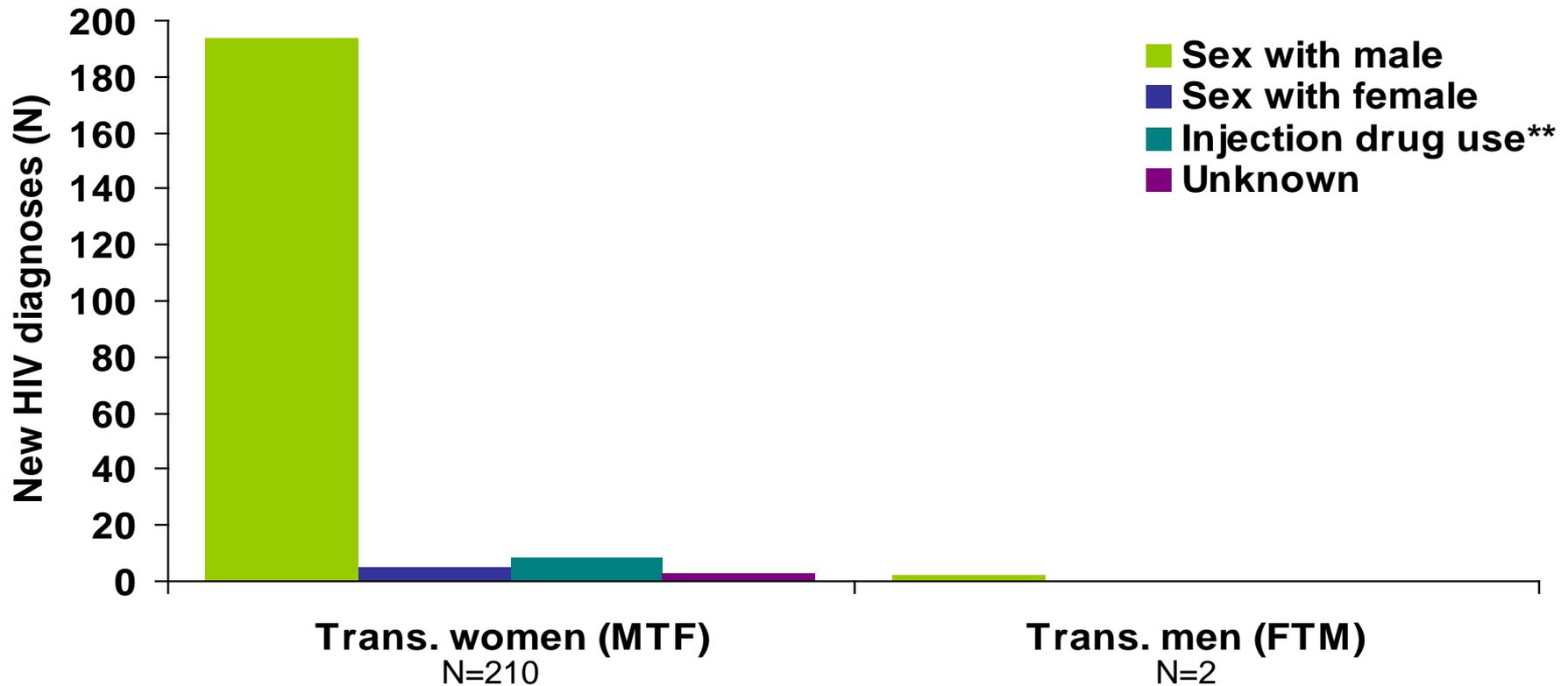
Newly diagnosed transgender women (MTF) were predominantly in their 20s. Newly diagnosed transgender men (FTM) were in their 20s and 30s.

New HIV Diagnoses among Transgender Persons by Gender Identity and Race/Ethnicity in NYC, 2009-2013



About 93% of transgender women (MTF) newly diagnosed with HIV between 2009 and 2013 were black or Hispanic. Newly diagnosed transgender men (FTM) were Hispanic and white.

New HIV Diagnoses among Transgender Persons by Gender Identity and Type of HIV Risk* in NYC, 2009-2013



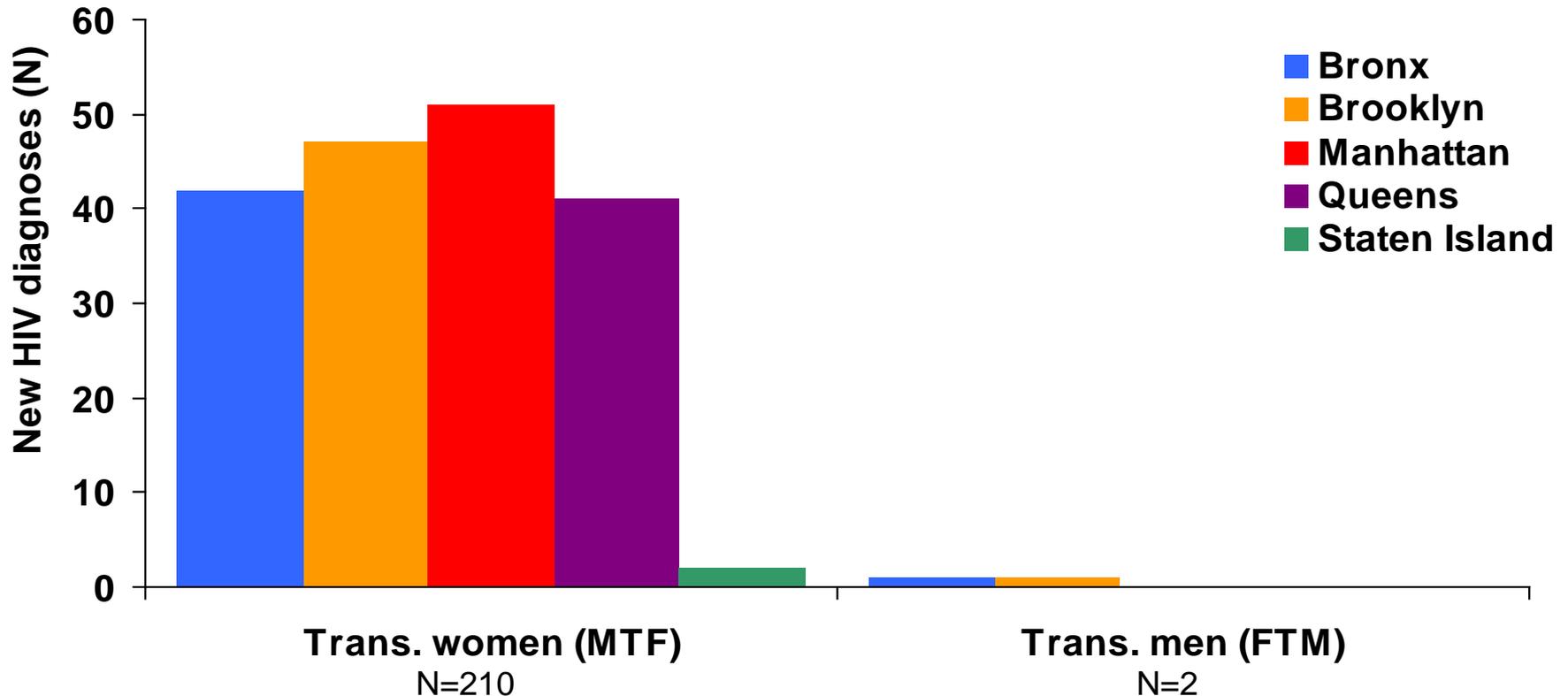
Sex with a male was the predominant type of HIV risk among newly diagnosed transgender women (MTF) and men (FTM).

*To avoid inappropriately labeling some transgender persons as “men who have sex with men” or “heterosexual,” “type of risk” differs from “transmission risk” presented elsewhere. Here, anyone with a history of injecting drugs was assigned this risk. Non-injectors reporting a male sex partner were assigned “sex with male,” and non-injectors reporting female sex partners only were assigned “sex with female.”

**Injection drug use likely does not include injection of hormones.

As reported to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by June 30, 2014.

New HIV Diagnoses among Transgender Persons by Gender Identity and Borough* in NYC, 2009-2013

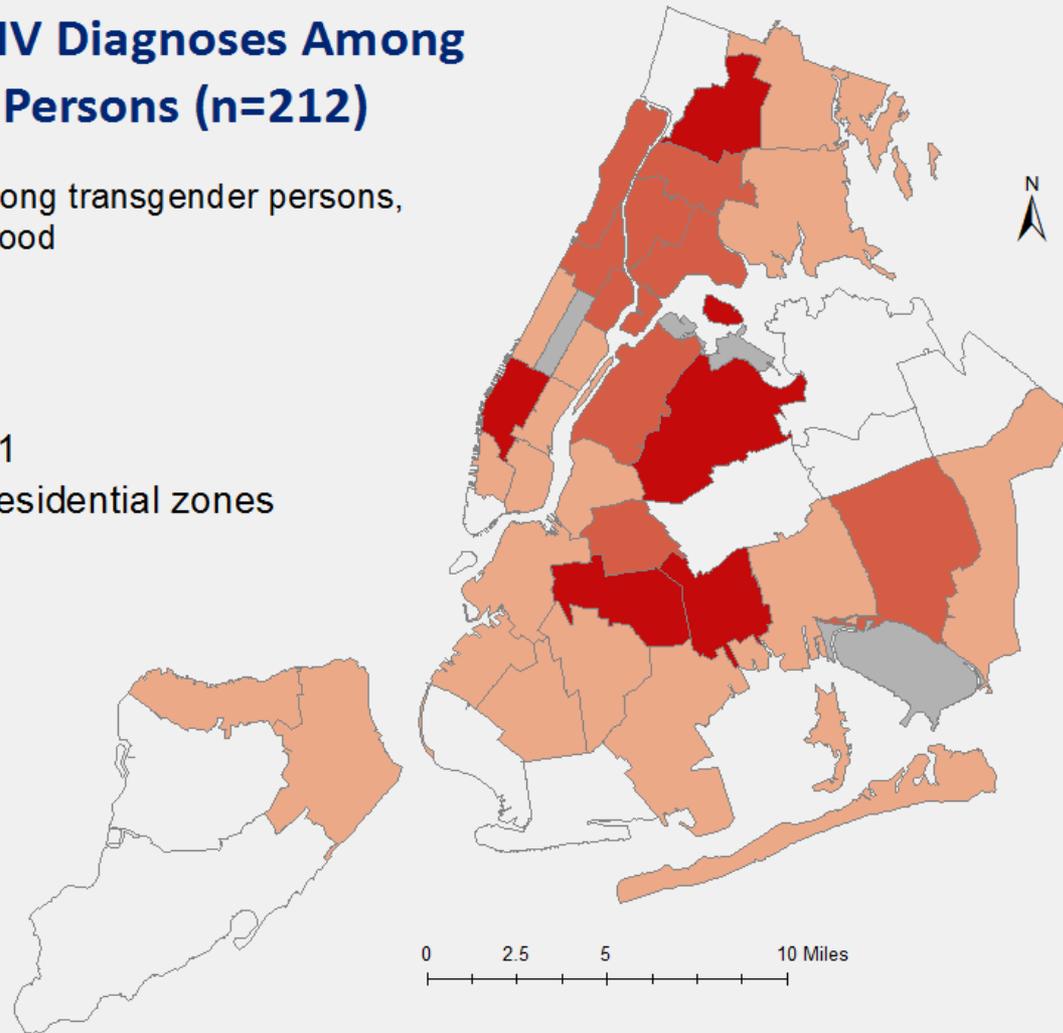
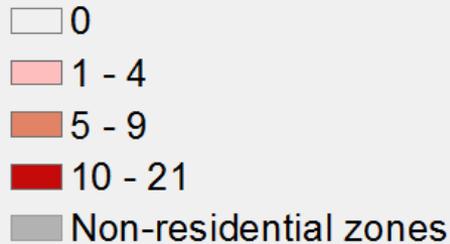


The Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens were each home to about 20% of newly diagnosed transgender women (MTF). Newly diagnosed transgender men (FTM) lived in the Bronx and Brooklyn.

*Borough is NYC borough of patient residence at time of HIV diagnosis. Some newly diagnosed persons lived outside NYC. As reported to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by June 30, 2014.

2009-2013 HIV Diagnoses Among Transgender Persons (n=212)

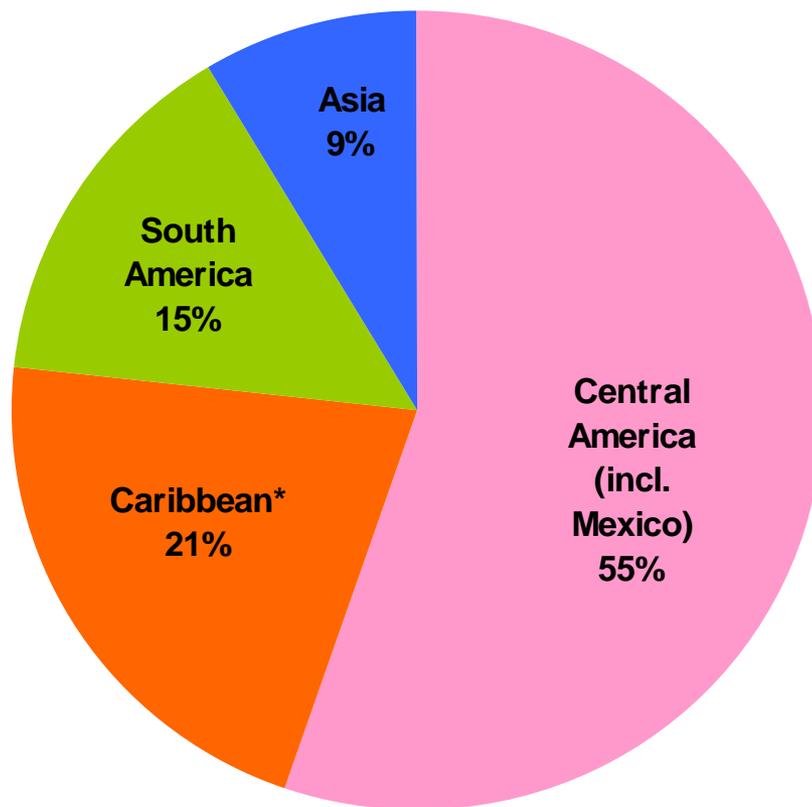
HIV diagnoses among transgender persons, by UHF neighborhood



The highest numbers of newly diagnosed transgender persons lived in West Queens*, Chelsea–Clinton, Bedford Stuyvesant–Crown Heights, Fordham–Bronx Park, and Chelsea–Clinton.

*Rikers Island is classified with the UHF neighborhood of West Queens.
As reported to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by June 30, 2014.

New HIV Diagnoses among Foreign-born Transgender Persons by Region of Birth, NYC, 2009-2013

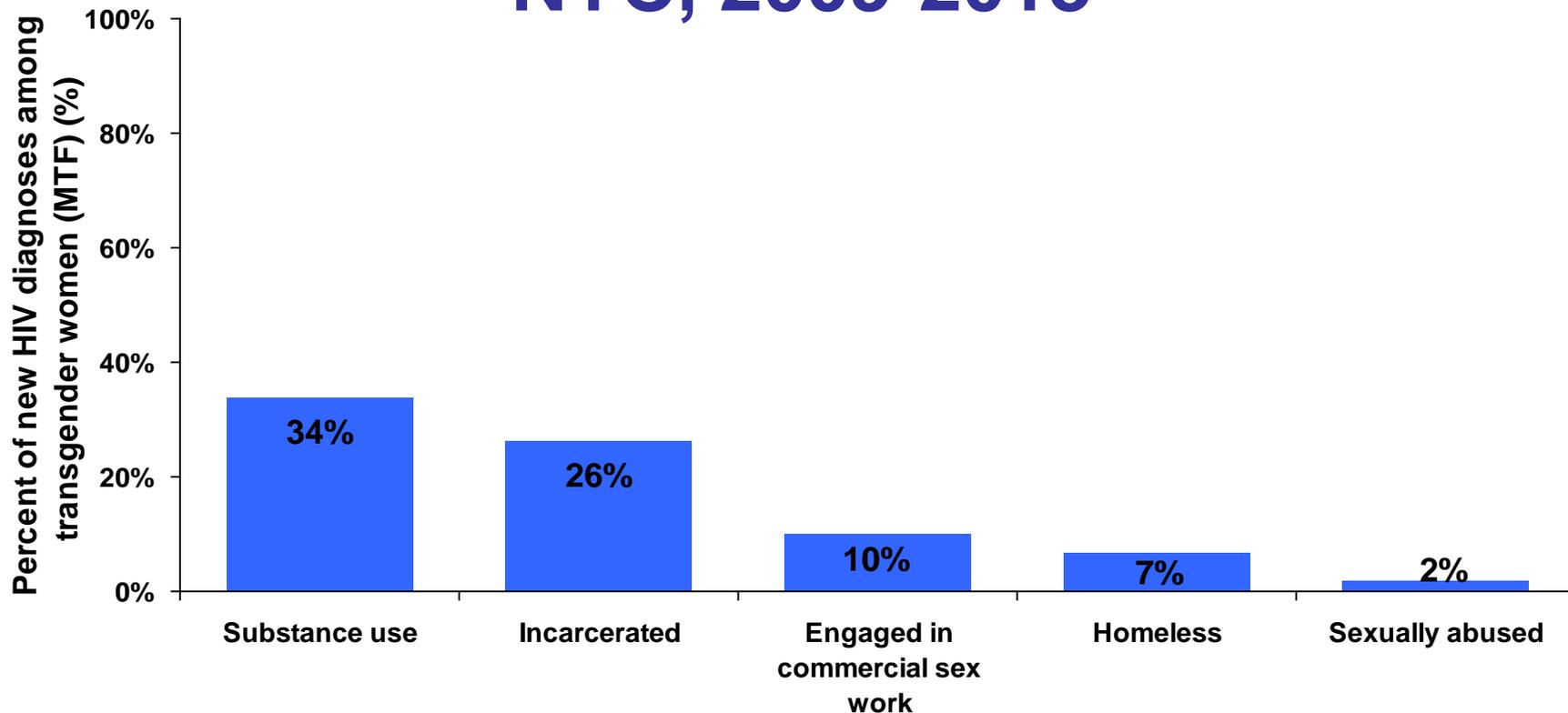


Among transgender persons newly diagnosed with HIV, 22% were foreign-born (n=47), of whom more than three-quarters were from Central America (including Mexico) and the Caribbean*.

*Excludes Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

As reported to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by June 30, 2014.

Additional Characteristics* of Transgender Women (MTF) Newly Diagnosed with HIV in NYC, 2009-2013



Among the 210 newly diagnosed transgender women (MTF), 49% had documentation in their medical record or by their provider of a history of at least one of the characteristics presented above, compared with 31% of non-transgender persons (not shown).

Transgender and Non-transgender Persons Newly Diagnosed with HIV, by Age at Diagnosis, Area of Birth and Injection Drug Use in NYC, 2009-2013

	Transgender (N=212)	Non-transgender (N=15,893)
Age at diagnosis		
0-12	0%	<1%
13-19	12%	5%
20-29	55%	32%
30-39	20%	24%
40-49	10%	22%
50-59	2%	12%
60+	1%	5%
Area of birth		
US	68%	57%
US dependency	6%	4%
Foreign country	22%	31%
Unknown	3%	8%
Injection drug use		
Yes	4%	4%
No	96%	96%

Newly diagnosed transgender persons were more likely than non-transgender persons to be in their teens or 20s and born in the US. Transgender and non-transgender persons were about equally likely to have injected drugs.

Appendix

Definitions

- “HIV diagnoses” include diagnoses of HIV (non-AIDS) *and* HIV concurrent with AIDS (AIDS diagnosed within 31 days of HIV), unless otherwise specified.
- “New HIV diagnoses” include individuals diagnosed in NYC during the reporting period and reported in NYC.