



FACT SHEET

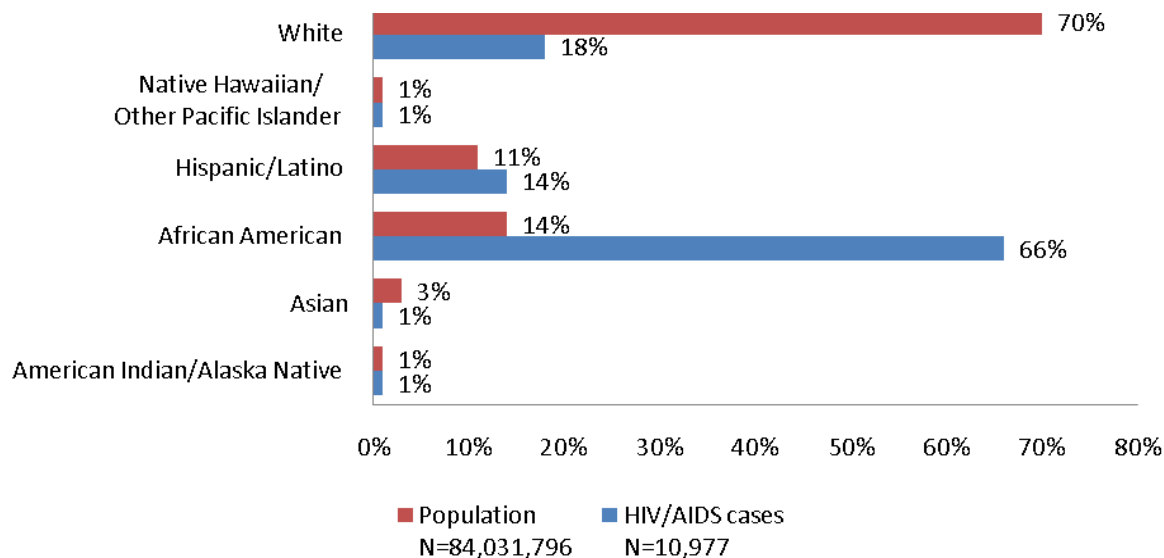
AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN AND HIV/AIDS

Today, African American women account for more than one-quarter of all new HIV/AIDS diagnoses. Women of color are especially affected by HIV infection and AIDS.¹

African American Women and HIV/AIDS in America

- Approximately every 9-½ minutes, someone in the United States is infected with HIV.²
- In 2004, HIV infection was³
 - the leading cause of death for African American women aged 25–34 years;
 - the third leading cause of death for African American women aged 35–44 years; and
 - the fourth leading cause of death for African American women aged 45–54 years.
- Data from the 2005 census show that together, black and Hispanic women represented 24 percent of all U.S. women, yet women in those two groups accounted for 82 percent (8,807/10,774) of the estimated total of AIDS diagnoses for women in 2005.⁴
- In 2005, African American women were more than 23 times as likely as non-Latino, white women to die from HIV/AIDS.⁵

Percentages of HIV/AIDS Cases and Population among Female Adults and Adolescents, by Race/Ethnicity, 2007 (34 States)



Source: HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report: Cases of HIV Infection and AIDS in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2007.⁶

HIV/AIDS and Women in Prison

- In 2005, African American women were more than three times as likely as white women to be incarcerated in prison or jail.⁷
- Incarcerated women are disproportionately affected by HIV and sexually transmitted infections. The HIV infection rate among women offenders is about 15 times higher than among women in the general U.S. population.⁸

Intersection of HIV/AIDS and Poverty

- In 2009, African Americans and Latinos with HIV/AIDS were more likely to rely on Medicaid than their white counterparts. Women with HIV/AIDS are more likely to be covered by Medicaid than men.⁹

Global Picture

- The worst-infected region is sub-Saharan Africa, where an estimated 22 million people are living with HIV—around two-thirds of the global total.¹⁰
- Women account for half of all people living with HIV worldwide, with nearly 60 percent of HIV infections occurring in sub-Saharan Africa. Women are disproportionately infected in this region and are twice as likely as men to acquire HIV from an infected partner during unprotected heterosexual intercourse.¹¹
- The epidemic is also spreading rapidly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where the number of people living with HIV increased 150 percent between 2001 and 2007.¹²

Black U.S. HIV/AIDS Rate Compared with the African Diaspora

- A “freestanding” black America would rank 16th in the world in the number of people living with HIV.
- The number of African American people in America living with HIV exceeds the HIV population in some of the world’s most heavily affected countries, including Botswana, Côte d’Ivoire, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Ukraine.
- In 2003, if black America were its own country, it would have a larger HIV-positive population than seven of the countries that received funding through the Bush administration’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.¹³

HIV Population of Countries Receiving Emergency U.S. Aid, by Rank

1. South Africa: 5,500,000	9. Black America: 500,000-600,000
2. Nigeria: 2,900,000	10. Ethiopia: 420,000–1,300,000
3. Mozambique: 1,800,000	11. Botswana: 270,000
4. Tanzania: 1,400,000	12. Vietnam: 260,000
5. Kenya: 1,300,000	13. Namibia: 230,000
6. Zambia: 1,100,000	14. Haiti: 190,000
7. Uganda: 1,000,000	15. Rwanda: 190,000
8. Côte d’Ivoire: 750,000	16. Guyana: 12,000

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “HIV/AIDS among Women: HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet,” Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv> (accessed, August 28, 2009).

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2005.”

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/2005report/> (accessed, August 28, 2009).

⁵ Kaiser Family Foundation, “African Americans and HIV/AIDS,” HIV/AIDS policy fact sheet, Available at:

<http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/6089-03.pdf> (accessed August 6, 2009).

⁶ Data include persons with a diagnosis of HIV infection regardless of their AIDS status at diagnosis. Data are from 34 states with confidential name-based HIV infection reporting since at least 2003. Data have been adjusted for reporting delays. Data include 95 persons of unknown race or multiple races. Data include Asian and Pacific Islander legacy cases. Latinos/Latinas can be of any race.

⁷ Data calculated from Jodi M. Brown, Darrell K. Gilliard, Tracy L. Snell, James J. Stephan, and Doris James Wilson, Correctional Populations in the United States 1994, table 1.8, p. 8, June 1996, and Prisoners in 2005.

⁸ A. DeGroot and S. Cu Uvin, “HIV Infection among Women in Prison: Considerations for Care,” *Infectious Diseases in Corrections Report* 8, nos. 5 and 6 (2005). Available at www.idronline.org/archives/mayjune05/article.html (accessed August 31, 2009).

⁹ J.A. Fleishman, “Hospital and Outpatient Health Services Utilization among HIV-Infected Adults in Care, 2000–2002,” *Medical Care* 43, no. 9, supp. (2005) pp. 12-16.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*, 2008, Available at: http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2008/JC1511_GR08_ExecutiveSummary_en.pdf (accessed August 19, 2009).

¹³ Ibid.