

African American Prevention Intervention Network SANKOFA FACT SHEET

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HIV/AIDS AMONG AFRICAN-AMERICANS

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a major health crisis among African-Americans, affecting men and women of every age and sexual orientation.

The Cumulative Effects of HIV/AIDS:

According to the 2000 Census, African-Americans make up 12.3 percent of the population of the United States. However, they have accounted for 39 percent – more than 347,000 – of the more than 886,000 estimated AIDS cases diagnosed since the beginning of the epidemic. By the end of December 2002, more than 185,000 African-Americans had died with AIDS.¹

For people diagnosed with AIDS since 1994, African-Americans had the poorest survival rates of all racial and ethnic groups, with 55 percent surviving after nine years compared to 61 percent of Hispanics, 64 percent of whites and 69 percent of Asian/Pacific Islanders.¹

In 2000, HIV/AIDS was among the top three causes of death for African-American men ages 25-55 and African-American women ages 35-44.²

AIDS in 2002:

African-Americans accounted for about 21,000, or 50 percent, of the more than 42,000 estimated AIDS cases diagnosed among adults in the United States.¹

The AIDS diagnosis rate among African-Americans was almost 11 times the rate among whites. African-American women had a 23 times greater diagnosis rate than white women. African-American men had almost a nine times greater rate of AIDS diagnosis than white men.¹

Over 162,000 African-Americans were living with AIDS in the United States. They accounted for 42 percent of all people in the United States living with AIDS.¹

HIV in 2002:

African-Americans accounted for over half of the new HIV diagnoses reported in the United States.¹

A study of people diagnosed with HIV found that 56 percent of “late testers,” i.e., those that were diagnosed with AIDS within one year of their HIV diagnosis, were African-American.³ Late testing represents missed opportunities in prevention and treatment of HIV.

The leading cause of HIV infection among African-American men is sexual contact with other men, followed by injection drug use and heterosexual contact.¹

The leading cause of HIV infection among African-American women is heterosexual contact, followed by injection drug use.¹

Sixty-two percent of children born to HIV-infected mothers were African-American.¹

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). HIV/AIDS surveillance report 2002;14.
2. National Center for Health Statistics. National vital statistics report. 2002;50(16).
3. CDC. Late versus early testing of HIV – 16 Sites, United States, 2002-2003. MMWR 2003;52 (25)581-586.
4. CDC. Increases in HIV diagnoses – 29 States – 1999-2002. MMWR 2003;52(47);1145-1148.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Ga., <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/Facts/afam.htm>

