



# HIV/AIDS

# AND

# THE UNITED STATES



Today there are an estimated **850,000–950,000** HIV-positive individuals living in the United States—the largest number ever—according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of these, **180,000–280,000** people do not know they are infected, and thus are suffering from a lack of treatment, while at the same time may be unknowingly spreading the virus. About **225,000** more who do know their status aren't getting the care they need. These numbers will continue to grow unless everyone takes decisive action against the disease.<sup>1</sup>

**HIV/AIDS is taking a devastating and disproportionate toll on people of color in the United States. Community leaders and organizations can play a critical role in fighting the disease in their neighborhoods, and The Leadership Campaign on AIDS (TLCA) is dedicated to helping them do it.**

## TLCA: Fighting HIV/AIDS in Communities of Color!

Within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of HIV/AIDS Policy's The Leadership Campaign on AIDS (TLCA) is working externally and internally to support the fight against HIV/AIDS in communities of color. TLCA reaches out to community leaders and local and national organizations to improve education, awareness, and action against the disease. TLCA wants to help minority leaders fight the stigma, fear, and denial that exacerbate the problem, and to help build partnerships that will promote education, prevention, testing, vaccine awareness, and treatment. TLCA also reaches inwardly to help improve the coordination, information-sharing, communication efforts, and effectiveness of the Department's HIV/AIDS initiatives and programs.

Know the facts and Educate, Motivate, and Mobilize against HIV/AIDS!

- An estimated **886,575** AIDS cases have been diagnosed in the United States since the beginning of the epidemic through 2002. Of these cases:

- **81 percent** were among men
- **18 percent** were among women
- **1 percent** were among children less than 13 years of age.<sup>2</sup>

- **Forty-one percent** of the estimated total AIDS diagnoses are among Whites, **39 percent** among Blacks, **18 percent** among Hispanics, and less than **1 percent** each were among Asian/Pacific Islanders and American Indian/Alaska Natives.<sup>2</sup>
- An estimated **312,133** cases of HIV have been diagnosed through 2002. An estimated **26,464** new HIV cases were diagnosed in 2002.<sup>2\*</sup>
- African Americans account for **54 percent** of the estimated new HIV cases diagnosed in 2002.<sup>2\*</sup>
- The 10 states or territories reporting the highest number of total AIDS diagnoses among their residents are: New York, California, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Georgia, and Maryland.<sup>2</sup>
- **Sixty-nine percent** of the total estimated AIDS deaths have occurred in people ages **25–44**.<sup>2</sup>
- Of the adult and adolescent Hispanics diagnosed with AIDS in the United States through 2002, roughly **81 percent** were men.<sup>3</sup>
- Men of color represent **57 percent** of AIDS cases newly diagnosed in 2002 among men who had sex with men.<sup>3</sup> By comparison, in 1989 men of color represented only **31 percent** of new AIDS cases in men who had sex with men.<sup>4</sup>
- Women account for **28 percent** of the estimated HIV cases diagnosed in 2002.<sup>2\*</sup> Among these, Black and Hispanic women account for **81 percent** of diagnoses. Among men in the same time period, Black and Hispanic men account for **61 percent** of HIV diagnoses.<sup>3\*</sup>
- Persons ages **13–24** account for **11 percent** of new HIV cases diagnosed in 2002.<sup>2\*</sup> Of these persons, females accounted for **41 percent** of the cases.<sup>3\*</sup>
- Women across racial/ethnic groups most commonly report **heterosexual contact** or **injection drug use** as their primary modes of exposure to HIV.<sup>2</sup>

\* In the 30 areas with longstanding HIV reporting

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."

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report 2002*, Vol. 14.

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Supplemental Report*, Vol. 10, No. 1.

<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "HIV/AIDS Among Racial Ethnic Minority Men Who Have Sex With Men - United States, 1989-1998," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, Vol. 49, No. 01 (Jan. 14, 2000), pp. 4-11.

The Leadership Campaign on AIDS is a program of the Office of HIV/AIDS Policy—202-690-5560—[www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov)

Note: The models shown are for illustrative purposes only.



# What Can You Do?

- Learn more about HIV/AIDS and its impact on your community.
- Protect yourself against HIV infection. Know the risks associated with sex and drug use.
- Get tested. It's important to know your HIV status to protect yourself and others.
- Get medical care and support if you're living with HIV. Effective treatments exist.
- Educate others about HIV/AIDS. Talk openly and honestly about prevention and treatment.
- Volunteer at a local HIV/AIDS organization.
- Post fact sheets about HIV/AIDS on bulletin boards and in local newsletters.
- Organize a community meeting. Invite educators, faith and business leaders, health care professionals, neighbors, and friends to talk about HIV/AIDS and its impact locally. Even if three people show up, change can happen!
- Help someone living with HIV/AIDS by being a friend.
- Help end the stigma associated with AIDS.
- Implement an activity to support HIV/AIDS observances such as World AIDS Day on December 1 or National HIV Testing Day on June 27. Visit [www.omhrc.gov/hiv/aidsobservances](http://www.omhrc.gov/hiv/aidsobservances) for more ideas.

## To Learn More

- Visit the CDC National Prevention Information Network at [www.cdcnpin.org](http://www.cdcnpin.org) or call 1-800-458-5231.
- Visit the HIV/AIDS Observance Days Web site at [www.omhrc.gov/hivaidsobservances](http://www.omhrc.gov/hivaidsobservances).
- Call the National AIDS Hotline at 800-342-AIDS (Spanish 800-344-SIDA, TTY 800-243-7889).
- Visit the Office on Women's Health at [www.4women.gov/owh/hiv.htm](http://www.4women.gov/owh/hiv.htm).
  - Call your doctor or other health care provider.
  - Contact your local or state public health department.