

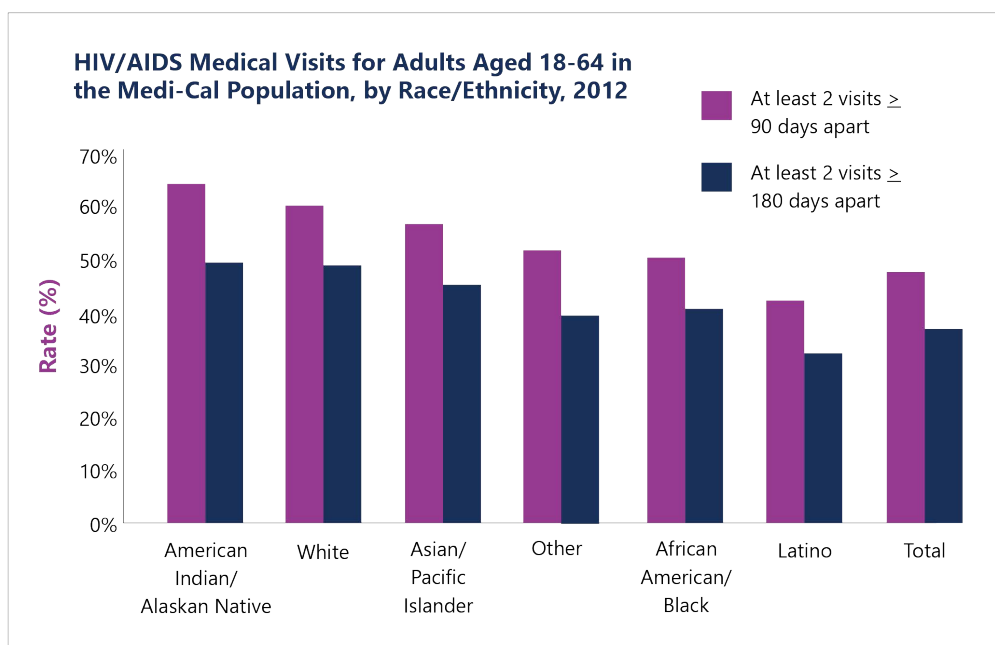
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) surveillance report indicated that HIV continues to be a serious health issue.¹ It is estimated that 1,144,500 people, aged 13 and older, are living with HIV in the United States, including 180,900 who are unaware of their HIV status.¹ The highest prevalence rate is among African Americans/Blacks and Latinos, and the lowest rate is among Whites and Asians.¹ California has been significantly impacted by HIV/AIDS and, at the end of 2013, there were 124,235 people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the state.²

Routine medical visits for HIV patients are important for optimal care and treatment so their CD4 cell counts and HIV viral load can be monitored.³ Failing to access health care has been associated with increased mortality,⁴ low CD4 counts, and lack of prescribed antiretroviral therapy.³

Among HIV-positive California Medi-Cal adults, aged 18 to 64, American Indians/Alaskan Natives were more likely to have visited a doctor two or more times with a minimum of 90 days between visits (64%), and Latinos (42%) were least likely (see Figure).



Figure



Source: Medi-Cal Management Information System/Decision Support System (MIS/DSS), 2012; Note: Members eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid were excluded

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