# Black/African American People and HIV

(updated January 2023)



## Black/African American People and HIV

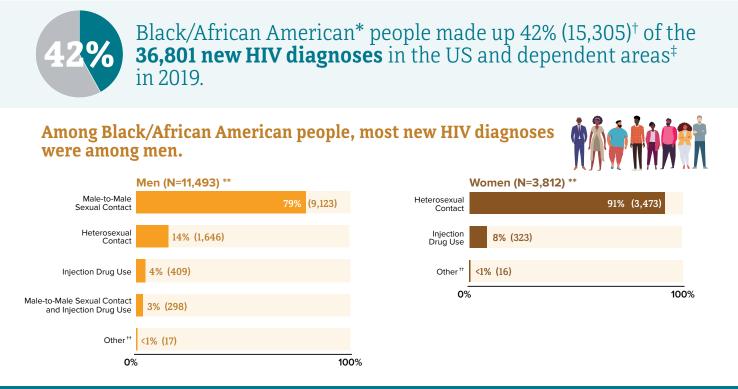
This educational packet is a curated compilation of resources on HIV among Black/African American people.

The contents of this packet are listed below:

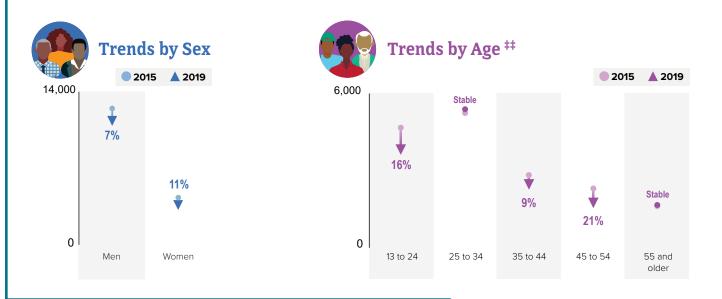
- HIV and African American People (CDC)
- Black Americans and HIV/AIDS: The Basics (Kaiser Family Foundation)
- HIV and African American Gay and Bisexual Men (CDC)
- Black/African American Clients: Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, 2020 (HRSA)
- Infographics About HIV in Black/African American People (AIDSVu)
- Infographics from CDC

You may wish to customize this packet to meet the needs or interests of particular groups, such as event participants, providers, patients, clients, or the general public. So please feel free to distribute all or part of this document as either a printout or PDF.

# HIV and African American People



# Progress has been made with reducing HIV diagnoses among most age groups, with HIV diagnoses decreasing 8% among Black/African American people overall from 2015 to 2019.



- \* Black refers to people having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. African American is a term often used for people of African descent with ancestry in North America. This fact sheet uses African American, unless referencing surveillance data.
- <sup>+</sup> Adult and adolescent Black/Áfrican American people aged 13 and older.
- <sup>‡</sup> American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Republic of Palau, and the US Virgin Islands.
- \*\* Based on sex assigned at birth and includes transgender people. For more information about transgender people, visit www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/ gender/transgender.
- <sup>++</sup> Includes perinatal exposure, blood transfusion, hemophilia, and risk factors not reported or not identified.
- <sup>#</sup> Does not include *perinatal* and *other* transmission categories.



# Black/African American people who don't know they have HIV can't get the care and treatment they need to stay healthy.



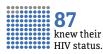
In 2019, an estimated **1.2 MILLION PEOPLE** had HIV. **Of those, 479,300 were Black/ African American people.**\*\*\* For every 100 people with HIV

87

knew their

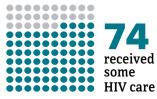
HIV status.

For every 100 Black/African American people with HIV

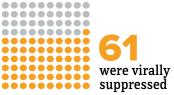


It is important for Black/African American people to know their HIV status so they can take medicine to treat HIV if they have the virus. Taking HIV medicine every day can make the viral load undetectable. People who get and keep an undetectable viral load (or remain virally suppressed) can stay healthy for many years and have effectively no risk of transmitting HIV to their sex partners.

Compared to all people with diagnosed HIV, Black/African American people have lower viral suppression rates. More work is needed to increase these rates. For every **100 Black/African American people with diagnosed HIV** in 2019.<sup>+++</sup>







For comparison, for every **100 people overall** with diagnosed HIV, **76 received some HIV care**, **58 were retained in care**, and **66 were virally suppressed**.

#### There are several challenges that place some African American people at higher risk for HIV.



#### Viral Supression

African American people have lower percentages of viral suppression compared to all people with HIV. Getting and keeping an undetectable viral load (or staying virally suppressed) can prevent transmission to others.

Racism, HIV Stigma, and Homophobia



Racism, HIV stigma, and homophobia can negatively impact risk-taking behaviors, knowledge of HIV status, HIV care, and other needed services for many African American people.



Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

African American people are disproportionately affected by some other STDs. Having another STD can increase a person's chance of getting or transmitting HIV.

#### Social and Economic Issues



African American people experiencing poverty may find it harder to get HIV prevention and care services.

| Collecting and analyzing data and monitoring<br>HIV trends, including among African<br>American people.<br>Supporting community organizations that<br>increase access to HIV testing and care<br>for African American people.   |       |
|---|-------|
| Conducting prevention research and providing guidance to those working in HIV prevention.   |       |
| Supporting health departments and community-<br>based organizations by funding HIV prevention<br>work and providing technical assistance.<br>Strengthening successful HIV prevention<br>programs in African American communitie<br>and supporting new efforts funded throug<br>Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. initiative | n the |

\*\*\* In 50 states and the District of Columbia

<sup>+++</sup> In 44 states and the District of Columbia.

For data on HIV risk behaviors and barriers to HIV care, visit www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/racialethnic/africanamericans.

For more information about HIV surveillance data, read the "Technical Notes" in the HIV surveillance reports at www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/hiv-surveillance.html.

#### Black Americans and HIV/AIDS: The Basics

**kff.org**/hivaids/fact-sheet/black-americans-and-hivaids-the-basics

Published: Feb 07, 2020 February 7, 2020

#### Key Facts

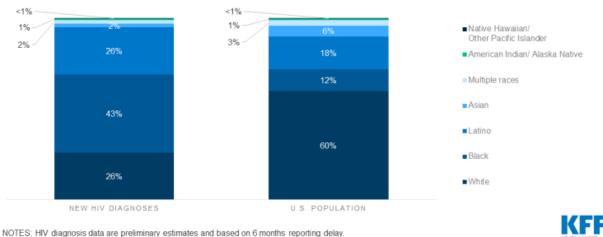
- Black Americans have been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS since the epidemic's beginning, and that disparity has deepened over time.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Although they represent only 12% of the U.S. population, Blacks account for a much larger share of HIV diagnoses (43%), people estimated to be living with HIV disease (42%), and deaths among people with HIV (44%) than any other racial/ethnic group in the U.S.<sup>3.4</sup>
- Among Black Americans, Black women, youth, and gay and bisexual men have been especially hard hit.<sup>5,6</sup>
- A number of challenges contribute to the epidemic among Blacks, including poverty, lack of access to health care, higher rates of some sexually transmitted infections, smaller sexual networks, lack of awareness of HIV status, and stigma.<sup>7</sup>
- Despite this impact, recent data indicate some encouraging trends, including declining new HIV diagnoses among Blacks overall, especially among women, and a leveling off of new diagnoses among Black gay and bisexual men.<sup>8,9</sup> However, given the epidemic's continued and disproportionate impact among Blacks, a continued focus is critical to addressing HIV in the United States.

#### Overview

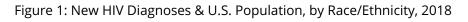
- Today, there are more than 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S., including 476,100 who are Black.<sup>10,11,12</sup>
- Although Black Americans represent only 12% of the U.S. population,<sup>13</sup> they accounted for 43% of new HIV diagnoses in 2018 (see Figure 1) and an estimated 42% of people living with HIV.<sup>14</sup>

Figure 1

# New HIV Diagnoses & U.S. Population, by Race/Ethnicity, 2018

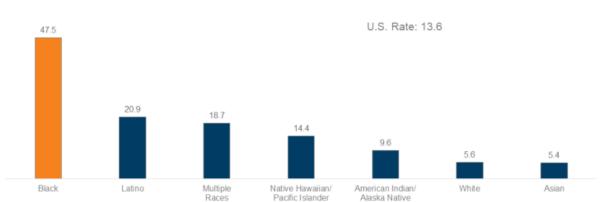


NOTES: HIV diagnosis data are preliminary estimates and based on 6 months reporting delay. SOURCES: CDC. NCHHSTP Atlas Plus. Accessed February 2020; KFF. State Health Facts; accessed February 2020.



The rate of new HIV diagnoses per 100,000 among Black adults/adolescents (47.5) was 8 times that of whites (5.6) and more than twice that of Latinos (20.9) in 2018 (see Figure 2).<sup>15</sup> The rate for Black men (74.8) was the highest of any group, twice that of Latino men (36.4), the second highest group. Black women (23.1) had the highest rate among women.<sup>16</sup>

Figure 2



Rates of New HIV Diagnoses per 100,000, by Race/Ethnicity, 2018

KFFF MENRY J KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION

NOTES: HIV diagnosis data are preliminary estimates and based on 6 months reporting delay. SOURCE: CDC. NCHHSTP Atlas Plus. Accessed February 2020

- The latest data indicate declines in both the number and rate of annual new diagnoses among Blacks in recent years, including among women.<sup>17</sup>
- Blacks accounted for more than 4 in 10 (44%) deaths among people with an HIV diagnosis (deaths may be due to any cause) in 2017.<sup>18</sup> The number of deaths among Blacks with an HIV diagnosis decreased 8% between 2010 and 2017.<sup>19</sup> Despite these declines, HIV was the 6th leading cause of death for Black men ages 25-34 and 8th for Black women ages 35-44 in 2017, ranking higher than for their respective counterparts in any other racial/ethnic group.<sup>20</sup>
- HIV death rates (deaths for which HIV was indicated as the leading cause of death) are highest among Blacks. In 2017, Blacks had the highest age-adjusted HIV death rate per 100,000 – 6.6, compared to 0.9 per 100,000 whites.<sup>21</sup>

#### Transmission

- Transmission patterns vary by race/ethnicity. While male-to-male sexual contact accounts for the largest share of HIV cases among both Blacks and whites, proportionately, fewer Blacks contract HIV this way and heterosexual sex plays a bigger role among Blacks compared with whites. Among Blacks, 59% of new HIV diagnoses in 2018 were attributable to male-to-male sexual contact and 34% were attributable to heterosexual sex; among whites, 67% of new HIV diagnoses in 2018 were attributable to male-to-male sexual contact and 15% were attributable to heterosexual sex. The remainder of HIV diagnoses in each group were attributable to other causes, including injection drug use.<sup>22</sup>
- Black women are most likely to have been infected through heterosexual transmission, the most common transmission route for women overall. Black women are less likely to have been infected through injection drug use than white women.<sup>23</sup>

#### Women and Young People

- Among all women, Black women account for the largest share of new HIV diagnoses (4,114, or 58% in 2018), and the rate of new diagnoses among Black women (23.1) is 14 times the rate among white women and almost 5 times the rate among Latinas.<sup>24</sup> Black women also accounted for the largest share of women living with an HIV diagnosis at the end of 2017.<sup>25</sup>
- Although new HIV diagnoses continue to occur disproportionately among Black women, data show a 43% decrease in new diagnoses for Black women between 2008 and 2018.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2018, Black women represented about one quarter (26%) of new HIV diagnoses among all Blacks a higher share than Latinas and white women (who represented 12% and 16% of new diagnoses among their respective groups).<sup>27</sup>
- In 2016, more than half of gay and bisexual teens and young adults with HIV were black.<sup>28</sup>

 According to a national survey of young adults ages 18-30, about three times as many Blacks (46%) as whites (15%) say HIV today is a "very serious" concern for people they know. Almost twice as many Black young adults (30%) say they know someone who is living with, or has died of, HIV/AIDS, compared to whites (16%).<sup>29</sup>

#### Gay and Bisexual Men

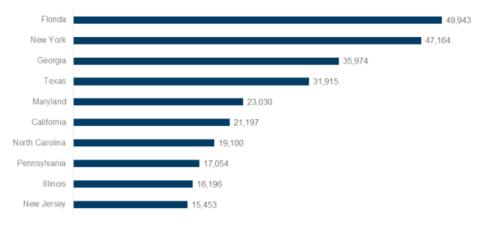
- Among gay and bisexual men, Blacks have been disproportionately affected by HIV and Blacks account for 39% of HIV diagnoses attributable to male-to-male sexual contact.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2018, male-to-male sexual contact accounted for more than half (59%) of new HIV diagnoses among Blacks overall and a majority (80%) of new diagnoses among Black men.<sup>31</sup>
- Young Black gay and bisexual men are particularly affected, with those ages 13-24 representing over half (52%) of new HIV diagnoses among all gay and bisexual men in that age group.<sup>32</sup>
- In addition, newly diagnosed Black gay and bisexual men are younger than their white counterparts, with those ages 13-24 accounting for 34% of new HIV diagnoses among Black gay and bisexual men in 2018, compared to 16% among whites.<sup>33</sup>
- Annual new infections among Black gay and bisexual men have remained stable in recent years, as have new infections among gay and bisexual men overall.<sup>34</sup>
- A study in 23 major U.S. cities found that HIV prevalence among Black gay and bisexual men was 39%, compared to 23% of gay and bisexual men overall.<sup>35</sup>

#### Geography

- Although HIV diagnoses among Blacks have been reported throughout the country, the impact of the epidemic is not uniformly distributed.
- Regionally, the South accounts for both the majority of Blacks newly diagnosed with HIV (63% in 2018) and the majority living with an HIV diagnosis at the end of 2017 (58%).<sup>36,37</sup>
- As with the nation as a whole, HIV diagnoses among Blacks are clustered in a handful of states, with the 10 states with the highest number of Blacks living with an HIV diagnosis accounting for the majority (84%) of cases among Blacks in 2018 (see Figure 3). Florida and New York top the list. In addition, the District of Columbia had the highest rate of Blacks living with an HIV diagnosis at the end of 2017 (3,799.3 per 100,000).<sup>38</sup>

Figure 3

Number of Black Adults/Adolescents Estimated to be Living with an HIV Diagnosis, Top 10 States, year-end 2017



NOTES: Data are estimates for adults/adolescents aged 13 and older. SOURCE: CDC. HIV Surveillance Report, Diagnosis of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2018 (Preliminary), Vol. 30; November 2019. HIV diagnosis data are estimates from 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 6 U.S. dependent areas.

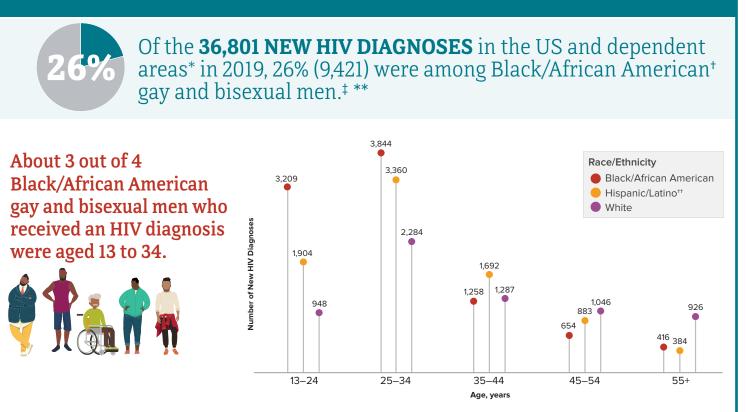


Figure 3: Number of Black Adults/Adolescents Estimated to be Living with an HIV Diagnosis, Top 10 States, year-end 2017

#### HIV Testing and Access to Prevention & Care

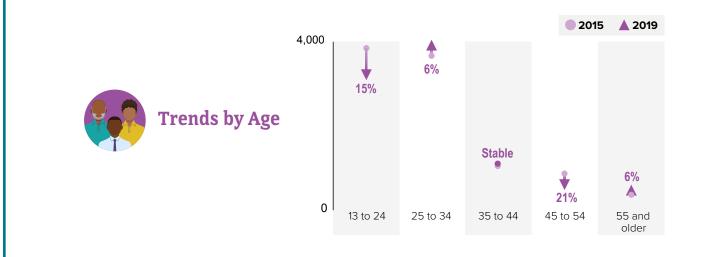
- In 2014, three quarters (76%) of Blacks over age 18 report ever having been tested for HIV and they are more likely than Latinos or whites to report having been tested (58% and 50%, respectively).<sup>39</sup>
- Among those who are HIV positive, 20% of Blacks were tested for HIV late in their illness – that is, were diagnosed with AIDS within 3 months of testing positive for HIV; by comparison, 22% of whites and 21% of Latinos were tested late.<sup>40</sup>
- Looking across the care continuum, from HIV diagnosis to viral suppression, missed opportunities are revealed. Eight-five percent (85%) of Blacks with HIV are diagnosed, 60% are linked to care, and 46% are virally suppressed.<sup>41</sup> Compared with Whites, Blacks are less likely to have reached each of these goals in the continuum diagnosis, linkage to care and viral suppression and thus disparities are likely to persist.<sup>42</sup>

# HIV and African American Gay and Bisexual Men

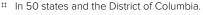


Subpopulations representing 2% or less of HIV diagnoses among gay and bisexual men are not reflected in this chart.

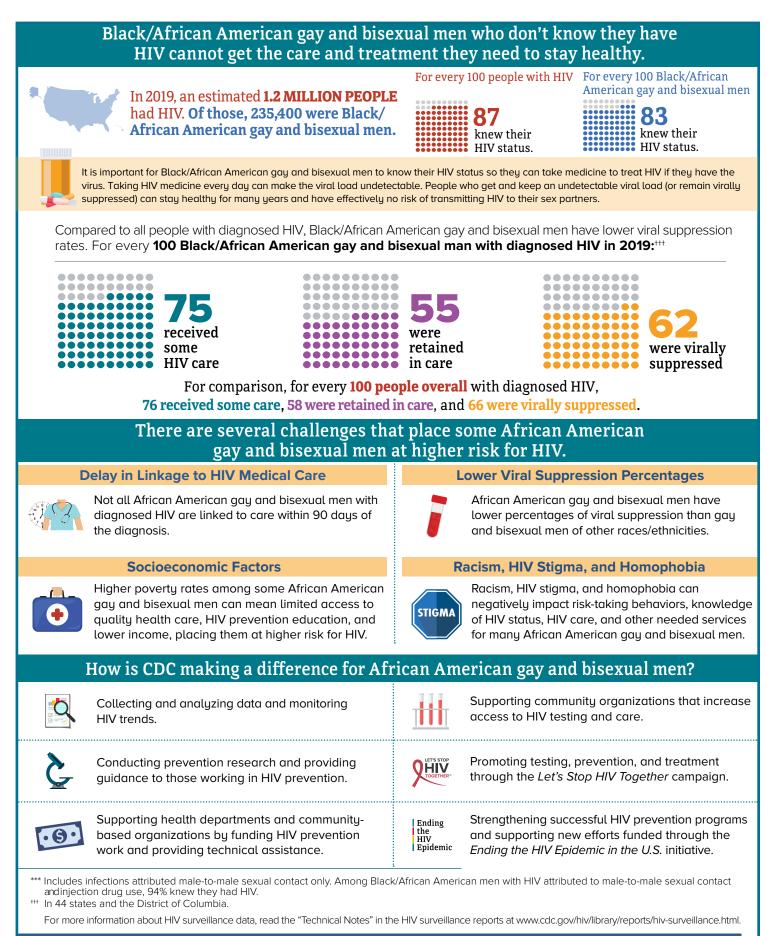
From 2015 to 2019, HIV diagnoses remained stable among Black/African American gay and bisexual men. But trends varied by age.



- \* American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Republic of Palau, and the US Virgin Islands.
- <sup>+</sup> Black refers to people having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. African American is a term often used for people of African descent with ancestry in North America. This fact sheet uses African American, unless referencing surveillance data.
- <sup>±</sup> This fact sheet uses the term *gay and bisexual men* to represent gay, bisexual, and other men who reported male-to-male sexual contact.
- \*\* Includes infections attributed to male-to-male sexual contact and injection drug use (men who reported both risk factors).
- <sup>++</sup> Hispanic/Latino people can be of any race.







For data on HIV risk behaviors and barriers to HIV care, visit www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/msm/bmsm.html.

## Black/African American Clients:

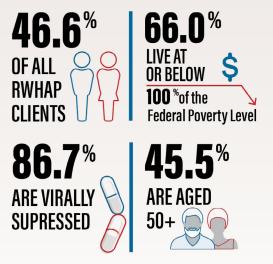
HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, 2020



#### Population Fact Sheet | July 2022

**The Health Resources and Services** Administration's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) provides a comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, medications, and essential support services for low-income people with HIV. More than half the people with diagnosed HIV in the United States—nearly 562,000 people in 2020—receive services through RWHAP each year. The RWHAP funds grants to states, cities, counties, and local community-based organizations to provide care and treatment services to people with HIV to improve health outcomes and reduce HIV transmission. For more than three decades, **RWHAP** has worked to increase health equity, stop HIV stigma, and reduce health disparities by caring for the whole person and addressing their social determinants of health.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Fast Facts: Black/African American Clients





Of the more than half a million clients served by RWHAP, 73.6 percent are people from racial and ethnic minorities; 46.6 percent of all RWHAP clients are Black/African American.

Learn more about Black/African American clients served by the RWHAP:

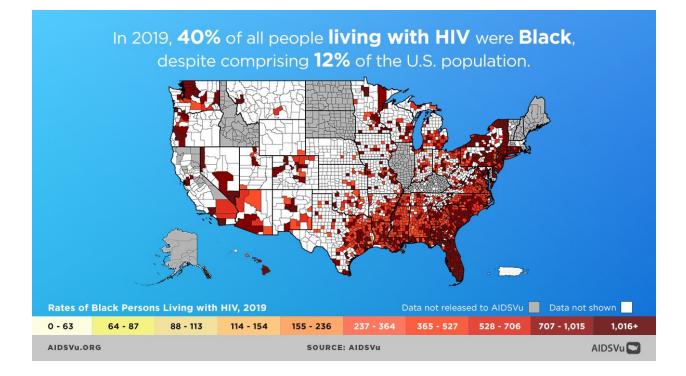
- The majority of Black/African American clients served by RWHAP are male. Data show that 63.5 percent of clients are male, 34.2 percent of clients are female, and 2.4 percent of clients are transgender. The proportion of Black/African American male clients is lower than the national RWHAP average (72.0 percent), whereas the proportion of Black/African American female clients is higher than the national RWHAP average (25.9 percent).
- The majority of Black/African American clients served by RWHAP are people with lower incomes. Data show that 66.0 percent of Black/African American clients are living at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, which is higher than the national RWHAP average (60.9 percent).
- Data show that 5.2 percent of RWHAP Black/African American clients experience unstable housing. This percentage is slightly higher than the national RWHAP average (4.8 percent).
- Black/African American RWHAP clients are aging. Data show 45.5 percent of Black/African American RWHAP clients are aged 50 years and older.
- Among Black/African American male RWHAP clients, 58.0 percent are men who have sex with men (MSM).
  Among all men served by RWHAP, MSM account for 66.7 percent.

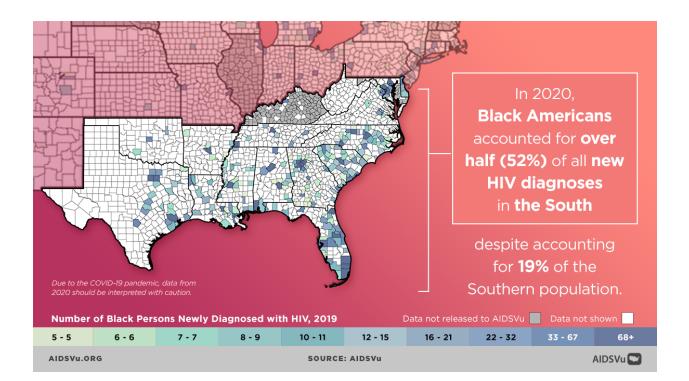
Medical care and treatment improve health outcomes and decrease the risk of HIV transmission. People with HIV who take HIV medication as prescribed and reach and maintain viral suppression cannot sexually transmit the virus to their partner. In 2020, 86.7 percent of Black/African American clients receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed,\* which is lower than the national RWHAP average (89.4 percent).

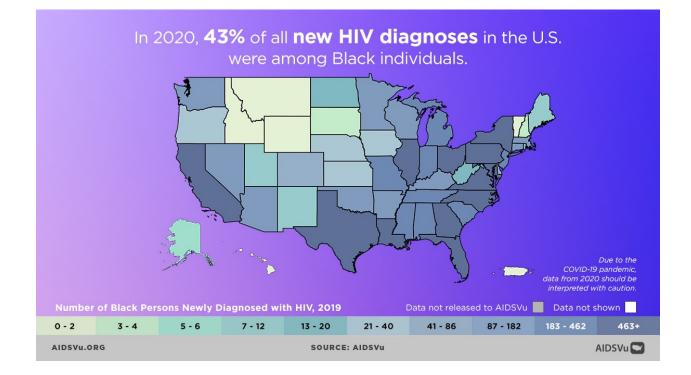
- 77.7 percent of Black/African American men receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed.
- 88.4 percent of Black/African American women receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed.

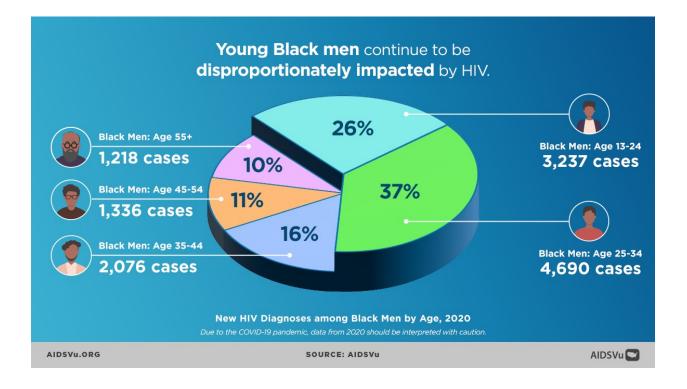
<sup>\*</sup> Viral suppression is defined as a viral load result of less than 200 copies/mL at most recent test, among people with HIV who had at least one outpatient ambulatory health services visit and one viral load test during the measurement year.

#### **Infographics from AIDSVu**

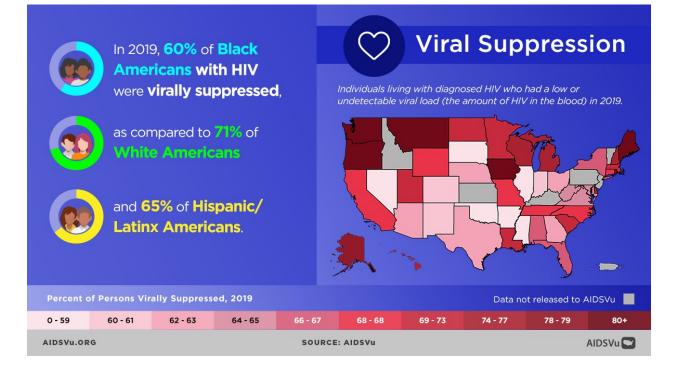


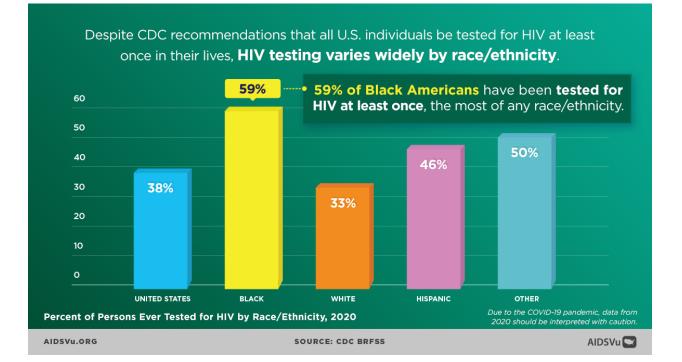




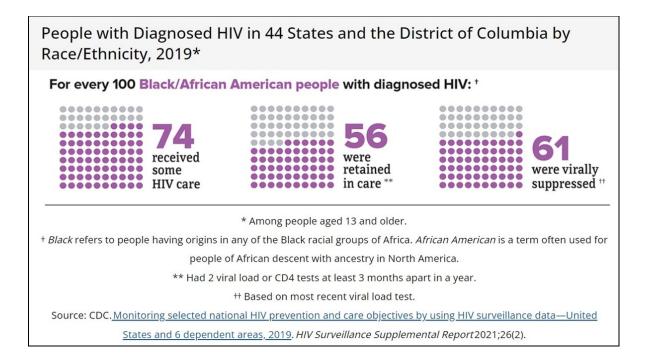


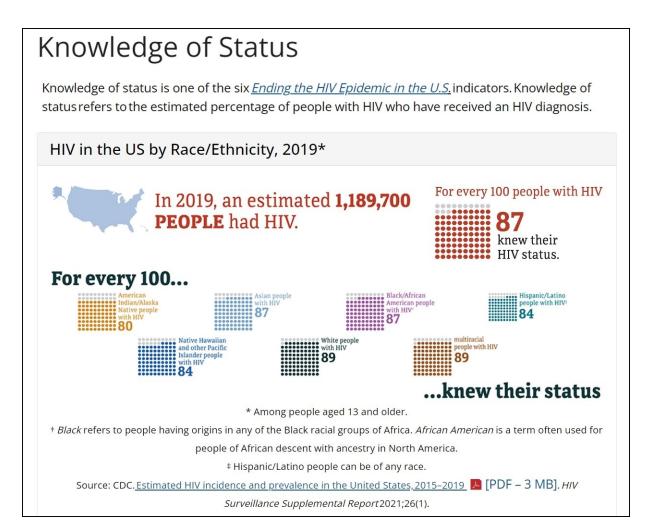
# <section-header><section-header><text><text><text><image><image>





#### (including information about HIV Among Black/African American People)





(including information about HIV Among Black/African American People)

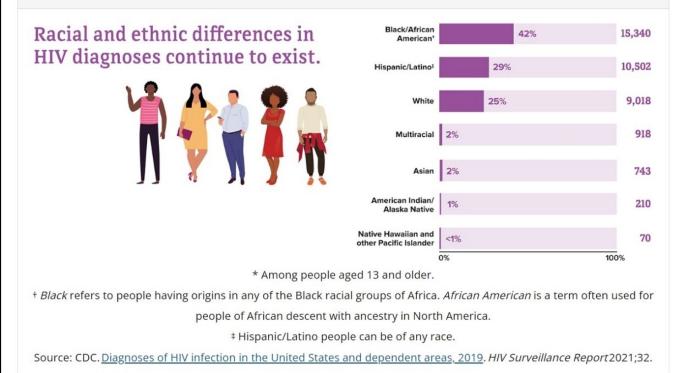
# HIV in the United States by Race/Ethnicity: HIV Diagnoses

Data for 2020 should be interpreted with caution due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to HIV testing, care-related services, and case surveillance activities in state and local jurisdictions. While 2020 data on <u>HIV diagnoses</u> and <u>prevention and care outcomes</u> are available, we are not updating this web content with data from these reports.

HIV diagnoses is one of the six <u>Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.</u> indicators. HIV diagnoses refers to the number of people who received an HIV diagnosis each year.

In 2019, **36,801 people received an HIV diagnosis** in the US and dependent areas.

New HIV Diagnoses in the US and Dependent Areas by Race/Ethnicity, 2019\*



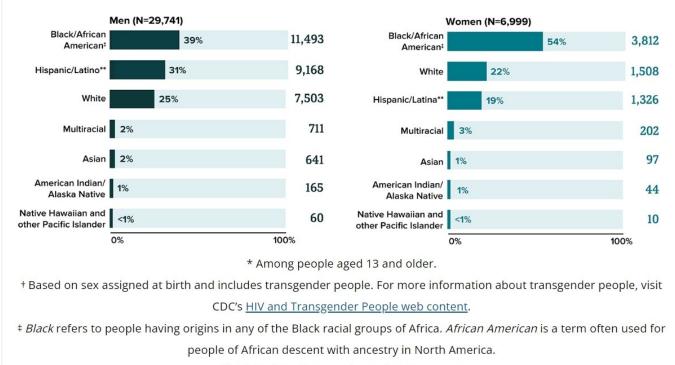
(including information about HIV Among Black/African American People)

# HIV in the United States by Race/Ethnicity: HIV Diagnoses

Data for 2020 should be interpreted with caution due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to HIV testing, care-related services, and case surveillance activities in state and local jurisdictions. While 2020 data on <u>HIV diagnoses</u> and <u>prevention and care outcomes</u> are available, we are not updating this web content with data from these reports.

HIV diagnoses is one of the six <u>Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.</u> indicators. HIV diagnoses refers to the number of people who received an HIV diagnosis each year.

New HIV Diagnoses in the US and Dependent Areas by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, 2019\*<sup>†</sup>



\*\* Hispanic/Latino people can be of any race.

Source: CDC. Diagnoses of HIV infection in the United States and dependent areas, 2019. HIV Surveillance Report 2021;32.

#### (including information about HIV Among Black/African American People)

# HIV in the United States by Race/Ethnicity: HIV Diagnoses

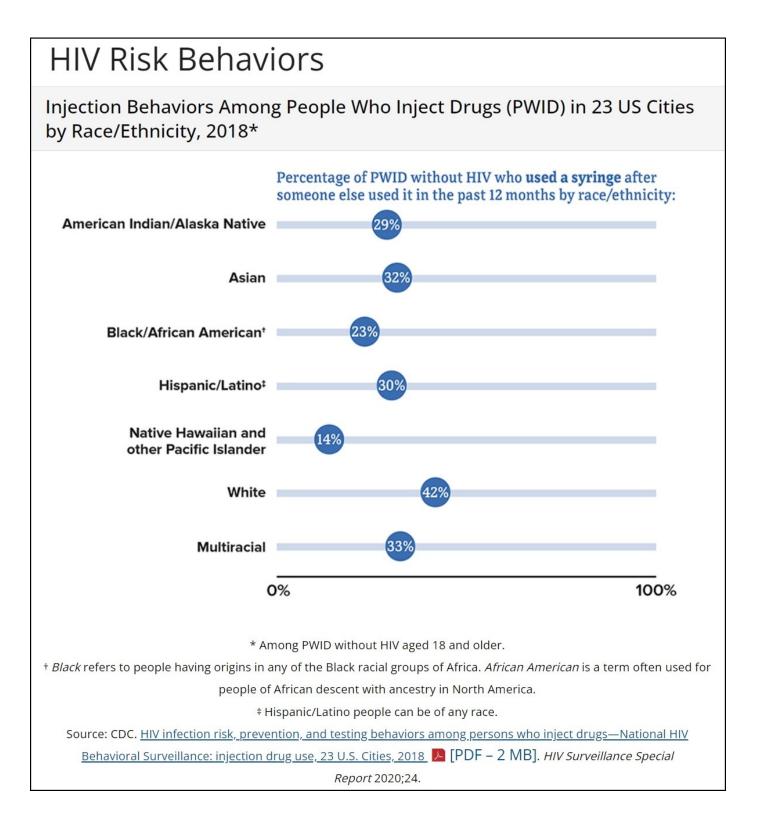
Data for 2020 should be interpreted with caution due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to HIV testing, care-related services, and case surveillance activities in state and local jurisdictions. While 2020 data on <u>HIV diagnoses</u> and <u>prevention and care outcomes</u> are available, we are not updating this web content with data from these reports.

HIV diagnoses is one of the six <u>Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.</u> indicators. HIV diagnoses refers to the number of people who received an HIV diagnosis each year.

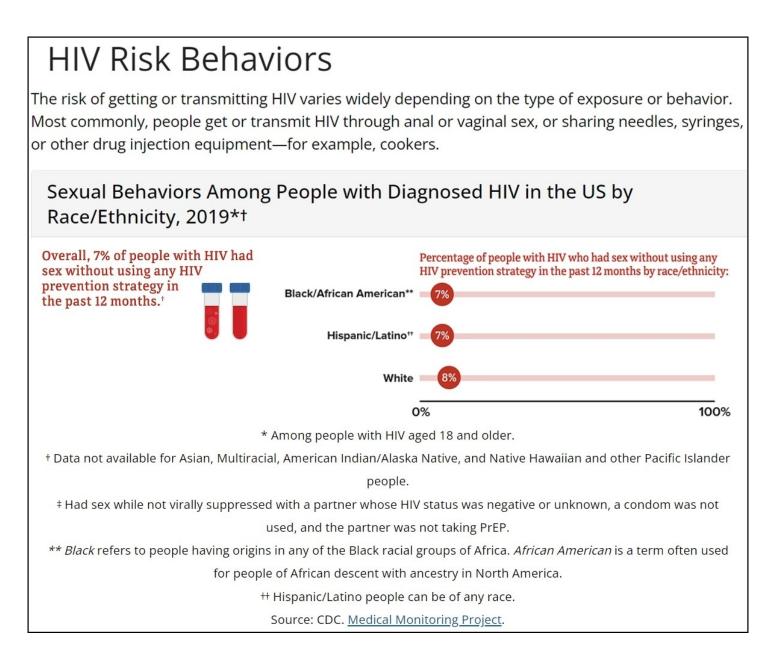
New HIV Diagnoses in the US and Dependent Areas by Race/Ethnicity, 2015-

2019\* **Trends by Race and Ethnicity** 2015 🔺 2019 11,000 9% 10% Stable 40% Stable 0 Native Hawaiian American Asian Black/African Hispanic/ White Multiracial\* Indian/Alaska American<sup>‡</sup> Latino\*\* and other Native Pacific Islander \*Among people aged 13 and older. + Changes in subpopulations with fewer HIV diagnoses can lead to a large percentage increase or decrease. \* Black refers to people having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. African American is a term often used for people of African descent with ancestry in North America. \*\* Hispanic/Latino people can be of any race. Source: CDC. Diagnoses of HIV infection in the United States and dependent areas, 2019. HIV Surveillance Report 2021;32.

#### (including information about HIV Among Black/African American People)



#### (including information about HIV Among Black/African American People)



(including information about HIV Among Black/African American People)

# HIV in the United States by Race/Ethnicity: PrEP Coverage

PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) coverage is one of the six Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. indicators. PrEP coverage is the estimated percentage of people with indications for PrEP classified as having been prescribed PrEP.

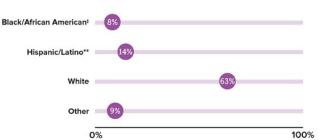
Ending the HIV

**Overall Goal:** Increase the estimated percentage of people with indications for PrEP classified as having been prescribed Epidemic PrEP to at least 50% by 2025 and remain at 50% by 2030.

PrEP Coverage in the US by Race/Ethnicity, 2019\*†

#### PrEP is highly effective for preventing HIV from sex or injection drug use.

Overall, 23% of people who could benefit from PrEP were prescribed PrEP in 2019.



\*Among people aged 16 and older.

<sup>+</sup>Race/ethnicity data are available for less than 40% of people prescribed PrEP.

<sup>+</sup> Black refers to people having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. African American is a term often used for

people of African descent with ancestry in North America.

\*\* Hispanic/Latino people can be of any race.

Source: CDC. Monitoring selected national HIV prevention and care objectives by using HIV surveillance data—United

States and 6 dependent areas, 2019. HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report 2021;26(2).