

HIV and African Americans

HIV DIAGNOSES IN 2016:*

12,890 AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN

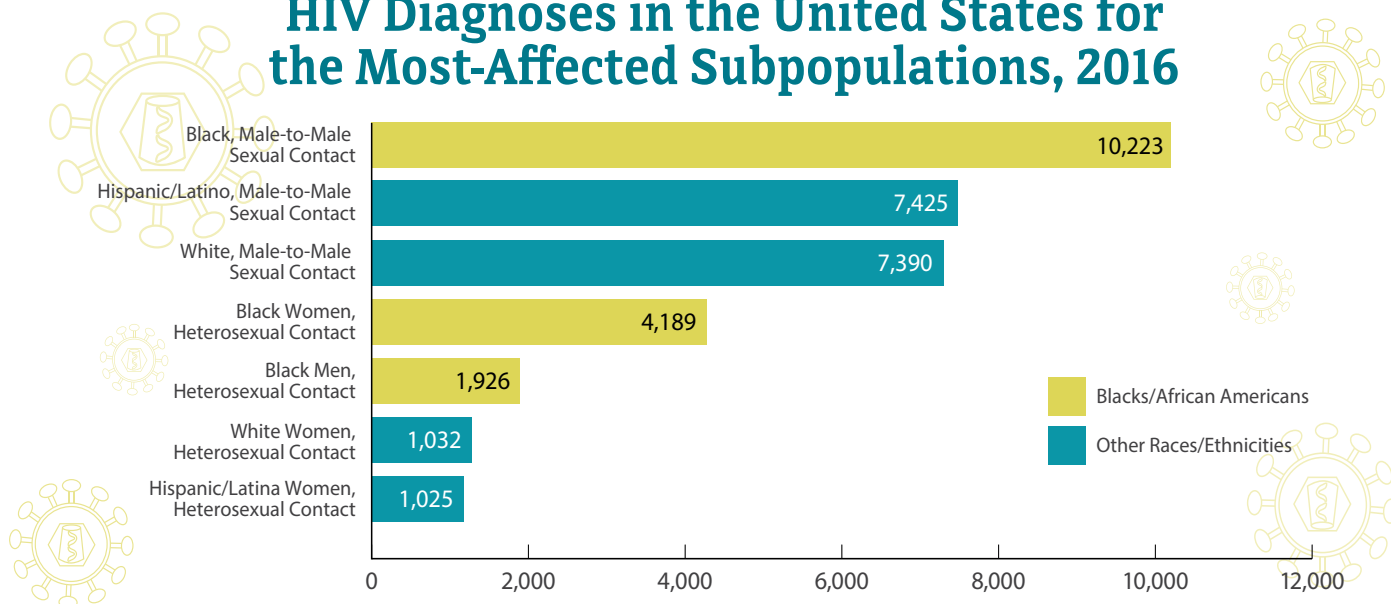
4,560 AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN

6 OUT OF 10 AFRICAN AMERICANS DIAGNOSED WITH HIV WERE GAY OR BISEXUAL MEN

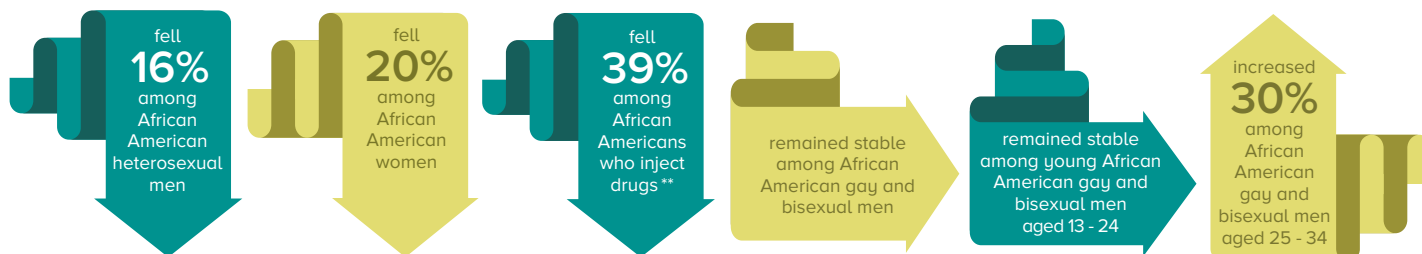


African Americans make up 12% of the US population, but 44% of new HIV diagnoses.

HIV Diagnoses in the United States for the Most-Affected Subpopulations, 2016



From 2011 to 2015, HIV diagnoses fell 8% among African Americans overall.



* HIV diagnoses are the number of people diagnosed with HIV during a year.

** Includes HIV diagnoses among African American gay and bisexual men who inject drugs.

Around 1.1 million people are living with HIV in the US. People living 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. A person living with HIV who gets and stays virally suppressed or undetectable can stay healthy and has effectively no risk of sexually transmitting HIV to HIV-negative partners.



Unfortunately, thousands of Americans still die each year from HIV. In 2015, 3,379 African Americans died from HIV disease.

Why are African Americans at higher risk?

- A higher percentage of African Americans are living with HIV compared to other races/ethnicities. Because African Americans tend to have sex partners of the same race, they have a greater chance of coming in contact with HIV.
- Some African American communities continue to experience higher rates of other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) when compared to other races/ethnicities. Having another STD can significantly increase a person's chance of getting or transmitting HIV.
- Around 74,000 African Americans do not know their HIV status. People who do not know they have HIV cannot get the treatment they need and may pass the infection to others without knowing it.
- Limited access to quality health care, lower income and educational levels, and higher rates of unemployment may place some African Americans at higher risk for HIV.
- Stigma, fear, discrimination, and homophobia may also place many African Americans at higher risk for HIV.

How is CDC making a difference?

- Collecting and analyzing data and monitoring HIV trends among African Americans.
- Conducting prevention research and providing guidance to those working in HIV prevention.
- Supporting health departments and community organizations by funding HIV prevention work for African Americans and providing technical assistance.
- Supporting health departments and community organizations to form collaborations that can increase access to quality care, increase income and education levels, and reduce unemployment rates for African Americans.
- Promoting testing, prevention, and treatment through campaigns like *Act Against AIDS*.

*** People living with HIV who take HIV medicine as prescribed and get and stay virally suppressed have effectively no risk of sexually transmitting HIV to HIV-negative partners.

AT THE END OF 2014,
AN ESTIMATED

471,500

AFRICAN AMERICANS
WERE LIVING WITH HIV.

1 in 6
DIDN'T KNOW IT.

FOR EVERY 100
AFRICAN AMERICANS
LIVING WITH HIV IN 2014:



received
some
HIV care



were
retained
in care



were virally
suppressed***

Reduce Your Risk



Not having sex



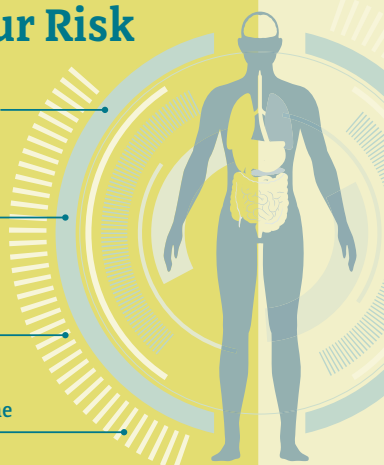
Using
condoms



Not sharing
needles



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 needles with a person who is living with 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 are living with 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