



YAYA FACT SHEET

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Young African-American Women and the HIV/AIDS Epidemic

The HIV and AIDS epidemic is continuing to disproportionately affect the African-American community, especially young women [3]. Social, economic and cultural barriers continue to hinder the youth from receiving accurate and adequate information on HIV prevention [2].

STATISTICS

Disproportionate Impact of HIV Infection and AIDS

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data for 2004, African-American youth accounted for 55 percent of HIV infections among persons aged 13-24 [4]. CDC reported in 2002, African-American women account for 66 percent of cumulative AIDS cases among women ages 13-19, although they only represent 15 percent of this age group [1].

BEHAVIORS THAT HEIGHTENED RISK OF HIV INFECTION

Sexual Risk Factors

- Sexual Intercourse: This is the primary mode of HIV transmission among black women. It was reported in 2003 that 61 percent of all African-American high school females reported having had sexual intercourse [4].
- Multiple Partners: Among sexually experienced female teens in 2003, 16 percent of African-Americans reported having four or more lifetime sex partners [4].
- An Older Male Partner: Older male partners present a greater risk because compared to adolescent males they are more likely to: have had multiple partners, have concurrent sexual partners, and/or already may be infected with an STI [4].

Socioeconomic and Cultural Factors

- Poverty: In 2003, over 24 percent of African-Americans lived in poverty. Having limited resources force women to put sexual risk reduction second to the need for food, clothing, shelter, safety and childcare [4].
- Lack of Access to Health Care: African-Americans constituted the largest group of those without healthcare insurance in 2003. CDC reported that youth who lack access to health care may also lack accurate information about HIV infection, testing, and treatment [4].

BARRIERS TO HIV PREVENTION

According to study of African-American women ages 13-19, 26 percent felt little control over whether a condom was used during intercourse. The women also felt that negotiating condom use also seems to question trust and fidelity [2].

- References:
1. Advocates for youth. *Young Women of Color and the HIV Epidemic*; www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheets/fsyngwom.htm; accessed on August 21, 2006.
 2. Advocates for youth. *Youth of Color-At Disproportionate Risk of Negative Sexual Health Outcomes*; www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheets/fsyouth.htm; accessed on August 21, 2006.
 3. Advocates for youth. *Young African American Women and HIV*; www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/frtp/youngaawomen.htm; accessed on August 21, 2006.
 4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *HIV/AIDS among youth*. Atlanta, Ga.: Author, June 2006.