

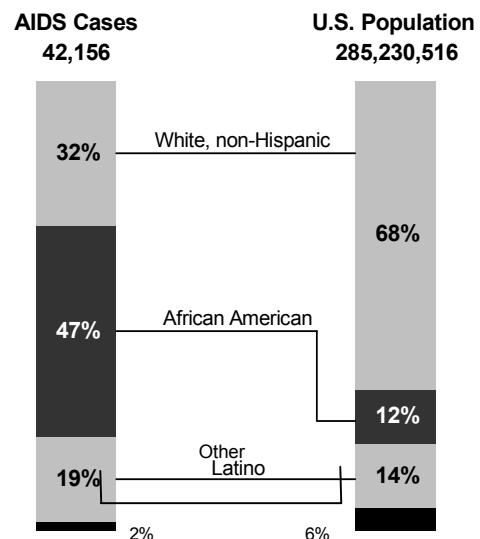
August 2002

### African Americans & HIV/AIDS

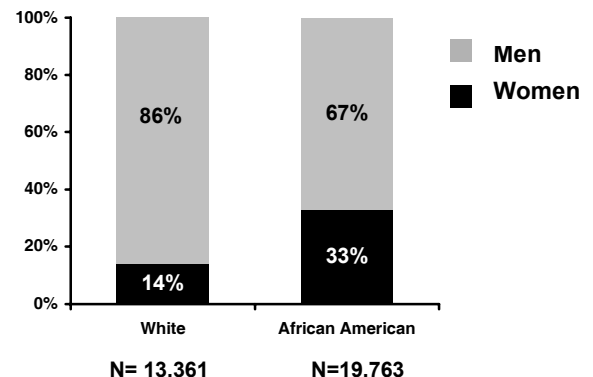
African Americans have been disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and this impact is worsening. Although African Americans represent approximately 12% of the U.S. population, they account for 38% of AIDS cases reported in the U.S. since the beginning of the epidemic and 47% of cases reported in 2000 alone. Moreover, African Americans account for 54% of estimated annual new HIV infections. In addition, studies have shown that African Americans with HIV/AIDS fared more poorly on several measures of access and quality compared to their white counterparts.<sup>1,2</sup>

- HIV is **the leading cause of death** for African Americans between the ages of 25 and 44.
- The **AIDS case rate** for African American adults/adolescents is more than **9 times greater** than among whites.
- Both African American **men and women** have been disproportionately affected. The AIDS case rate among African American women is more than 20 times the rate for white women; the AIDS case rate among African American men is more than 7 times greater than that of white men.
- African American **women make up a growing share** of new AIDS cases reported among African Americans each year, rising from 20% in 1990 to 33% in 2000. In addition, African American women represent a greater proportion of new AIDS cases among African Americans than white women do among whites (33% compared to 14%). HIV is the leading cause of death for African American women between the ages of 25-34.
- African American **teens** have also been disproportionately affected. Although they represent only 15% of U.S. teenagers, ages 13-19, African American teens accounted for 64% of new AIDS cases reported among teens in 2000.
- African American **men who have sex with men (MSM)** have also been hard hit. In a recent study in 6 major U.S. cities, one third (32%) of African American MSM ages 23-29 were already infected with HIV, compared to 7% of white MSM; the rate of new HIV infections among African American MSM was 14.7% compared to 2.5% for whites.<sup>5</sup> Many gay and bisexual men with HIV may be **unaware that they are infected**. A recent study in 6 major U.S. cities found that 91% of African American MSM, ages 15-29, did not know they were HIV-positive.<sup>6</sup>

Newly Reported AIDS Cases and Estimated U.S. Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2000<sup>3</sup>



Newly Reported AIDS Cases Among White and African American Adults/Adolescents\* by Sex, 2000<sup>4</sup>



\*Includes reported cases among those 13 years of age and older.

- National surveys show that African Americans are more likely than whites to say they **want more information** about HIV/AIDS (for example, 45% of African Americans compared to 20% of whites say they need more information about HIV testing); to say they are personally concerned about becoming infected with HIV (56% compared to 33% of whites); and to express higher levels of concern about their children's risk for infection (82% compared to 69% of whites). African Americans **cite the media, particularly television**, as their number one source of information about HIV/AIDS (68%).<sup>7</sup>

## ENDNOTES

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from: Kaiser Family Foundation, *Key Facts: African Americans and HIV/AIDS*, 2002 (forthcoming).

<sup>2</sup> Shapiro, et al. (1999). "Variations in the Care of HIV-Infected Adults in the United States." *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol. 281, No. 24.

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *HIV/AIDS Surveillance by Race/Ethnicity*, L238 Slide Series (through 2000). U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2002. Includes Puerto Rico.

<sup>4</sup> CDC, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, Vol. 12, No. 2.

<sup>5</sup> CDC, *No Turning Back: Addressing the HIV Crisis Among Men Who Have Sex With Men*, November 2001.

<sup>6</sup> CDC, *Press Release*, "New CDC Studies Shed Light on Factors Underlying High HIV Infection Rates Among Gay and Bisexual Men", XIV International AIDS Conference, Barcelona, Spain, July 2002.

<sup>7</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, *African Americans' Views of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic at 20 Years*, 2001.