Black Women and HIV in Texas

The Big Picture

Black Texans are disproportionately affected by HIV: one in every 105 Black Texans are living with HIV, compared to one in 533 White persons and one in 392 Hispanic persons. The disparity in HIV prevalence among Black women is even greater. By comparison, while one in 130 Black women are living with HIV in Texas, only one in 1,828 White women and one in 1,033 Hispanic women are living with HIV. Black women make up only 12% of Texas’ female population, but they comprise 60% of females living with HIV in Texas. Furthermore, the rate of new HIV diagnoses is higher in Black women compared to women of other races; however, this rate has been declining over the past decade.

HIV Prevention for Black Women

Persons at risk for HIV infection have more prevention options than ever before.

- **Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP):** In addition to condoms, Black women at risk for HIV can use PrEP, a once-a-day pill that prevents HIV. For more information, see: www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/PrEP/

- **Treatment as Prevention (TasP):** Treatment with antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV circulating in the body to very low levels – also known as viral suppression. Persons who have achieved sustained viral suppression cannot transmit the HIV virus. Persons who have achieved sustained viral suppression also have better health outcomes than unsuppressed person. To lower their chance of acquiring HIV, Black women can support any sex partners who are living with HIV to get and stay in HIV care and take their HIV medications to achieve viral suppression.
HIV Care for Black Women

Appropriate medical care and treatment with antiretroviral drugs is critical for the health of persons living with HIV and to prevent transmission of HIV to their sex or needle-sharing partners. The HIV treatment cascade is a visual representation of this continuum of care. The HIV treatment cascade for HIV-positive Black women in Texas in 2016 is shown below.

HIV Treatment Cascade for Black Women in Texas, 2016

- 100% of 10,576 Black women living with HIV at the end of 2016 had at least one doctor visit/lab report.
- 77% of 8,169 Black women retained in care.
- 70% of 7,382 Black women were virally suppressed.
- 56% of 5,923 Black women living with HIV in Texas achieved viral suppression in 2016.

In 2016, 77% of Black women living with HIV in Texas had evidence of medical visit or lab tests for their HIV infection, and 70% had two medical visits or lab tests at least 3 months apart in 2016 (also known as retention in care). Only 56% of Black women living with HIV in Texas achieved viral suppression in 2016.

Texas Black Women’s Initiative (TxBWI)

The mission of the Texas Black Women’s Initiative (TxBWI) is to promote active, engaged, and empowered communities to address HIV disparity among Black women. TxBWI works to strengthen the ability of DSHS, local health departments, and community-based organizations to effectively implement HIV/AIDS programs focused on Black women. For more information, visit www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/TxBWI/.

More About Black Women and HIV in Texas

- One in 112 Black Texans is living with HIV infection; one in 130 Black women in Texas is living with HIV.
- More than 10,000 Black women in Texas are living with HIV.
- Only 56% of Black women living with HIV have achieved viral suppression.

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a once-a-day pill that prevents HIV, may be a good option for HIV-negative black women who have a sex partner living with HIV. For more information, visit: www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/PrEP/

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