

HIV/AIDS Among Women

Prepared by the Office of HIV/AIDS Policy's Leadership Campaign on AIDS

HIV/AIDS is taking a devastating and disproportionate toll on women in the United States.

- The proportion of AIDS cases among women, especially among women of color, continues to rise. During 2002, women represented **26 percent** of new AIDS cases, compared to only **11 percent** in 1990 and **6 percent** in 1982.
- During 2002, Black and Hispanic women accounted for **82 percent** of new AIDS cases reported among women.
- Women of color account for **78 percent** of all estimated women living with HIV/AIDS, with Black women making up **68 percent** of the total alone.
- Women across racial/ethnic groups most commonly report **heterosexual contact** or **injection drug use** as their primary modes of exposure to HIV, while Asian American and Pacific Islander females more commonly report heterosexual contact.
- 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.
- HIV/AIDS was the **leading** cause of death among African American women **ages 25–34** and the **third leading** cause for **ages 35–44** in 2001. In that year, the AIDS death rate for African American women **ages 25–44** was **approximately 7 times higher** than the AIDS death rate for White women in the same age group. HIV/AIDS was also the **fourth leading** cause of death for Hispanic women **ages 35–44**.

Community leaders and organizations can play a critical role in fighting the disease in their neighborhoods.

For more information on HIV/AIDS, contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at 1–800–458–5231 or on the Internet at <http://www.cdcnpin.org>.