

HIV among Blacks in Texas

Texas Department of State Health Services HIV/STD Program

The Big Picture

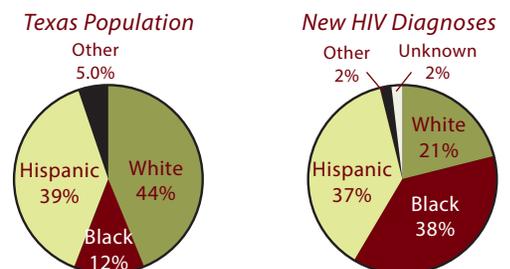
The HIV epidemic has affected all racial/ethnic population groups in Texas but the impact on the Black community has been dramatically disproportionate. Black people currently account for the largest proportion of new HIV cases diagnosed in Texas. In 2015, 1,599 Black Texans were newly diagnosed with HIV and 29,047 were living with HIV in Texas.

HIV Case Rates

Although Blacks comprise less than 12% of the Texas population, they accounted for 37.6% of all new HIV cases diagnosed in 2015 and 36.9% of all persons living with HIV in Texas. From 2004-2007, the rate of new HIV diagnoses among Blacks declined, then increased from 2008-2010, after which it has remained consistent. The rate among Blacks living with HIV (873.7 per 100,000) in 2015 was almost five times that of Whites (178.4 per 100,000) and almost four times that of Hispanics (230.2 per 100,000).

The disproportionate burden of HIV among Black women is particularly striking. The HIV case rate among Black women was 13 times that of White women and 6.4 times that of Hispanic women in 2015. While Black women comprise only 12% of the Texas female population, they made up 55% of new HIV diagnoses among females in 2015. Black men are also diagnosed at a disparate rate, 5.5 times that of White men and 3 times that of Hispanic men.

Proportion of New HIV Cases and Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2015

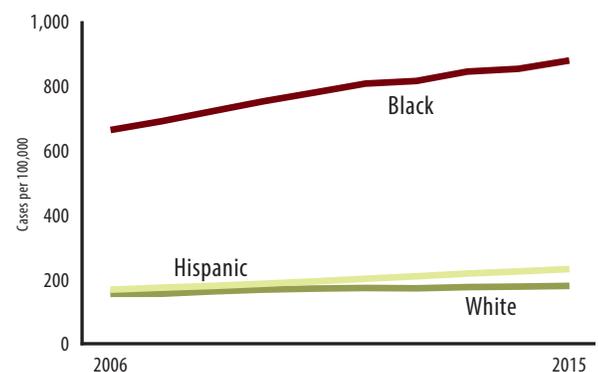


Participation in Treatment

HIV-related disparities extend to treatment, especially among Black men. Of Black Texans diagnosed in 2015, only 73% of black males and 84% of black females were linked to HIV medical care within three months of their diagnosis, compared to 83% of Hispanic males and 85% of White males.

Of those Black Texans living with HIV in 2015, one in four men (25%) had no evidence of any HIV-related medical care in that year compared to 26% of Hispanic and 18% of White men. Just more than half (52%) of Black Texans with HIV have suppressed HIV viral loads. Suppressed viral loads indicate HIV infection is under control and reduces the risk of transmission.

Rate of People Living with HIV by Race/Ethnicity in Texas, 2006-2015



Awareness of the HIV Epidemic

According to a 2012 Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) survey,¹ 33% of Blacks were concerned about becoming infected with HIV compared to 6% for Whites. Furthermore, 53% of Blacks know a close friend, family member, or acquaintance that tested positive for HIV, is living with HIV, or died from AIDS, compared to 19% of Whites.¹

Black Americans know that HIV has a greater impact on their community and express more interest about the HIV epidemic. For example, 62% of Black youth (ages 15-24) say that HIV/AIDS is a “very serious” issue for their generation, compared to only 32% of White youth.² However, only 41% of Blacks believe the United States is making progress in regards to the HIV/AIDS epidemic compared to 52% of Whites.¹ Blacks are more likely than Whites to report ever talking with a health care provider or a partner or spouse about HIV/AIDS.

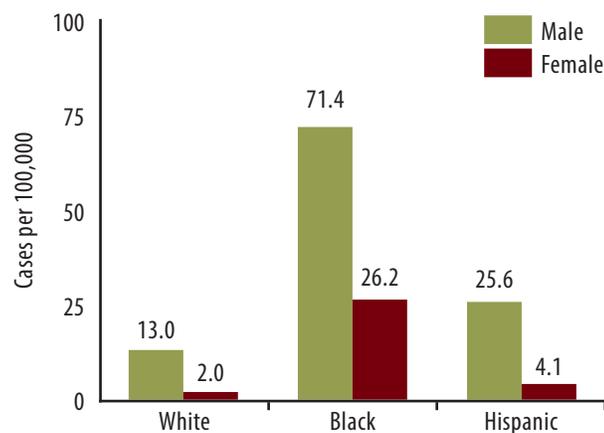
Despite these indications of higher awareness, there are signs that perceptions of urgency are declining and there is an ongoing need for HIV/AIDS education. The percentage of Blacks naming HIV as the most urgent health problem in the U.S. declined from 43% in 2004 to 17% in 2012.¹ Misconceptions about HIV/AIDS are also more prevalent among Blacks. 38% of Blacks believe Magic Johnson has been cured of AIDS (compared to 29% of Whites and 31% of Latinos) and 40% believe there is a vaccine to prevent HIV infection (compared to 28% of Whites and 30% of Hispanics).¹

What is Being Done?

DSHS funds HIV prevention interventions for Black Texans. The Sisters Informing Sisters about Topics of AIDS (SISTA) Project provides social skills training aimed at reducing HIV sexual risk behaviors in Black women. In 2010, DSHS partnered with the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) to host a regional forum designed to strengthen the ability of DSHS and its partners to effectively implement HIV/AIDS programs for Black women. As a result of the forum, regional teams from areas of the state most affected by HIV established the Texas Black Women’s Initiative. The Initiative is implementing local response plans to prevent HIV among Black women in their communities.

Since 2009, DSHS has partnered with the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), local health departments and other community organizations to extend the reach of KFF’s “Greater Than AIDS” campaign in Texas. This national campaign addresses the disproportionate impact of HIV among Blacks via increasing HIV awareness, encouraging HIV testing and condom use, and confronting HIV/AIDS stigma in the Black community. KFF conducted formative market research among Black Americans, including gay and bisexual men, to develop the campaign and formed collaborative agreements with media companies help to optimize media placement. Local marketing activities under the “Greater Than AIDS” banner deliver HIV-related health messages directly to the community.

Rate of New HIV Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, 2015



FACTS TO CONSIDER:

One in 108 Black Texans is living with HIV/AIDS.

Over **29,000** Blacks Texans are known to have HIV.

The rate of Black Texans living with HIV is about **5 times** the rate for White and **4 times** the rate for Hispanic Texans.

The rate of new HIV diagnoses in Black women is **6 to 13 times** higher than rates in Hispanic and White women in Texas, respectively.

1 in 4 HIV-positive Texans are diagnosed with AIDS within one year of an HIV diagnosis; this is considered a late diagnosis.

Most people who test positive for HIV had previous health care visits but **were not tested for HIV**.

¹ Kaiser Family Foundation. 2011 Survey of Americans on HIV/AIDS: Summary of Findings on the Domestic Epidemic. 7/12

² Kaiser Family Foundation. National Survey of Teens and Young Adults on HIV/AIDS. 11/12



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