Black Women and HIV in Texas

The Big Picture

As of 2017, there were 10,969 Black women living with HIV in Texas. Black women comprise 57% of women living with HIV in Texas, but only 12% of the female population in Texas.

Black Women With HIV Living in Texas

In Texas, the rate of Black women living with HIV (631/100,000 population) is 7.8 times the rate of Hispanic women living with HIV and 13.8 times the rate of White women living with HIV. 1.3% of Black women aged 35-44 in Texas are living with HIV.

The most common way that Black women in Texas get HIV is through unprotected sex with an HIV infected man (89%). Twenty-five percent of Black women in Texas were diagnosed with HIV late in the progression of the disease (they received their HIV and AIDS diagnoses within one year).

One in 159 Black Women in Texas are living with HIV.

Black Women Without HIV-Related Medical Care in 2017

Advances in medical care enable people with HIV to stay healthy and survive longer than ever before. Some persons living with HIV may not seek care because they do not feel ill. Others may have problems affording or accessing health care. Others may not seek medical care because of substance abuse, mental health issues or HIV-related stigma.

Among the major racial and ethnic groups in Texas, Blacks have the greatest number (8,562, 25%) of their population who are not receiving medical care for their HIV infection. In Texas, over 1 in 5 Black women with HIV were out of care in 2017. This represents 2,542 (23%) Black women not in care across the state.

All numbers presented here are for Cisgender Black Women
In 2017, 77% of Black women living with HIV in Texas whose mode of HIV transmission was sex with male had evidence of medical visit or lab tests for their HIV infection, and 69% had two medical visits or lab test at least 3 months apart in 2017 (also known as retention in care). Only 57% of Black women living with HIV in Texas whose mode of HIV transmission was sex with male achieved viral suppression in 2017.

HIV Prevention for Black Women in Texas

Stigma, biological vulnerabilities, trauma, relationship dynamics and structural factors such as poverty, unemployment and lack of education can contribute to HIV transmission among Black women. For more information on how to get involved in HIV prevention for Black women in Texas, please contact Dolores Alvarez at Dolores.Alvarez@dshs.texas.gov or (512) 533-3082.

Texas Black Women’s Initiative (TxBWII)

The mission of the Texas Black Women’s Initiative (TxBWII) is to promote active, engaged, and empowered communities to address HIV disparity among Black women. TxBWII 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/TxBWII/.