

Trends in HIV/AIDS

This section examines the number of people living with HIV only versus those whose disease has progressed to AIDS. The disease initially starts as HIV infection, and can progress to AIDS, defined by the CDC as a CD-4 count of under 200. The importance of comparing people living with HIV only versus AIDS is that it gives an indication of the following items.

- New infections and diagnoses (people living with HIV) versus older infections/diagnoses (people living with AIDS).
- A higher percent of people living with HIV may indicate that testing is more effective, because people are being diagnosed at earlier stages in the disease.
- A higher percent of people living with HIV may indicate the effectiveness of medical care – that more people are getting necessary and appropriate treatment and medications on a regular basis – such that HIV is not converting to AIDS.
- The percent of people living with HIV versus AIDS has implications for the cost of medical care and related support services. The cost of medical care for people living with AIDS is higher (including the cost of inpatient care), and support services are related to serious stages of the illness. The cost of medical care for people living with HIV may not be as high (primary medical visits and medications) but the types and levels of “quality of life” support services which enable consumers remain healthy and in medical care may be more diverse and utilized at higher rates.

Trends in HIV and AIDS from 1999 to 2004

Surveillance data of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS), Division of HIV/AIDS Services (DHAS) show the total number of people living with HIV disease and AIDS annually as of December 31, 1999 through 2004. Trends in HIV and AIDS were computed from these data. It is important to note, however, that DHAS revised its reporting of HIV cases starting in January 1, 2002 to only confirmed cases of HIV. This change resulted in a reduction in total number of HIV cases. It was most noticeable among infants (whose mothers have HIV/AIDS) and pediatric HIV cases, but affected all people with HIV. Thus the data from 2001 to 2002 appear to show a decline in HIV, which is actually a reporting adjustment. Trends from 2002 to 2003 show increases and trends through 2004 show that the pace of HIV infection in the Newark EMA is consistent with statewide trends.

Within the Newark EMA, the percent of people living with HIV versus those with AIDS was approximately equal from 1999 to 2001. With the change in HIV reporting in 2002, the relative percent of people living with AIDS increased to 52% versus 48% of people living with HIV, which has remained constant from 2002 through 2004. In the rest of New Jersey outside of the EMA, the percent of people living with AIDS was higher, ranging from 52% to 54% from 1999 through 2004. The percent of people living with HIV has declined from 48% to 46% by 2003-2004. Table 2-1 and Figure 2-A.

Trends in HIV and AIDS vary within the five EMA counties. In Essex County in 1999, slightly more people were living with HIV (51%) than AIDS (49%), which was reversed by the end of 2002 (51% AIDS and 49% HIV) and is now equal in 2004 (50% AIDS, 50% HIV). Since Essex contains three quarters of the EMA's PLWHA, the EMA reflects the Essex distribution of HIV/AIDS. The second largest county, Union, shows a much higher prevalence of AIDS than HIV. In 1999, 55% of PLWHA in Union County were living with AIDS and 45% with HIV, which increased to 58% AIDS and 42% HIV as of 2003 through 2004. Morris County showed similar differences, with 59% AIDS and 41% HIV in 1999 and 58% AIDS and 42% HIV in 2003-2004. In Sussex and Warren counties, the proportion of people with AIDS and those with HIV was relatively equal. In both counties, more than half of PLWHA were living with HIV as of 2003-2004. Figures 2-B through 2-G.

Within the EMA's five largest cities – East Orange, Elizabeth, Irvington, Newark, Plainfield - the distribution of people with HIV and AIDS also varies, but not as much as the counties. In 1999 within the five cities (total), 51% of people were living with HIV and 49% with AIDS. By the end of 2004, 49% were living with HIV and 51% with AIDS. Figure 2-H.

By the end of 2004, of the total PLWHA in Newark 49% were living with AIDS and 51% were living with HIV. In the remaining four cities, the percent of AIDS was greater than the percent of those living with HIV not AIDS. However, the differences were small in East Orange (53% AIDS, 47% HIV) and Irvington (52% AIDS, 48% HIV). In Elizabeth and Plainfield, 58% of were living with AIDS and only 42% with HIV. See Figures 2-M through 2-Q.

Gender

There have been no changes in HIV disease by gender. From 1999 through 2004, males accounted for 60% of PLWHA and females accounted for 40% of PLWHA. Figure 2-I.

Race/Ethnicity

With respect to race and ethnicity (Hispanic origin), the percent of adult NonHispanic Blacks/African Americans living with HIV disease has declined slightly, from 74% of total PLWHA in 1999 to 72% in 2004. This change has been offset by one percentage point increases from 1999 to 2004 in the remaining racial/ethnic categories. Hispanics have increased from 14% to 15% of PLWHA, NonHispanic Whites have increased from 11% to 12% and other races have increased from 1% to 2% of PLWHA. Essentially, the epidemic has remained unchanged over these past five years with respect to race/ethnicity. See Figure 2-J.

Age

There have been dramatic changes in the percent of PLWHA living with HIV/AIDS over the past five years. See Figure 2-K. People age 50 and older is the fastest growing population, from 15% of PLWHA in 1999 to 28% of PLWHA by the end of 2004. Simultaneously, PLWHA age 30-39 have declined as a percent of total PLWHA from 32% in 1999 to 23% in 2004. The remaining two adult population groups have remained relatively constant. Individuals age 40-49

were 38% of PLWHA in 1999 and 41% in 2004. Young adults age 20-29 were 7% of the epidemic in 1999 and have decline to 5% as of the end of 2004.

Exposure Category

Figure 2-L shows the visible changes in HIV infection by exposure category, even when the category of "Other or Not reported" is included. Injection drug use (IDU) is still the leading cause of HIV infection, but it has declined by seven percentage points from 38% of total PLWHA in 1999 to 31% in 2004. There has been a corresponding increase in heterosexual transmission, which rose from 18% in 1999 to 23% of PLWHA in 2004. MSM accounted for the remaining increase of two percentages points, from 12% in 1999 to 14% in 2004. Exposure by MSM/IDU remained constant at 3% to 2% of total HIV infection.

Table 2-1: Persons Living With HIV and AIDS in the Newark EMA and New Jersey from 1999 – 2004

	12/31/1999		12/31/2000		12/31/2001		12/31/2002		12/31/2003		12/31/2004	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Newark EMA												
AIDS	5,493	50%	5,849	51%	6,093	51%	6,093	52%	6,231	52%	6,534	52%
HIV	5,444	50%	5,546	49%	5,961	49%	5,530	48%	5,725	48%	6,035	48%
Total	10,937		11,395		12,054		11,623		11,956		12,569	
Essex County												
AIDS	4,005	49%	4,268	50%	4,415	49%	4,380	51%	4,418	51%	4,664	50%
HIV	4,243	51%	4,320	50%	4,613	51%	4,230	49%	4,320	49%	4,623	50%
Total	8,248		8,588		9,028		8,610		8,738		9,287	
Morris County												
AIDS	285	59%	305	59%	316	57%	332	58%	338	58%	351	57%
HIV	202	41%	209	41%	234	43%	244	42%	247	42%	268	43%
Total	487		514		550		576		585		619	
Sussex County												
AIDS	44	49%	44	48%	45	46%	54	50%	56	47%	59	49%
HIV	46	51%	47	52%	52	54%	53	50%	62	53%	61	51%
Total	90		91		97		107		118		120	
Union County												
AIDS	1,121	55%	1,193	56%	1,276	56%	1,283	57%	1,325	58%	1,408	58%
HIV	918	45%	931	44%	1,016	44%	955	43%	961	42%	1,025	42%
Total	2,039		2,124		2,292		2,238		2,286		2,433	
Warren County												
AIDS	38	52%	39	50%	41	47%	44	48%	47	49%	52	47%
HIV	35	48%	39	50%	46	53%	48	52%	48	51%	58	53%
Total	73		78		87		92		95		110	

Source: N.J. Dept. Health & Senior Services, Division of HIV/AIDS Services.

Note: As of 2002 NJDHSS changed reporting of HIV disease to confirmed cases of HIV.

Table 2-1: Persons Living With HIV and AIDS in the Newark EMA and New Jersey from 1999 – 2004 (Cont.)

	12/31/1999		12/31/2000		12/31/2001		12/31/2002		12/31/2003		12/31/2004	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
3 County Region – Morris, Sussex, Warren Counties												
AIDS	367	56%	388	57%	402	55%	430	55%	445	55%	462	54%
HIV	283	44%	295	43%	332	45%	345	45%	364	45%	387	46%
Total	650		683		734		775		809		849	
5 Cities – East Orange, Elizabeth, Irvington, Newark, Plainfield												
AIDS	4,108	49%	4,365	50%	4,621	50%	4,583	52%	4,758	52%	4,875	51%
HIV	4,301	51%	4,358	50%	4,656	50%	4,285	48%	4,339	48%	4,641	49%
Total	8,409		8,723		9,277		8,868		9,097		9,516	
New Jersey												
AIDS	14,116	51%	15,130	52%	15,837	52%	16,017	53%	16,601	53%	17,401	53%
HIV	13,484	49%	13,708	48%	14,698	48%	14,056	47%	14,719	47%	15,345	47%
Total	27,600		28,838		30,535		30,073		31,320		32,746	
Rest of New Jersey Outside of EMA												
AIDS	8,623	52%	9,281	53%	9,744	53%	9,924	53%	10,370	54%	10,867	54%
HIV	8,040	48%	8,162	47%	8,737	47%	8,526	47%	8,994	46%	9,310	46%
Total	16,663		17,443		18,481		18,450		19,364		20,177	

Source: N.J. Dept. Health & Senior Services, Division of HIV/AIDS Services.

Note: As of 2002 NJDHSS changed reporting of HIV disease to confirmed cases of HIV.

Table 2-2: Percent of New Jersey People With AIDS and HIV in Newark EMA

Disease Category	12/31/99	12/31/00	12/31/01	12/31/02	12/31/03	12/31/04
	%	%	%	%	%	%
AIDS	39%	39%	38%	38%	38%	38%
HIV	40%	40%	41%	39%	39%	39%
Total	40%	40%	39%	39%	38%	38%

Source: N.J. Dept. Health & Senior Services, Division of HIV/AIDS Services.

Note: As of 2002 NJDHSS changed reporting of HIV disease to confirmed cases of HIV.

Figure 2-A: Trends in HIV and AIDS in Newark EMA, 1999-2004

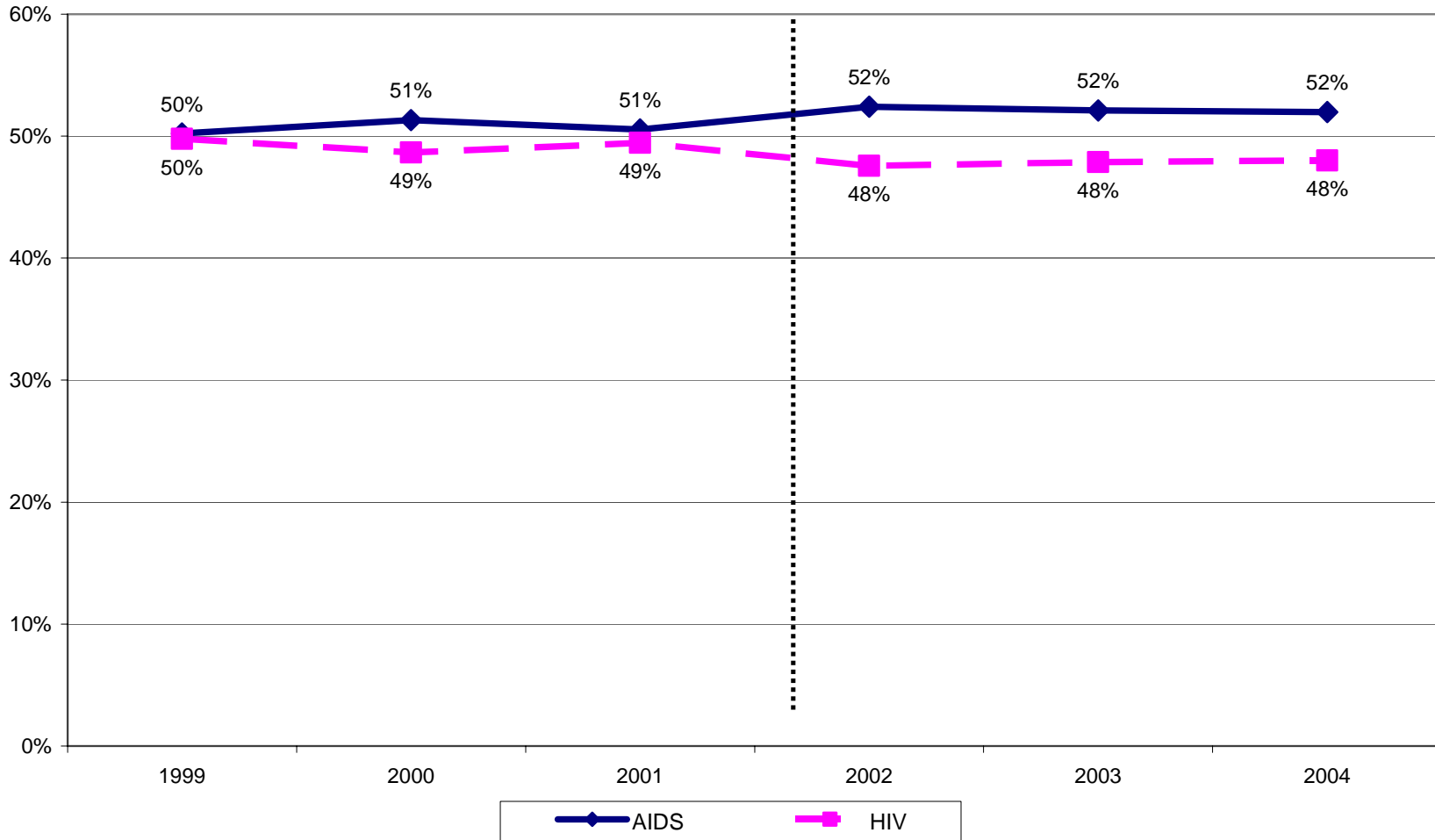


Figure 2-B: Trends in HIV and AIDS in Essex County, 1999-2004

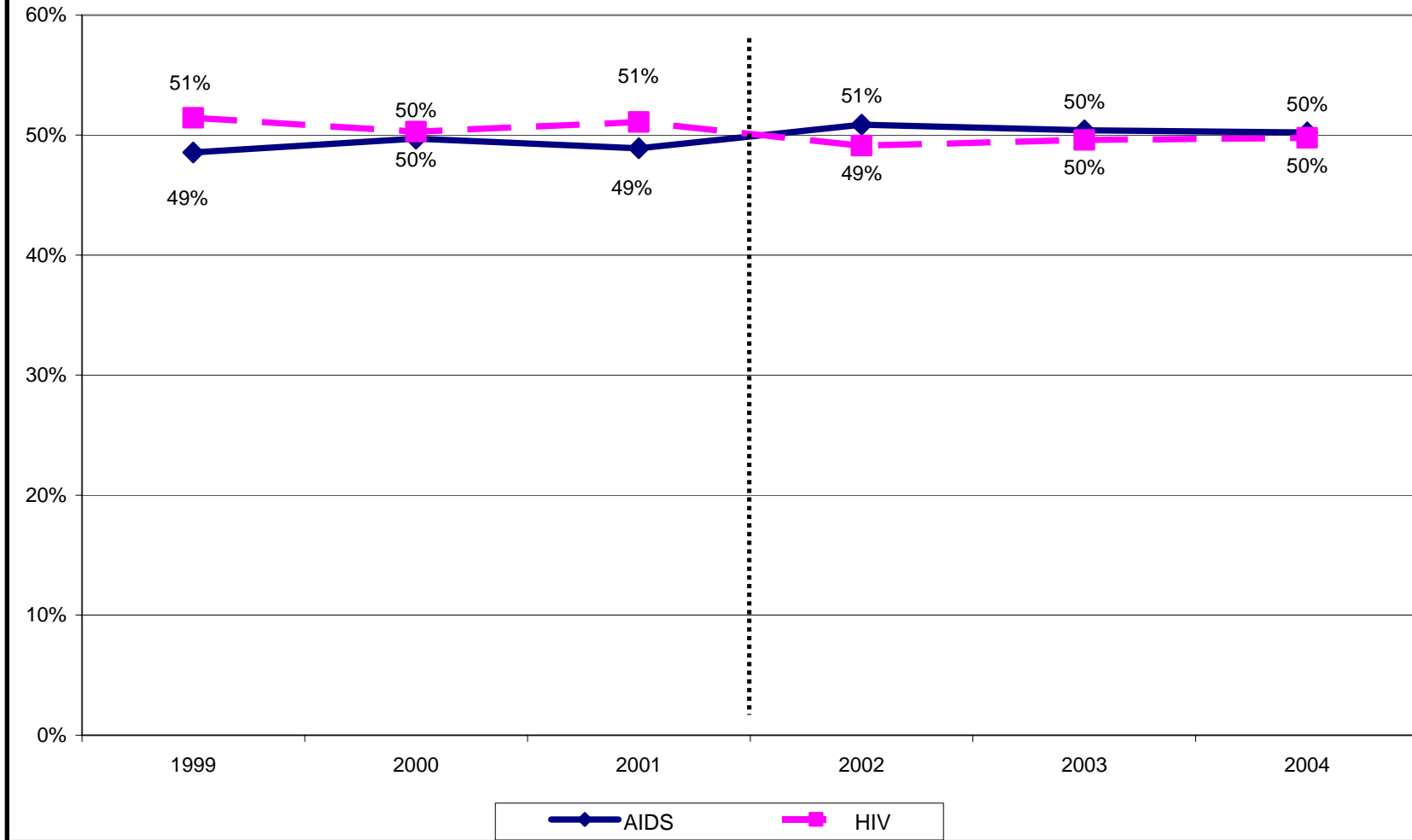
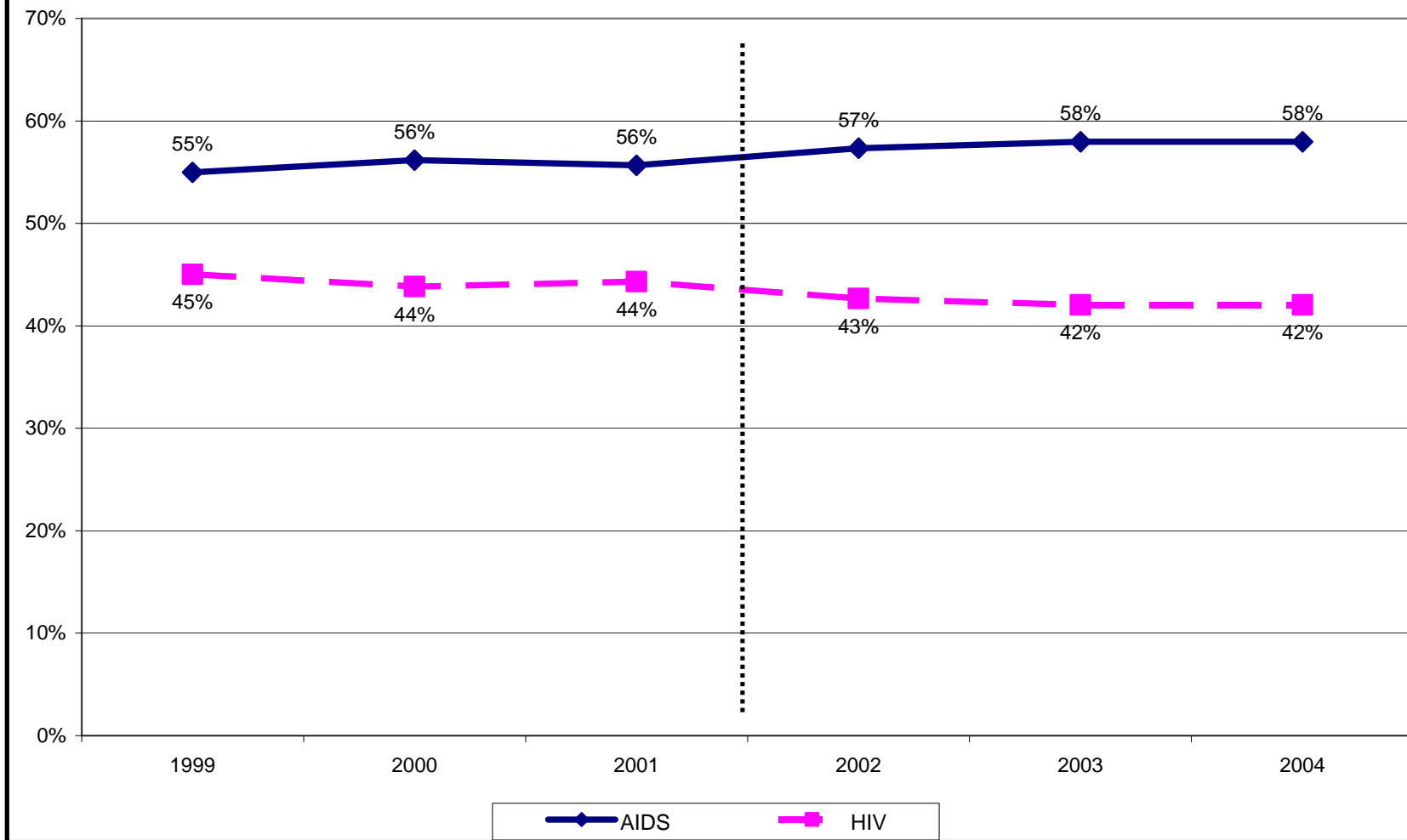


Figure 2-C: Trends in HIV and AIDS in Union County, 1999-2004



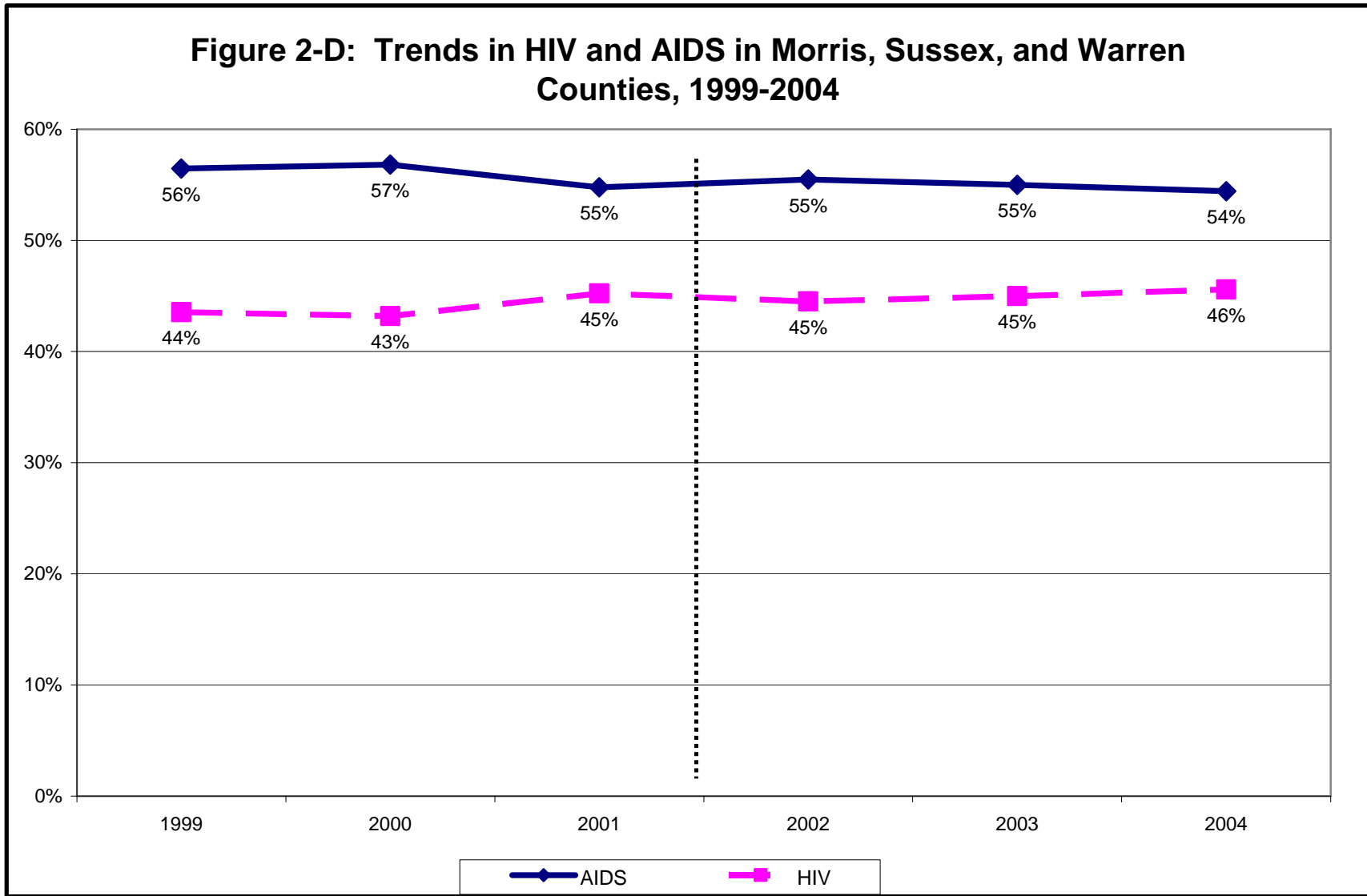


Figure 2-E: Trends in HIV and AIDS in Morris County, 1999-2004

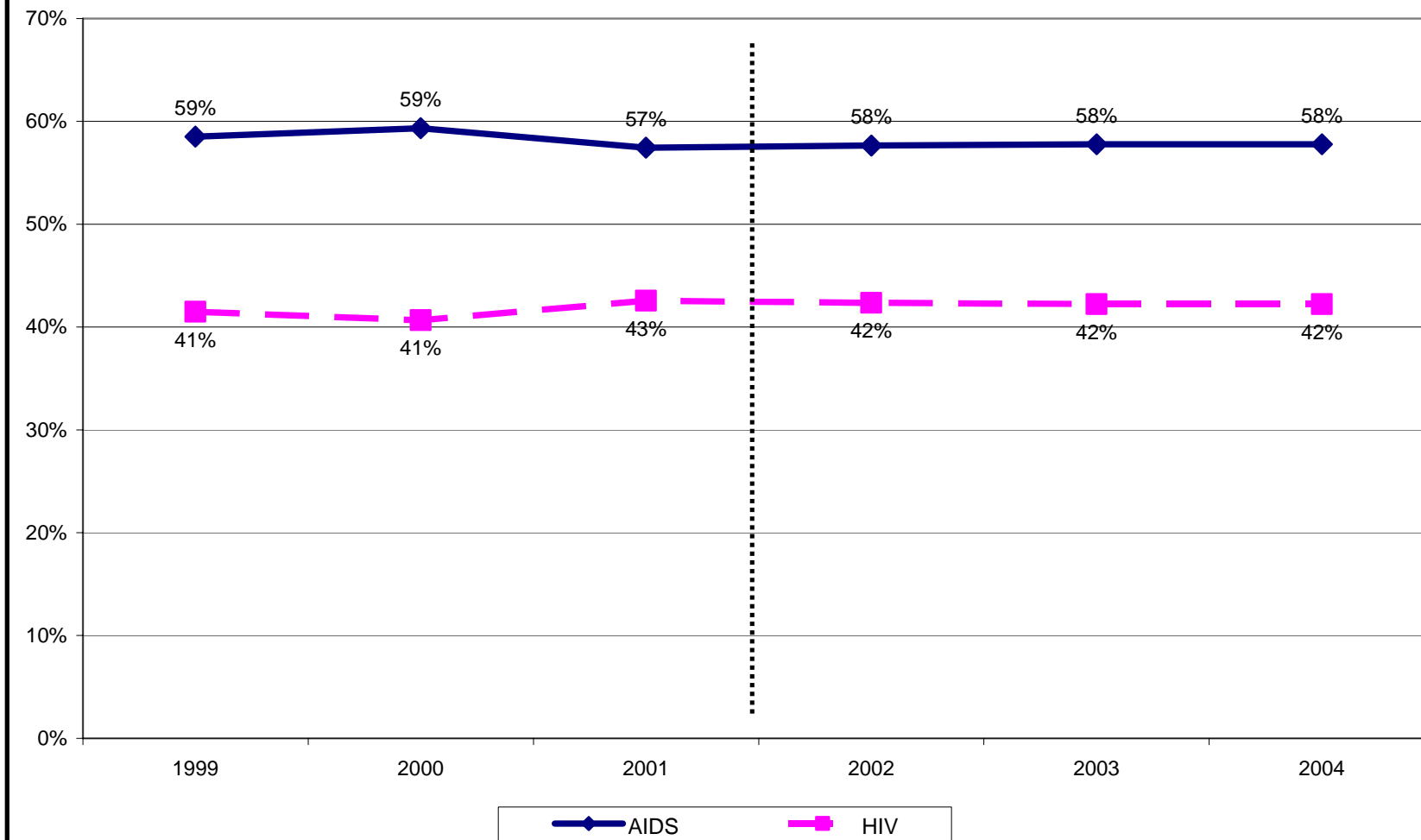


Figure 2-F: Trends in HIV and AIDS in Sussex County, 1999-2004

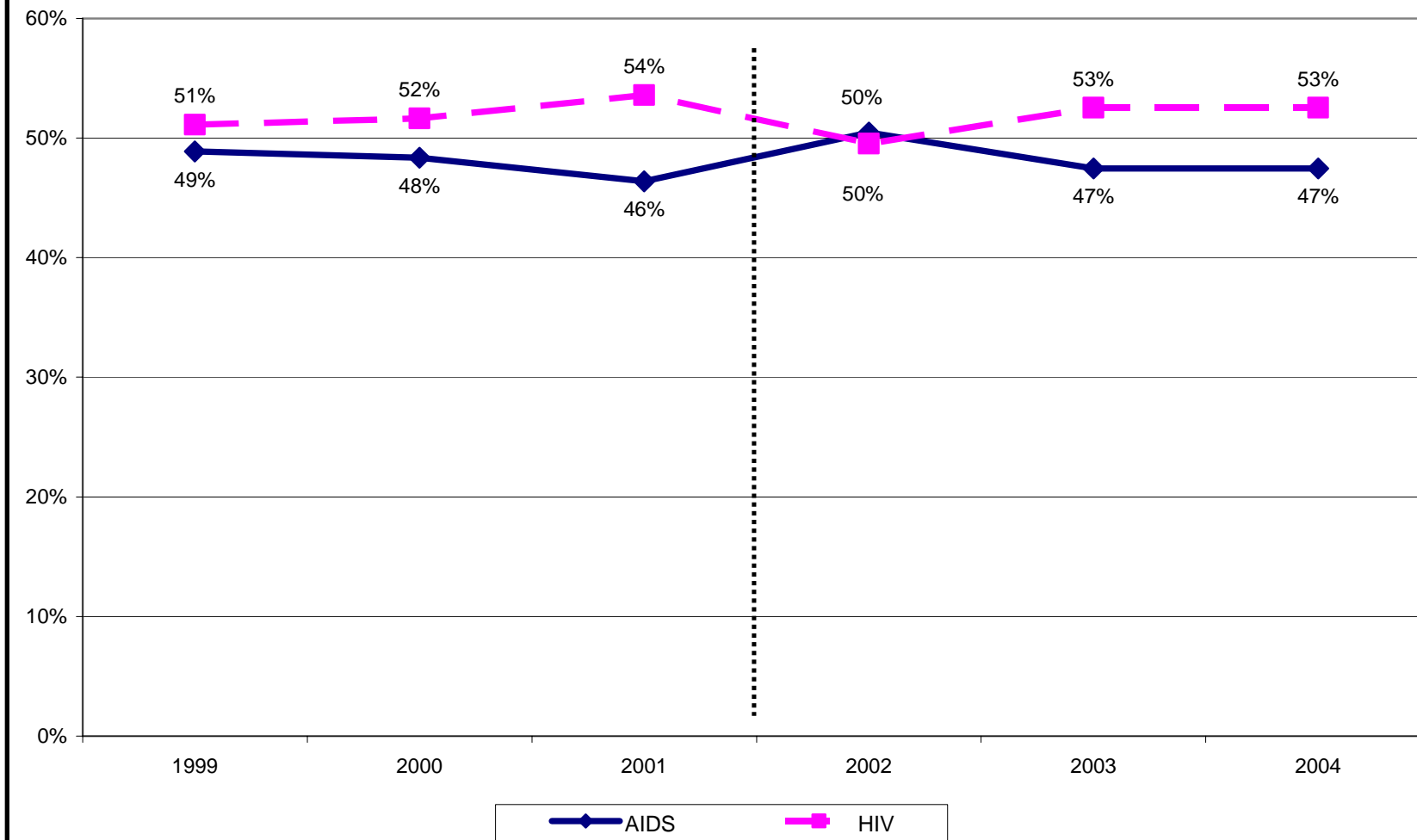


Figure 2-G: Trends in HIV and AIDS in Warren County, 1999-2004

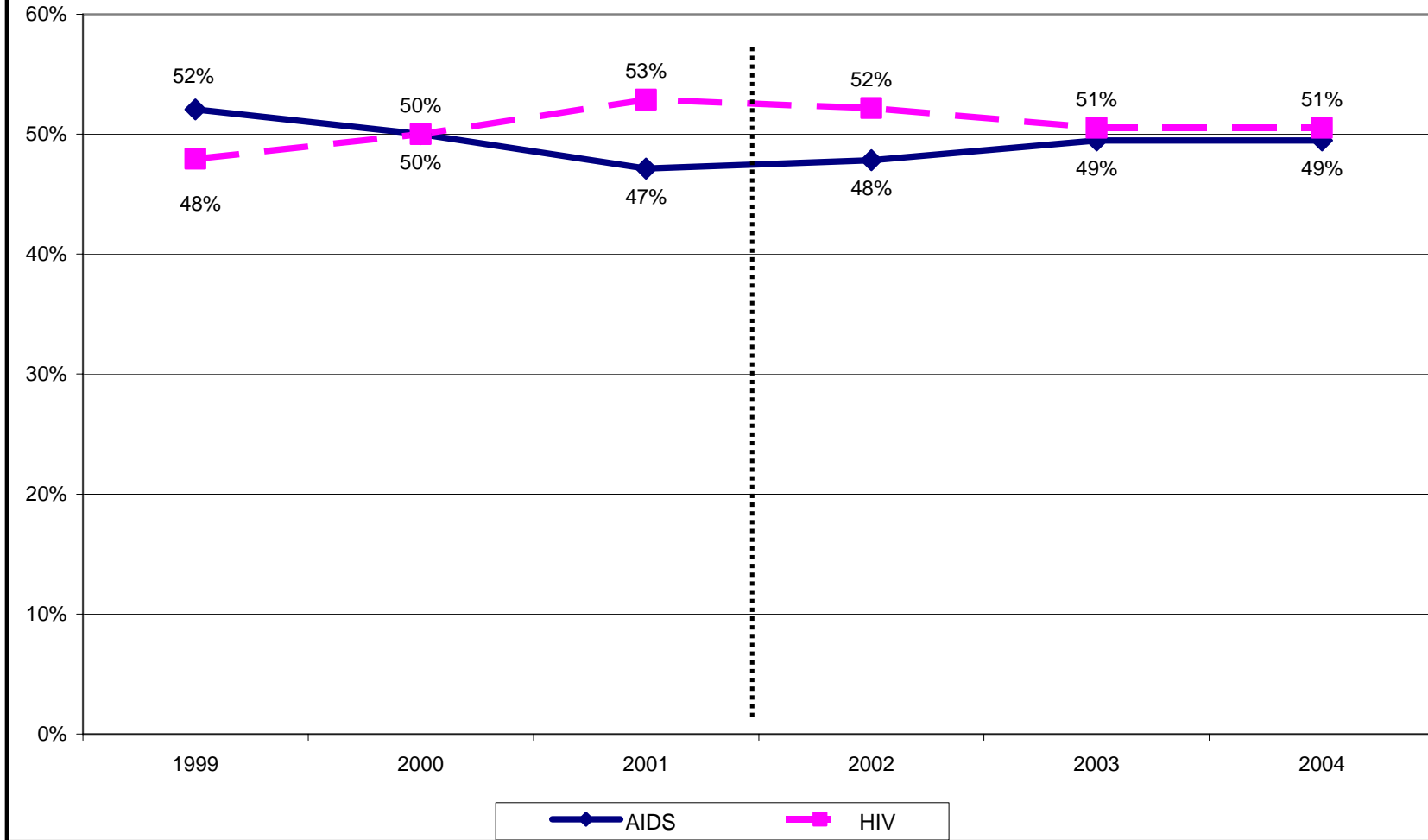


Figure 2-H: Trends in HIV and AIDS in 5 Large Cities in Newark EMA, 1999-2004

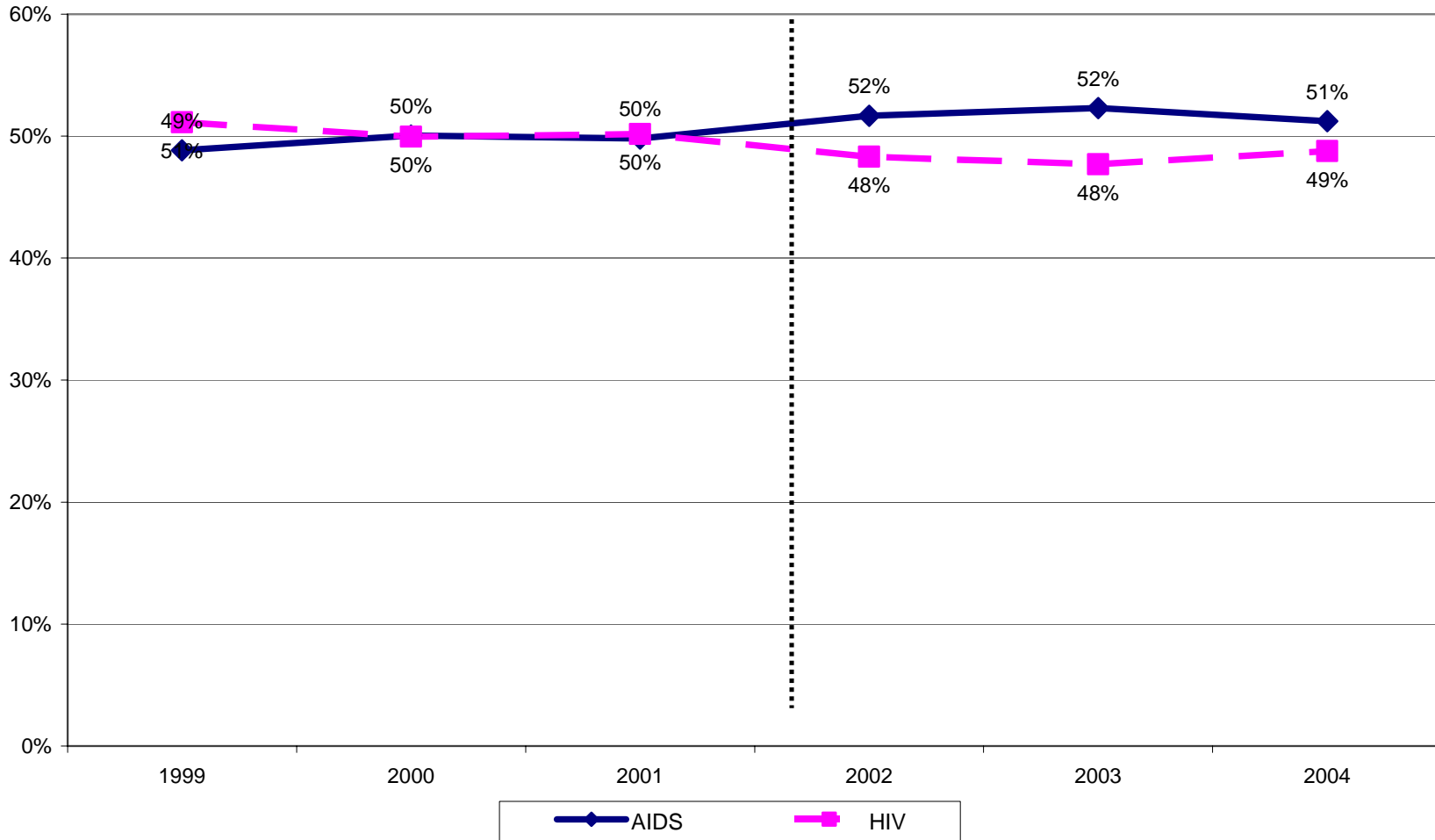


Figure 2-I: Trends in PLWHA by Gender in Newark EMA, 1999-2004

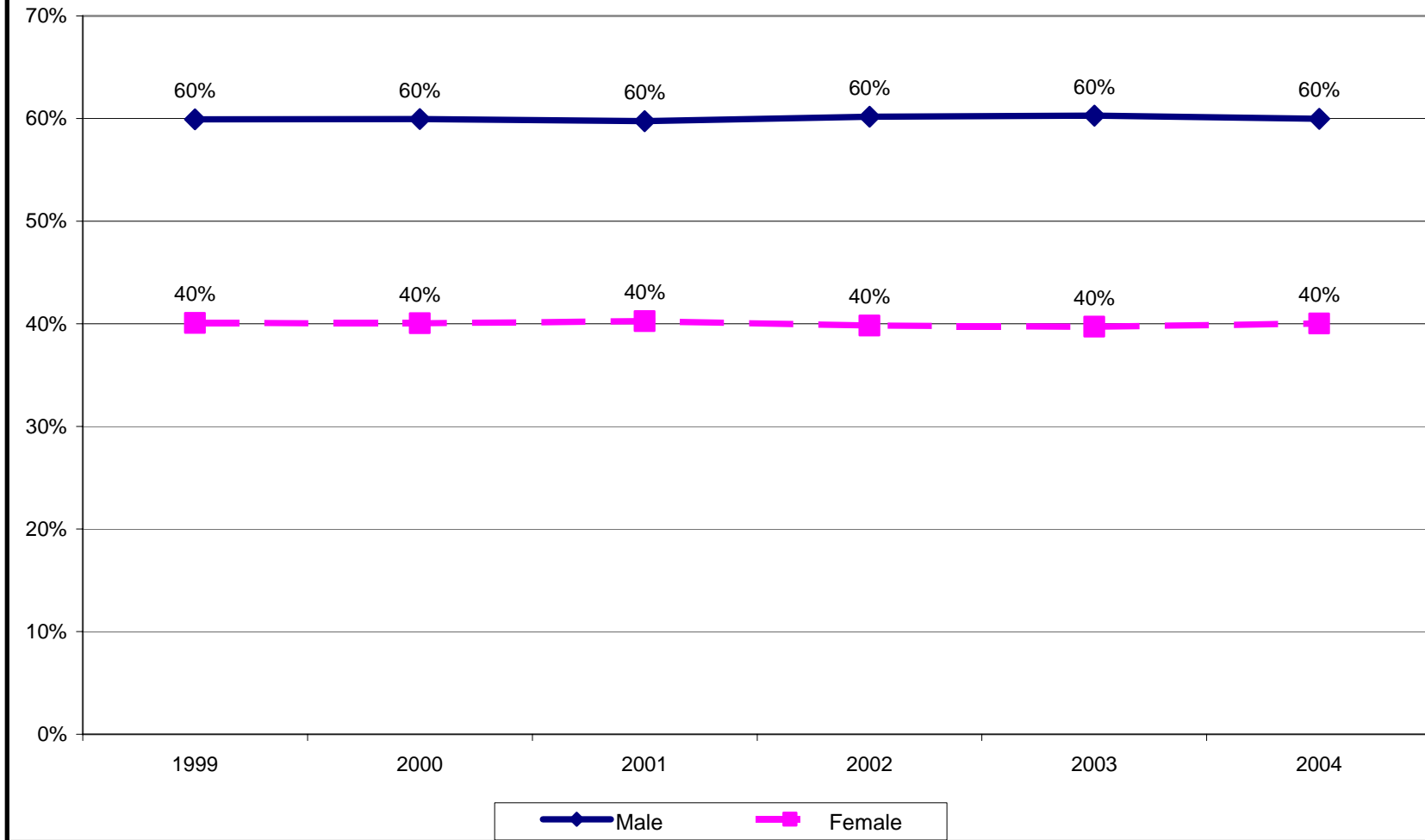


Figure 2-J: Trends in Adult PLWHA by Race/Ethnicity in Newark EMA, 1999-2004

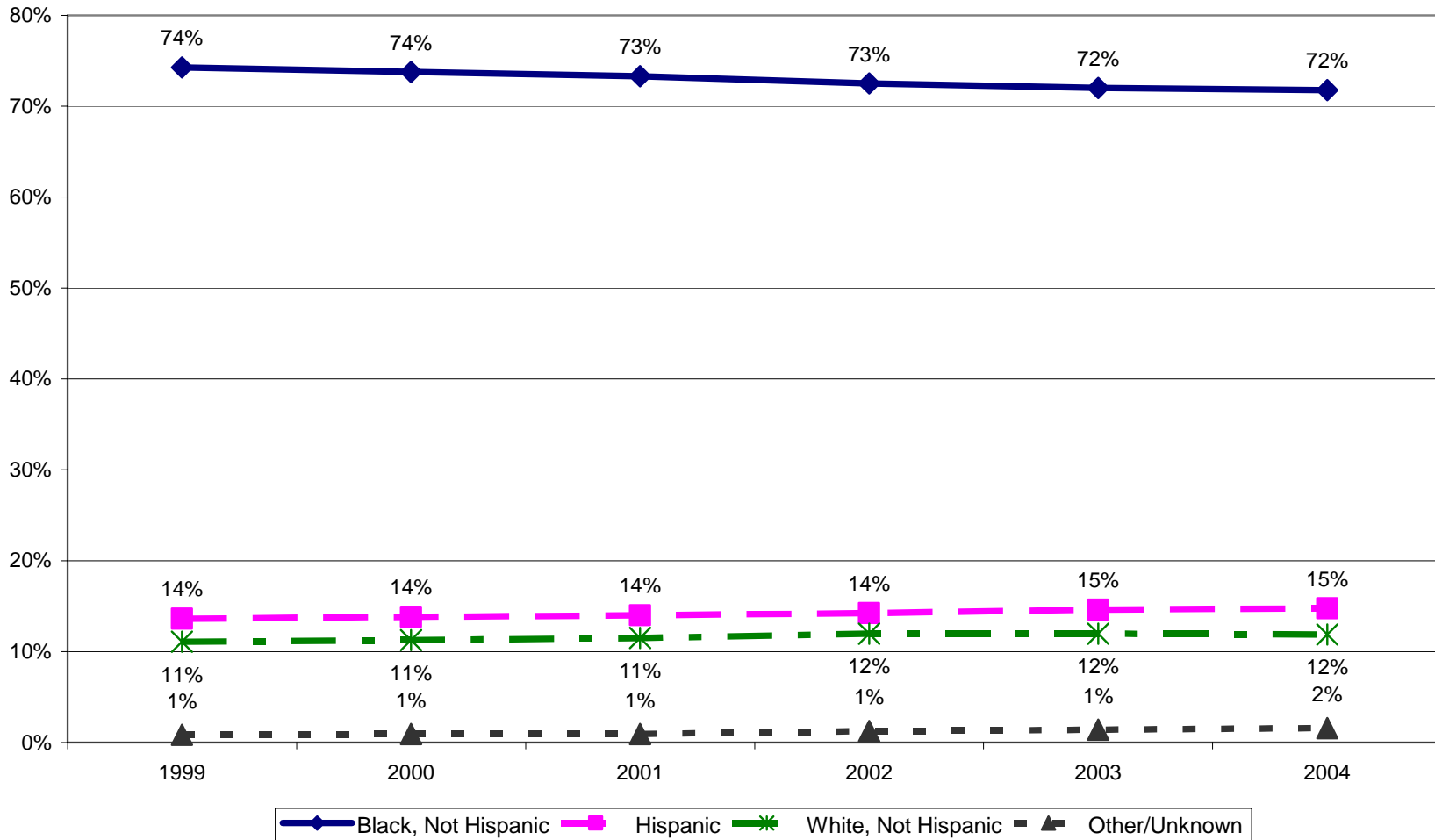
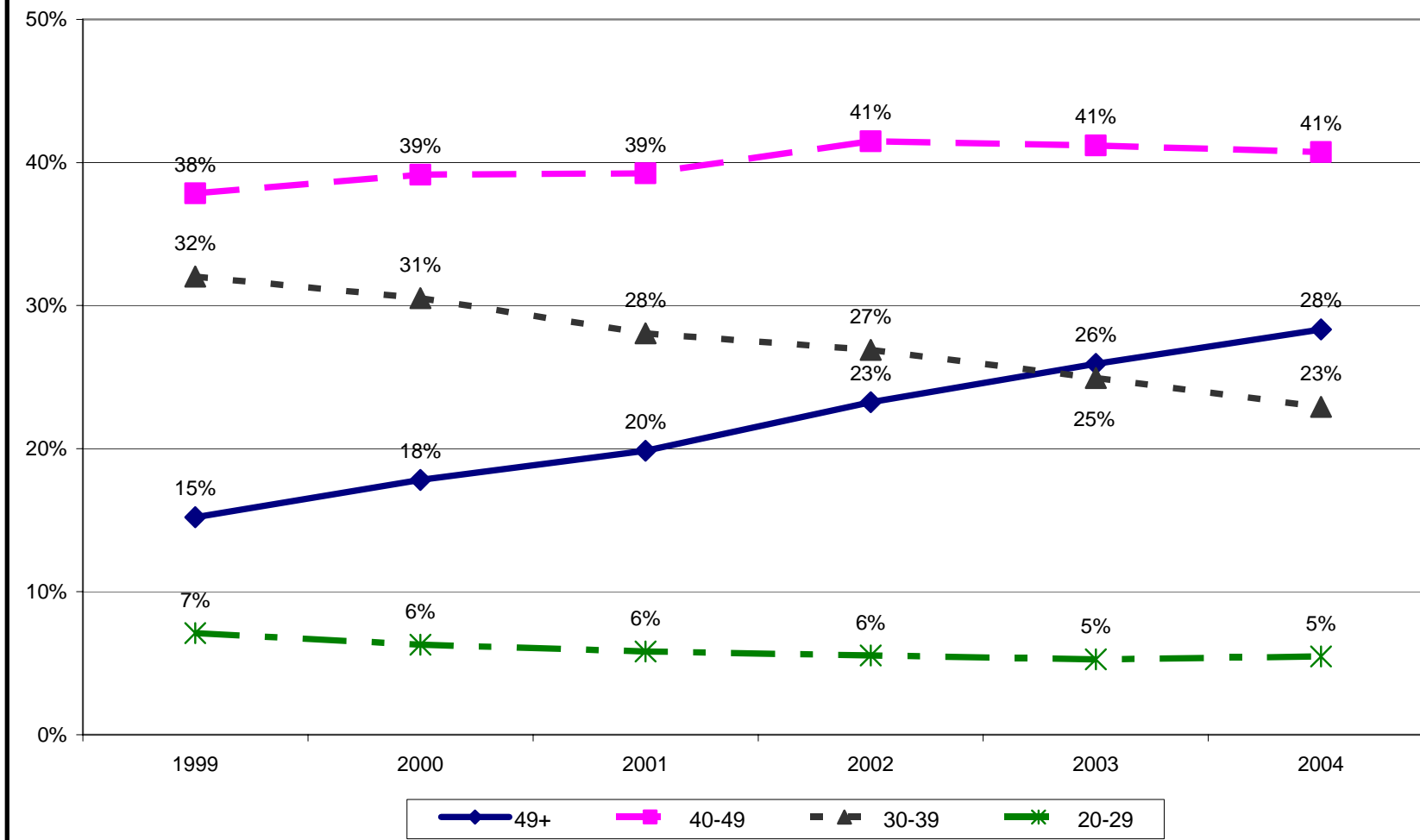


Figure 2-K: Trends in Adult PLWHA by Age in Newark EMA, 1999-2004



**Figure 2-L: Trends in Adult PLWHA by Exposure Category in Newark
EMA, 1999-2004**

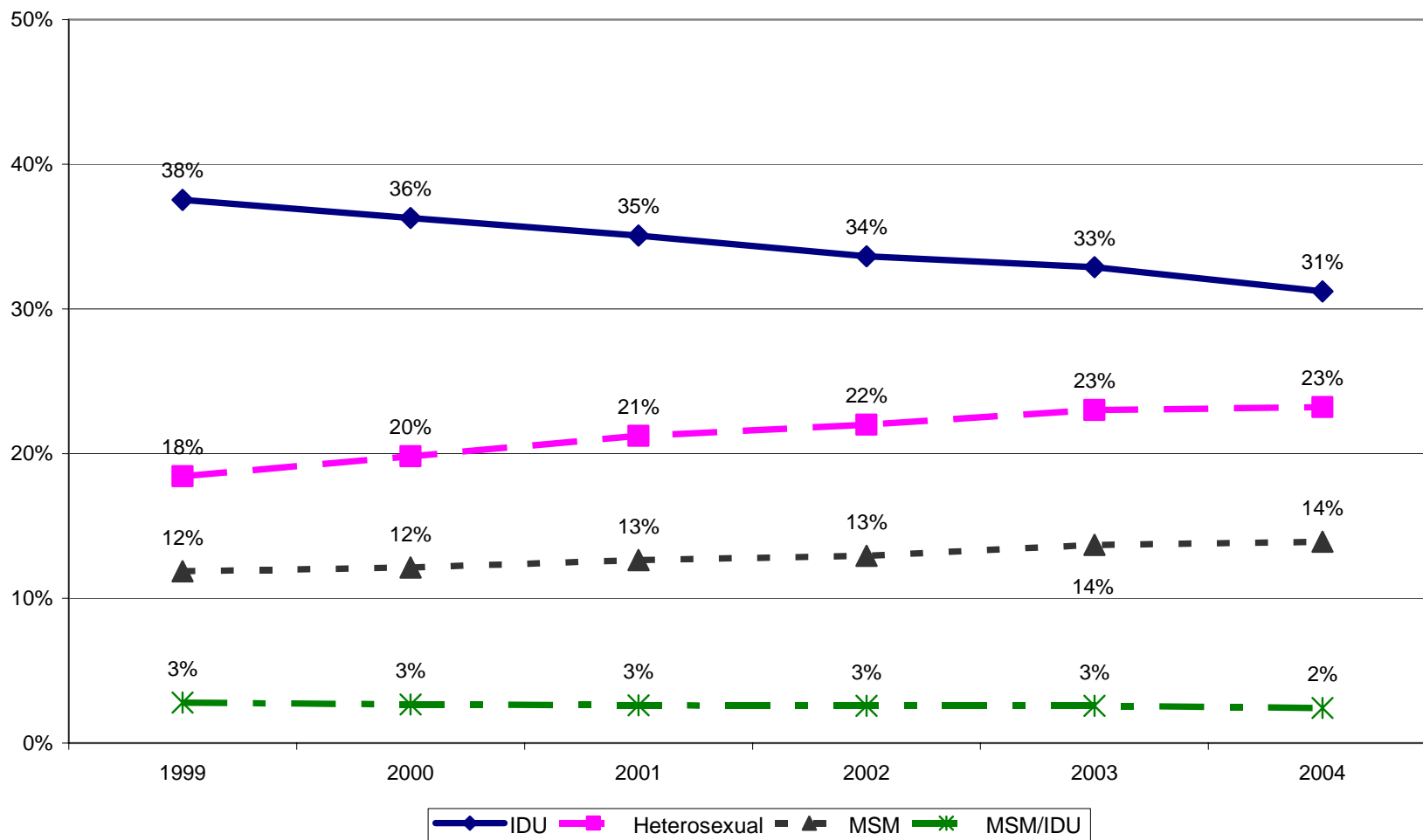


Figure 2-M: Trends in HIV and AIDS in Newark, 1999-2004

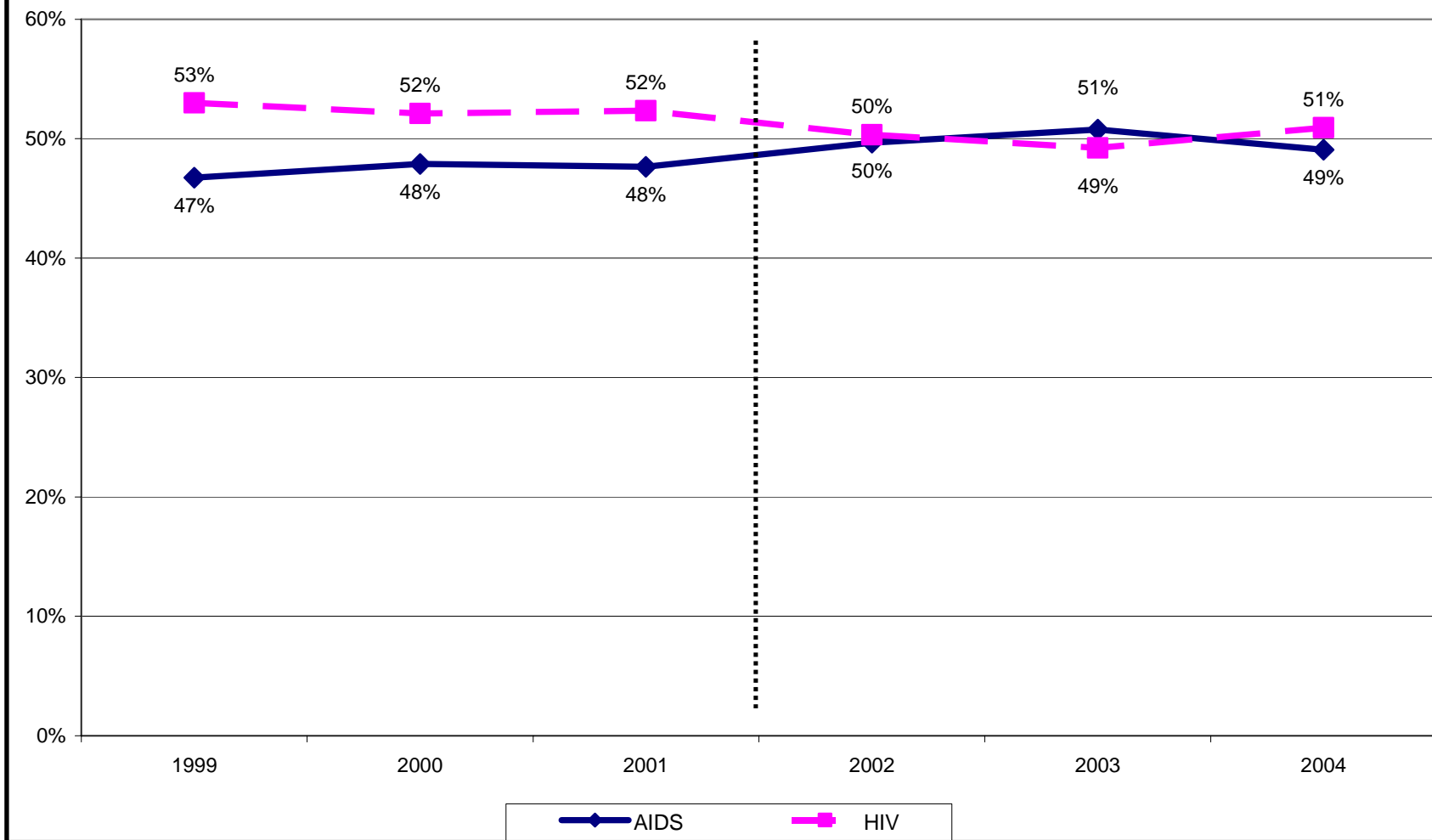


Figure 2-N: Trends in HIV and AIDS in East Orange, 1999-2004

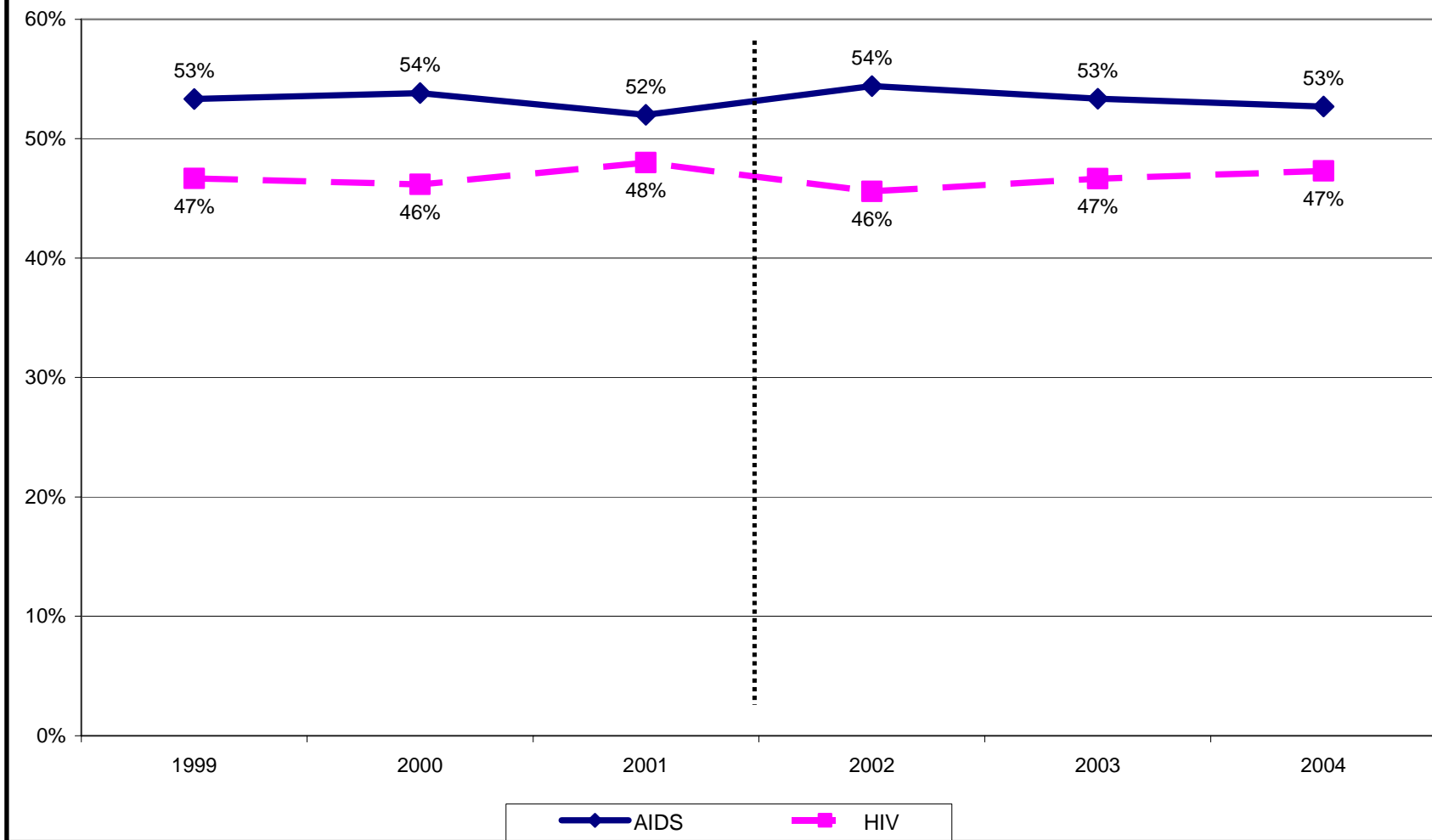


Figure 2-O: Trends in HIV and AIDS in Irvington, 1999-2004

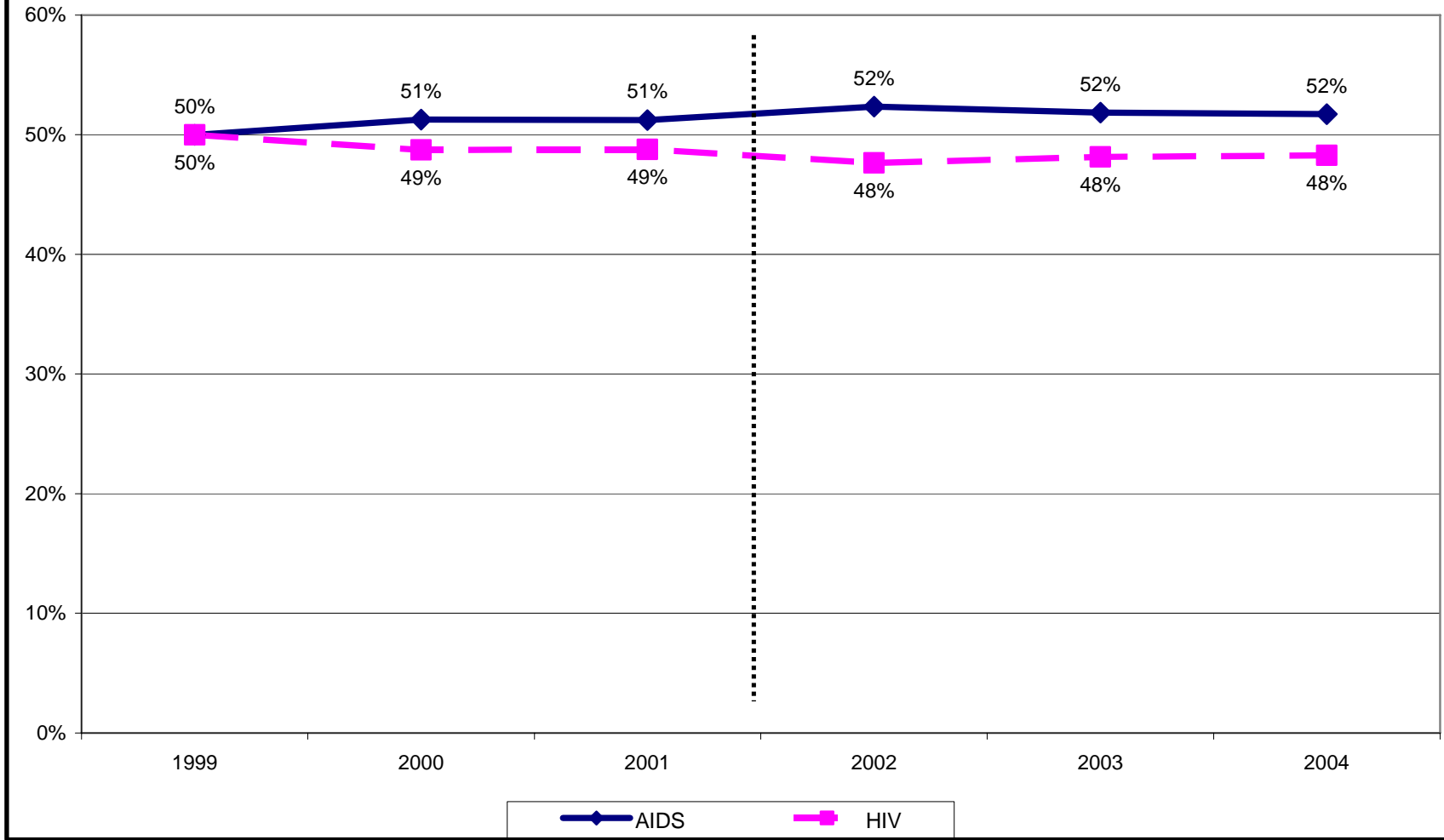


Figure 2-P: Trends in HIV and AIDS in Elizabeth, 1999-2004

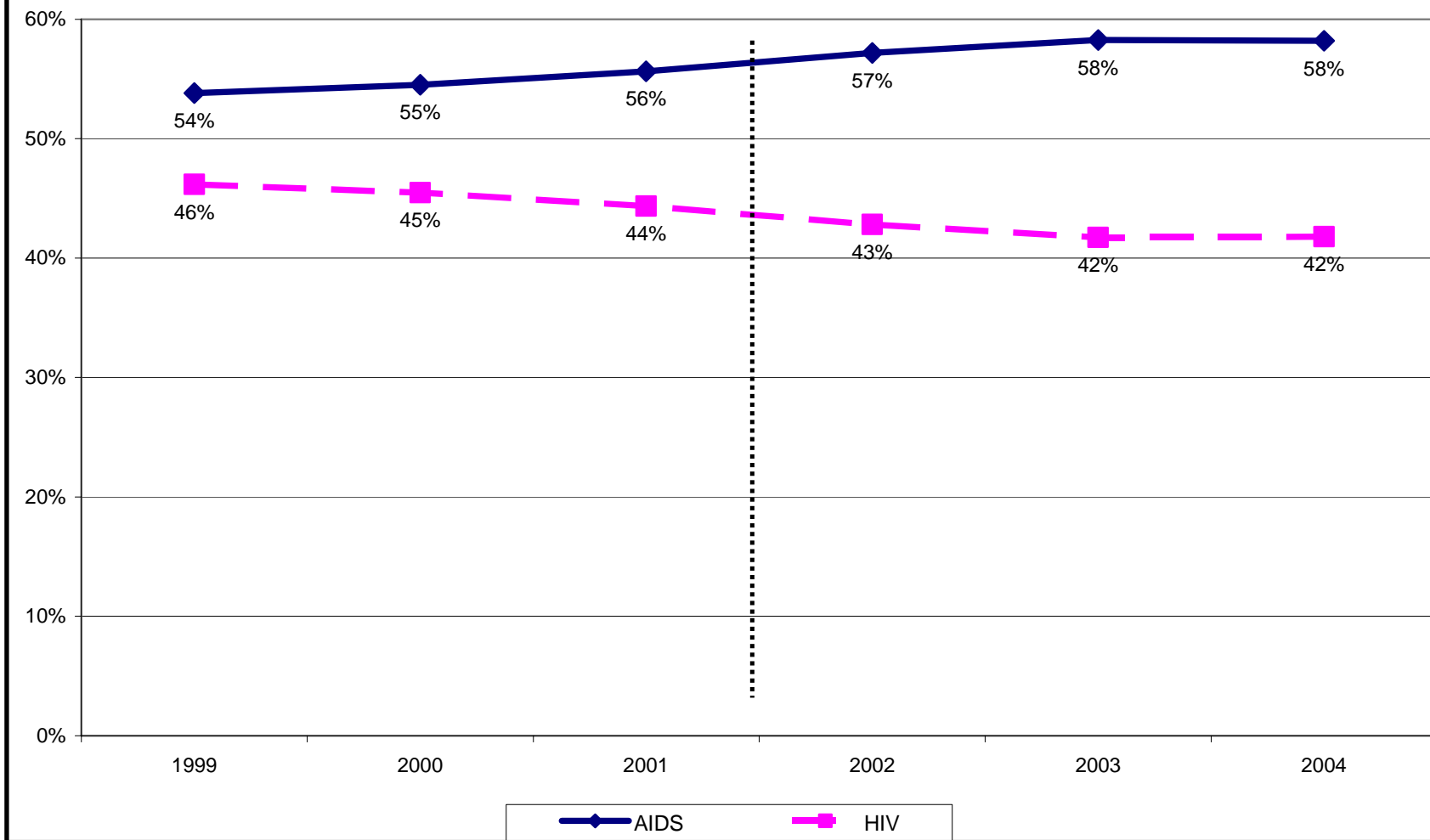


Figure 2-Q: Trends in HIV and AIDS in Plainfield, 1999-2004

