

## **HIV/AIDS and Race in the U.S.**

HIV/AIDS has had a devastating impact on minorities in the United States. Racial and ethnic minorities accounted for almost 71% of the newly diagnosed cases of HIV infection in 2010. In 2010, 84% of children born with HIV infection belong to minority groups.

In the African American community, HIV infections have become an epidemic. African Americans accounted for 46% of all HIV infections cases diagnosed in 2010. AIDS is the third leading cause of death in African American women aged 35-44 and the third leading cause of death in African American men, aged 35-44.

HIV/AIDS is spreading at a rapid rate in the Hispanic community. Hispanics accounted for 20% of AIDS cases in 2010, despite making up only 16% of the U.S. population. Hispanics are almost three times more likely to be diagnosed with AIDS than Whites.

Though the numbers are small, American Indians are also impacted disproportionately by HIV/AIDS. American Indians are 1.6 times as likely to have AIDS than Whites.

For Asians and Pacific Islanders, HIV/AIDS is the ninth leading cause of death in men aged 25 to 34. Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders are 2.6 times as likely to be diagnosed with HIV infections as Whites.

### **African Americans**

Although African Americans are only 13.6% of the U.S. population, they accounted for 46% of HIV infection cases in 2010.

- African American males have almost 7.6 times the AIDS rate as white males.
- African American females have 20 times the AIDS rate as white females.
- African American men are 10 times as likely to die from HIV/AIDS as Non-Hispanic White men.
- African American women are over 22 times as likely to die from HIV/AIDS as Non-Hispanic White women.
- African American children are twice as likely to be diagnosed with HIV infection, as compared to the White children.
- In 2010, African Americans were 8.5 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV infection, as compared to the White population.

### **Hispanic Americans**

- Hispanic Americans accounted for 20% of all HIV infection cases in 2010.
- Hispanic males are 3 times as likely to have AIDS as compared to white males.
- Hispanic females are almost 5 times as likely to have AIDS in 2010 as White females.
- Hispanic men are 2.5 times as likely as non-Hispanic White men to die of HIV/AIDS.
- Hispanic women are 3.8 times as likely as non-Hispanic white women to die of HIV/AIDS.
- In 2010, Hispanic females were 4.4 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV infection, as compared to White females.

(Source: The Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/templates/browse.aspx?lvl=3&lvlid=70>)

# **CDC: Many Americans with HIV don't know they have it**

## **White House aims for 90% to know status**

**BY KAREN KAPLAN LOS ANGELES TIMES (TNS)**

More than 1.2 million Americans are living with HIV — including about 156,300 who don't realize it, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That means 13% of those who are infected with the virus that causes AIDS aren't in a position to protect their health, or the health of others.

The White House has set a goal of making sure at least 90% of people infected with HIV know of their status. As of 2012, only four states — Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii and New York — had certainly met that goal, researchers reported in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on Thursday — two days before National HIV Testing Day.

Another seven states — Alaska, Idaho, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota and Vermont — may well be meeting the 90% target set in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, the researchers said. However, these states did not have enough new cases of HIV in recent years to allow for a statistically reliable estimate.

Nationwide, about 87% of Americans with HIV know they are infected, according to the report. That figure is based on data from the 41 states (plus the District of Columbia) where at least 60 people were diagnosed with HIV each year between 2008 and 2012, on average.

The state with the lowest rate of HIV-infection awareness was Louisiana, where only 77% of those with the virus knew that they had it.

It stands to reason that people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus would benefit from knowing it. An international clinical trial recently showed that starting antiretroviral treatment right away instead of waiting for the immune system to deteriorate can reduce the risk of death or serious illness by 53%. The results of the Strategic Timing of AntiRetroviral Treatment, or START, trial were so convincing that the study was stopped early so that all participants could receive the drugs.

Knowing one's HIV status is also good for the public at large, since people who have HIV but don't realize it are in a prime position to spread it to others. A study published this spring in *JAMA Internal Medicine* found that about 30% of new HIV transmissions could be traced to people who were infected but undiagnosed.