



HIV/AIDS

AND MINORITY WOMEN



HIV/AIDS is devastating communities of color around the globe in ways that we don't fully comprehend. What we DO know about HIV/AIDS is that it is preventable. Know the facts and join us in the fight against HIV/AIDS!

For more information on HIV/AIDS and women, contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at 1-800-458-5231 or on the Internet at www.cdcnpin.org.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that today there are 850,000–950,000 HIV-positive people living in the United States, more than at any other time in the epidemic. An estimated 180,000–280,000 HIV-positive individuals do not know they are infected, and therefore are not benefiting from HIV care and treatment, and may also be unknowingly transmitting the virus. An additional 250,000 people living with HIV who are aware of their status may not be getting the care they need or prevention support to help them protect their partners. Altogether, roughly half of all people living with HIV in the United States are untested, untreated, or both.¹

- Through December 2001, of the 833,452 AIDS cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 145,461 occurred in females. Black and Hispanic women accounted for roughly **78 percent** of those cases, and Asian American/Pacific Islander (AA/PI) and American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) women comprised nearly **1 percent** of those cases. A similar trend is seen in new HIV infections among women.²
- The proportion of AIDS cases among women, especially among women of color, continues to rise. During 2001, women represented **26 percent** of new AIDS cases, compared to only **11 percent** in 1990 and **6 percent** in 1982.²
- During 2001, Black and Hispanic women accounted for **80 percent** of AIDS cases reported among women.²
- Women across racial/ethnic groups most commonly report **heterosexual contact or injection drug use** as their primary modes of exposure to HIV, while AA/PI females more commonly report heterosexual contact.²
- In areas with confidential HIV reporting, persons **ages 13–24** accounted for **13 percent** of newly reported HIV cases (not AIDS) from July 1999 to June 2000. Of these persons, females accounted for **47 percent** of the cases in this age group.²
- HIV/AIDS was the **third** leading cause of death among African-American women **ages 25–44** in 1998. In that year, the AIDS death rate for African-American women **ages 25–44** was **21 times higher** than the AIDS death rate for White women in the same age group.³

The terms "African-American" and "Black" are used interchangeably to include those individuals who self-identify as either. The term "Hispanic" includes those individuals who self-identify as "Latino/a" or "Hispanic."

¹ Fleming, P.L., et al., "HIV Prevalence in the United States, 2000," 9th Annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, Feb. 24–28, 2002, Seattle, WA, Abstract 11.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report 2001*, Vol. 13, No. 2.

³ National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Reports* (July 2000).