

WOMEN AND HIV/AIDS¹

WOMEN AND HIV/AIDS IN THE UNITED STATES

- In the U.S., women now represent a greater proportion of new AIDS diagnoses as compared with earlier in the epidemic—women were 8% of the AIDS diagnoses in 1985, 20% in 1995, and 25% in 2010.
- Black women are disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the U.S.
- In 2009, the rate of new HIV infections among Black women in the U.S. was 15 times that of White women, and over 3 times the rate among Hispanic/Latina women.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 1 in 32 Black women will be diagnosed with HIV in her lifetime.
- HIV was among the top 10 leading causes of death for Black women age 10-54.
- Women with HIV are at increased risk for developing or contracting a range of conditions related to their reproductive health, including human papillomavirus (HPV), which can lead to cervical cancer, and severe pelvic inflammatory disease (PID).
- 30% of HIV positive women suffer from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)—a rate 5 to 6 times higher than the national PTSD rate among the general population of women.
- HIV positive women in the U.S. are disproportionately low-income as compared with HIV positive men.

WOMEN, GIRLS, AND HIV/AIDS IN THE DISTRICT

- Approximately 1.4% of female residents in the District are living with HIV/AIDS.²
- 2.6% of all Black women in the District are diagnosed and living with HIV/AIDS.
- 92.4% of women living with HIV in the District are Black.
- Perinatal (mother-to-child) transmissions in D.C. decreased from 9 in 2005 to 0 in 2010.³

WOMEN, HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS, AND HIV/AIDS IN THE DISTRICT

- Heterosexual contact is the leading mode of transmission for women across all races.
- Poverty is the single most important factor in whether inner-city heterosexuals are infected with the AIDS virus.
- Some poor heterosexual women in D.C. are nearly 3 times more likely to have HIV than their male counterparts.
- According to a recent study, the HIV infection rate among some heterosexual women in D.C.'s poorest neighborhoods nearly doubled within two years from 6.3% to 12.1%.

¹ This fact sheet was last updated July 2012. Sources: Bardi, J. (March 23, 2012.) Trauma drives HIV epidemic in women: High rate of Trauma among American women with HIV/AIDS and its public health consequences revealed in two USCF studies. Available at: <http://www.ucsf.edu/news/2012/03/11726/trauma-drives-hiv-epidemic-women>; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (August 2011.) HIV among Women; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (July 19 2010.) New CDC analysis reveals strong link between poverty and HIV infection: Press release. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/newsroom/povertyandhivpressrelease.html>; District of Columbia HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA). (June 2012.) Annual Report 2011 District of Columbia, Heterosexual Relationships and HIV in Washington, DC; National Institute of Allergy Infectious Disease (NIAID). (September 2008.) HIV infection in women; The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. (March 2012.) Women and HIV/AIDS in the United States.

² According to the World Health Organization's standard, this is considered to be a severe and generalized epidemic. An epidemic occurs when there is a disease prevalence over 1%.

³ Perinatal (mother-to-child) transmission can be as low as 1% when mothers receive proper treatment during and after pregnancy.