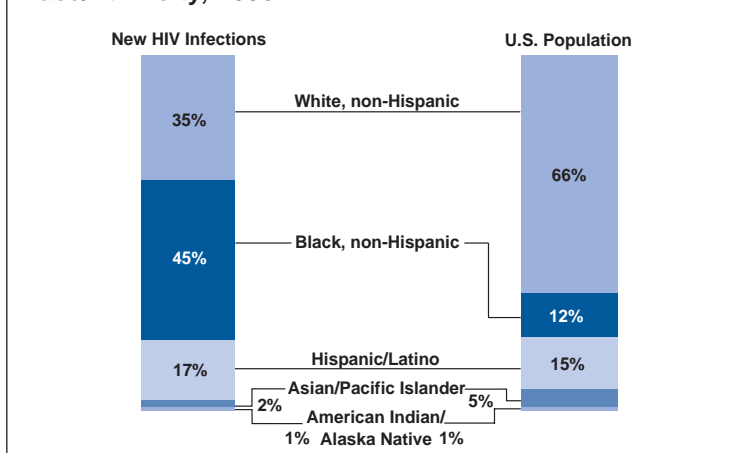


Black Americans and HIV/AIDS

June 2011

Black Americans have been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS since the epidemic's beginning, and that disparity has deepened over time.^{1,2} Blacks account for more new HIV infections, AIDS diagnoses, people estimated to be living with HIV disease, and HIV-related deaths than any other racial/ethnic group in the U.S.^{1,3,4,5,6} The epidemic has also had a disproportionate impact on Black women, youth, and gay and bisexual men, and its impact varies across the country. Moreover, Blacks with HIV/AIDS may face greater barriers to accessing care than their white counterparts.^{7,8,9} Today, there are approximately 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S., including approximately 545,000 who are Black.⁵ Analysis of national household survey data found that 2% of Blacks in the U.S. were HIV positive, higher than any other group.¹⁰

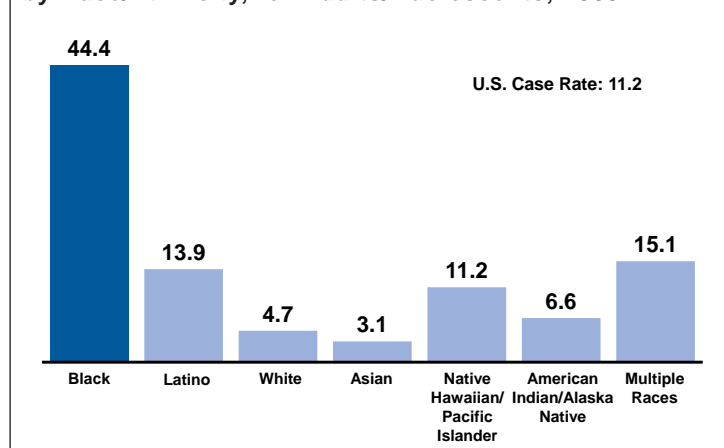
Figure 1: New HIV Infections & U.S. Population, by Race/Ethnicity, 2006^{3,4,11}



Snapshot of the Epidemic

- Although Black Americans represent only 12% of the U.S. population,¹¹ they account for 45% of new HIV infections in 2006 (Figure 1) and 46% of people living with HIV disease.^{3,4,5} Blacks also account for almost half of new AIDS diagnoses (48%) in 2009.^{1,12}
- The AIDS diagnosis rate per 100,000 among Black adults/adolescents was 9 times that of whites in 2009 (Figure 2).^{1,13} The AIDS diagnosis rate for Black men (78.0) was the highest of any group, followed by Black women (35.1). By comparison, the rate among white men was 9.8.^{1,13} The rate of new infections is also highest among Blacks and was 7 times greater than the rate among whites in 2006.^{3,4}
- HIV-related deaths and HIV death rates are highest among Blacks. Blacks accounted for 57% of deaths due to HIV in 2007⁶ and their survival time after an AIDS diagnosis is lower on average than it is for most other racial/ethnic groups.¹ In 2007, Black men had the highest HIV death rate per 100,000 men ages 25–44; the HIV death rate among Black women in the same age group was also the highest among women.¹⁴
- HIV was the 4th leading cause of death for Black men and 3rd for Black women, ages 25–44, in 2007, ranking higher than for their respective counterparts in any other racial/ethnic group.¹⁵

Figure 2: AIDS Diagnosis Rate per 100,000 Population, by Race/Ethnicity, for Adults/Adolescents, 2009^{1,13}



Key Trends and Current Cases

- The number of new HIV infections per year among Blacks is down from its peak in the late 1980s, but has exceeded the number of infections among whites since that time; new infections have remained stable in recent years.⁴
- The share of AIDS diagnoses accounted for by Blacks has risen over time, rising from 25% of diagnoses in 1985 to 48% in 2009; in recent years, this share also has remained relatively stable.^{1,2}
- A recent analysis of 1999–2006 data from a national household survey found that 2% of Blacks in the U.S. (among those ages 18–49) were HIV positive, significantly higher than whites (0.23%). Also, the prevalence of HIV was higher among Black men (2.64%) than Black women (1.49%).¹⁰
- The number of Black Americans living with an AIDS diagnosis increased by 9% between 2006 and 2008, compared to a 7% increase among whites.¹
- The number of deaths among Blacks with an AIDS diagnosis decreased between 2006 and 2008 (by 7%); deaths decreased by 5% among whites.¹

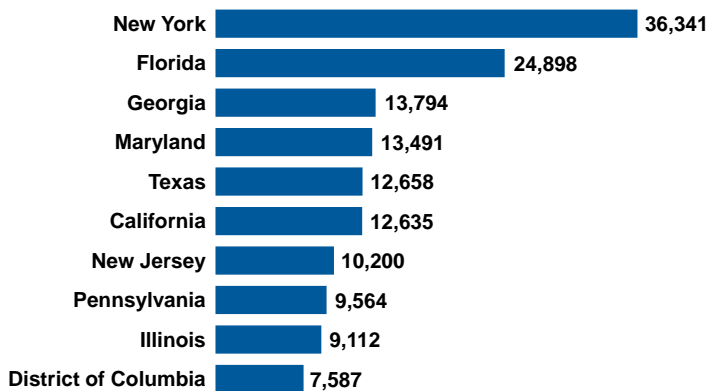
Women and Young People

- Black women account for the largest share of new HIV infections among women (61% in 2006) and the incidence rate among Black women is nearly 15 times the rate among white women.¹⁶
- Black women account for the majority of new AIDS diagnoses among women (64% in 2009); white and Latina women account for 15% and 18% of new AIDS diagnoses, respectively.¹
- Black women represent more than a third (34%) of AIDS diagnoses among Blacks (Black men and women combined) in 2009; by comparison, white women represent 14% of AIDS diagnoses among whites in 2009.¹
- Although Black teens (ages 13–19) represent only about 17% of U.S. teenagers,¹⁷ they account for 68% of new AIDS diagnoses among teens in 2009.¹ A similar impact can be seen among Black children.¹

Transmission

- HIV transmission patterns among Black men vary from those of white men. Although both groups are most likely to have been infected through sex with other men, white men are more likely to have been infected this way. Heterosexual transmission and injection drug use account for a greater share of infections among Black men than white men.^{1,16,18}
- Black women are most likely to have been infected through heterosexual transmission, the most common transmission route for women overall. White women are more likely to have been infected through injection drug use than Black women.^{1,16}
- Among gay and bisexual men, Blacks have been disproportionately affected. A study in 5 major U.S. cities found that 46% of Black gay and bisexual men in the study were infected with HIV, compared to 21% of white and 17% of Latino gay and bisexual men. Knowledge of HIV status among those already infected was also very low, particularly among Blacks.^{19,20} In addition, newly infected Black gay and bisexual men are younger than their white counterparts with those ages 13–29 accounting for 52% of new infections among Blacks compared to 25% among whites.¹⁶

Figure 3: Number of Black Americans Estimated to be Living with an AIDS Diagnosis, Top 10 States, 2008²¹



Geography

Although AIDS diagnoses among Blacks have been reported throughout the country, the impact of the epidemic is not uniformly distributed:

- AIDS diagnosis rates per 100,000 among Blacks are highest in the eastern part of the U.S. The District of Columbia has the highest diagnosis rate for Blacks (223.1) in the country.^{13,21}
- More than half of Blacks estimated to be living with an AIDS diagnosis and the majority of new AIDS diagnoses among Blacks occurred in the South.^{21,22}
- Estimated AIDS prevalence among Blacks is clustered in a handful of states, with 10 states accounting for 72% of Blacks estimated to be living with an AIDS diagnosis in 2008. New York, Florida, and Georgia top the list (Figure 3).^{21,22} Ten states also account for the majority of new AIDS diagnoses among Blacks (68% in 2009).^{21,22}

Access to and Use of the Health Care System

- The HIV Cost and Services Utilization Study (HCSUS), the only nationally representative study of people with HIV/AIDS receiving regular or ongoing medical care for HIV, found that Blacks fared more poorly on several important measures of access and quality than whites; these differences diminished over time but were not completely eliminated.⁷ HCSUS also found that Blacks were more likely to report postponing medical care because they lacked transportation, were too sick to go to the doctor, or had other competing needs.⁸

- An analysis of data from 2000–2002 in 11 HIV primary and specialty care sites in the U.S. found higher rates of hospitalization among Blacks with HIV/AIDS, but differences in outpatient utilization were not significant.⁹

Health Insurance

Having health insurance, either public or private, improves access to care. Insurance coverage of those with HIV/AIDS varies by race/ethnicity, as it does for the U.S. population overall.

- According to HCSUS, Blacks with HIV/AIDS were more likely to be publicly insured or uninsured than their white counterparts, with over half (59%) relying on Medicaid compared to 32% of whites. One fifth of Blacks with HIV/AIDS (22%) were uninsured compared to 17% of whites. Blacks were also much less likely to be privately insured than whites (14% compared to 44%).²³
- Insurance status also varies at the time of HIV diagnosis. Analysis of data from 25 states between 1994 and 2000 found that Blacks were less likely than whites to have private coverage and more likely to be covered by Medicaid, or uninsured, at the time of their HIV diagnoses.²⁴

HIV Testing

- Among the non-elderly (ages 18–64), Blacks are more likely than whites to report having been tested for HIV in the last 12 months (43% compared to 15%).²⁵
- Among those who are HIV positive, CDC data indicate that 32% of Blacks were tested for HIV late in their illness—that is, diagnosed with AIDS within one year of testing positive for HIV (in those states/areas with HIV name reporting); by comparison, 32% of whites and 38% of Latinos were tested late.¹

Concern About HIV/AIDS

- A recent survey found that Black Americans express concern about HIV/AIDS. About 1 in 5 Black Americans surveyed named HIV/AIDS as the number one health problem in the U.S. and 35% say that HIV/AIDS is a more urgent problem in their community than it was a few years ago.²⁵
- Personal concern about becoming infected with HIV is highest among Blacks, as is concern among Black parents about their children becoming infected. However, the proportion of Blacks saying they are personally concerned about becoming infected has declined since the mid-1990s.²⁵

¹ CDC. *HIV Surveillance Report*, Vol. 21; 2011. Data included in this fact sheet are estimates.
² CDC. Special Data Request; 2006.
³ Hall HI et al. "Estimation of HIV Incidence in the United States." *JAMA*, Vol. 300, No. 5; August 2008.
⁴ CDC. *Fact Sheet: Estimates of New HIV Infections in the United States*; August 2008.
⁵ CDC. *MMWR*, Vol. 60, No. 21; 2011.
⁶ NCHS. "Deaths: Final Data for 2007." *NVSR*, Vol. 58, No. 19; 2010.
⁷ Shapiro MF et al. "Variations in the Care of HIV-Infected Adults in the United States." *JAMA*, Vol. 281, No. 24; 1999.
⁸ Cunningham WE et al. "The Impact of Competing Subsistence Needs and Barriers to Access to Medical Care for Persons with Human Immunodeficiency Virus Receiving Care in the United States." *Medical Care*, Vol. 37, No. 12; 1999.
⁹ Fleishman JA et al. "Hospital and Outpatient Health Services Utilization Among HIV-Infected Adults in Care 2000–2002." *Medical Care*, Vol. 43, No. 9, Supplement; September 2005.
¹⁰ McQuillan GM et al. *NCHS Data Brief*, No. 4; January 2008.
¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2006 Population Estimates.
¹² Calculations based only on diagnoses for which race/ethnicity data were provided.
¹³ Includes estimated diagnoses among those 13 years of age and older. Estimates do not include U.S. dependencies, possessions, and associated nations, and diagnoses of unknown residence.
¹⁴ NCHS. *Health, United States, 2010*; 2011.
¹⁵ CDC. *Slide Set: HIV Mortality* (through 2007).
¹⁶ CDC. *MMWR*, Vol. 57, No. 36; 2008.
¹⁷ CDC. *Slide Set: HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults* (through 2008).
¹⁸ CDC. *Slide Set: HIV/AIDS Surveillance by Race/Ethnicity* (through 2009).
¹⁹ CDC. *Fact Sheet: HIV/AIDS Among Men Who Have Sex with Men*; June 2007.
²⁰ CDC. *MMWR*, Vol. 54, No. 24; 2005.
²¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation, www.statehealthfacts.org. Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention-Surveillance and Epidemiology, Special Data Request; 2010.
²² Estimates include U.S. dependencies, possessions, and associated nations, and diagnoses of unknown residence.
²³ Fleishman JA. Personal Communication, Analysis of HCSUS Data; January 2002.
²⁴ Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of CDC data.
²⁵ Kaiser Family Foundation. *Survey of Americans on HIV/AIDS*; June 2011.