

HIV and African Americans

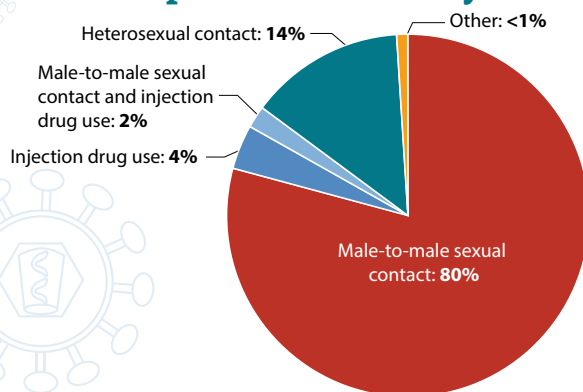
OF THE 37,832 NEW HIV DIAGNOSES IN THE US AND DEPENDENT AREAS* IN 2018:

42% WERE AMONG ADULT AND ADOLESCENT BLACKS/AFRICAN AMERICANS†

31% WERE AMONG BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN

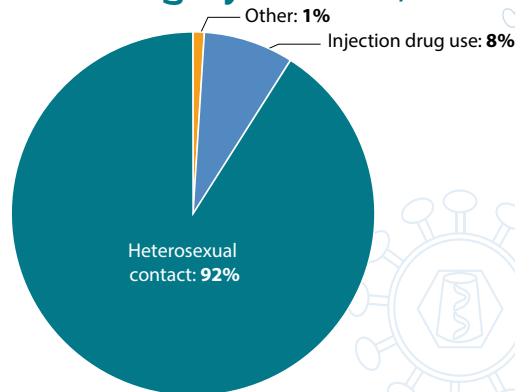
11% WERE AMONG BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN

New HIV Diagnoses Among Blacks/African Americans in the US and Dependent Areas by Transmission Category and Sex, 2018



Men (N=11,903)

Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.



Women (N=4,114)

From 2010 to 2017, HIV diagnoses decreased 15% among blacks/African Americans overall.‡ But trends varied for different groups of blacks/African Americans:



Women: down 27%



Heterosexual men: down 32%

Gay and bisexual men overall:** ††
remained stable



Gay and bisexual men by age:††

13 to 24: **down 11%**

25 to 34: **up 42%**

35 to 44: **down 21%**

45 to 54: **down 36%**

55 and older: **remained stable**

* American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Republic of Palau, and the US Virgin Islands.

† Black refers to people having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa, including immigrants from the Caribbean, and South and Latin America. African American is a term often used for Americans of African descent with ancestry in North America. Individuals may self-identify as either, both, or choose another identity altogether. This fact sheet uses African American, unless referencing surveillance data.

‡ In 50 states and the District of Columbia.

** This fact sheet uses the term gay and bisexual men to represent gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men.

†† Includes infections attributed to male-to-male sexual contact and injection drug use (men who reported both risk factors).

Around **1.1 million people** are living with HIV in the US.[‡] People with HIV need to know their HIV status so they can take medicine to treat HIV. Taking HIV medicine as prescribed can make the level of virus in their body very low (called viral suppression) or even undetectable.

AT THE END OF 2016,
AN ESTIMATED
476,100
BLACKS/AFRICAN
AMERICANS HAD HIV.

6 in 7
KNEW THEY HAD THE VIRUS.[‡]

For every **100 blacks/African Americans** with HIV in 2016:[‡]



received
some
HIV care



were
retained
in care



were virally
suppressed

A person with HIV who takes HIV medicine as prescribed and gets and stays virally suppressed or undetectable can stay healthy and has effectively no risk of sexually transmitting HIV to HIV-negative partners.

What places some African Americans at higher risk for HIV?

Knowledge of HIV Status



Some African Americans do not know their HIV status. People who do not know they have HIV can't get the care they need and may transmit HIV to others without knowing it.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)



African Americans have higher rates of some STDs. Having another STD can increase a person's chance of getting or transmitting HIV.

Socioeconomic Issues



The poverty rate is high among African Americans. The issues associated with poverty, including limited access to HIV prevention and care services, may increase the risk for HIV.

Stigma and Discrimination



Stigma, fear, discrimination, and homophobia may place some African Americans at higher risk for HIV.

How is CDC making a difference?



Collecting and analyzing data and monitoring HIV trends.



Conducting prevention research and providing guidance to those working in HIV prevention.



Supporting community organizations that increase access to HIV testing and care.



Promoting testing, prevention, and treatment through the Let's Stop HIV Together campaign.



Supporting health departments and community-based organizations by funding HIV prevention work and providing technical assistance.

Reduce Your Risk



Not having sex



Using
condoms



Not sharing
syringes



Taking medicine
to prevent
or treat HIV

HIV IS A VIRUS THAT ATTACKS THE BODY'S IMMUNE SYSTEM.

It is usually spread by anal or vaginal sex or sharing syringes with a person who has HIV. The only way to know you have HIV is to be tested. Everyone aged 13-64 should be tested at least once, and people at high risk should be tested at least once a year. Ask your doctor, or visit gettested.cdc.gov to find a testing site. Without treatment, HIV can make a person very sick or may even cause death. If you have HIV, start treatment as soon as possible to stay healthy and help protect your partners.

For More Information

Call 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
Visit www.cdc.gov/hiv