

# HIV and Women

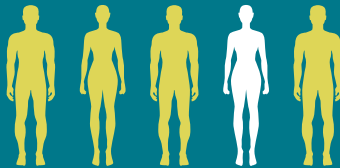
## HIV DIAGNOSES IN 2016:

7,529 WOMEN

4,560 AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN

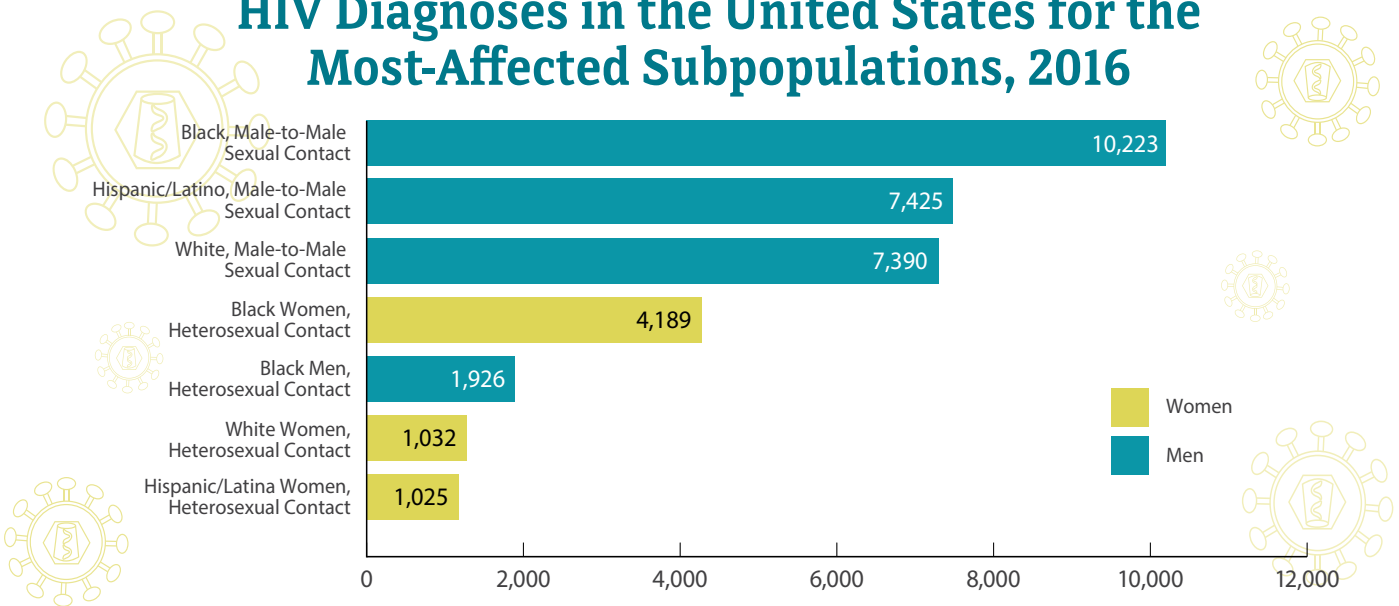
1,450 WHITE WOMEN

1,168 HISPANIC/LATINA\* WOMEN

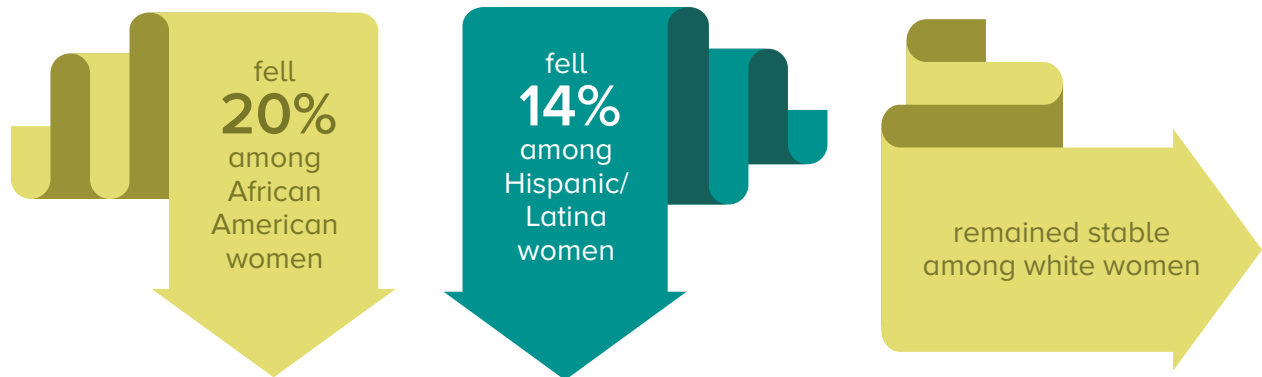


1 in 5 new HIV diagnoses in 2016 were among women.

### HIV Diagnoses in the United States for the Most-Affected Subpopulations, 2016



From 2011 to 2015, HIV diagnoses fell 16% among women overall.



\* Hispanics/Latinas can be of any race.



Around 1.1 million people are living with HIV in the US. People living with HIV need to know their HIV status so they can take medicine to treat HIV. Taking HIV medicine as prescribed can make the level of virus in their body very low (called viral suppression) or even undetectable. A person living with HIV who gets and stays virally suppressed or undetectable can stay healthy and has effectively no risk of sexually transmitting HIV to HIV-negative partners.



Unfortunately, thousands of Americans still die each year from HIV. In 2015, 1,667 women died from HIV disease.

### What places some women at higher risk?

- There are more African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos living with HIV compared to other races/ethnicities. Because women tend to have sex partners of the same race, African American and Hispanic/Latina women have a greater chance of coming in contact with HIV.
- Sexually transmitted diseases, like gonorrhea and syphilis, may place some women at higher risk for HIV.
- Some women don't know their male partner's risk factors for HIV (such as injection drug use or having sex with men) and may not use condoms.
- Women have a higher risk for getting HIV during vaginal sex than men do. The riskiest behavior for getting HIV is receptive anal sex.
- Women who have been sexually abused may be more likely to engage in risky sex behaviors like exchanging sex for drugs, having multiple sex partners, or having sex without a condom.

### How is CDC making a difference?

- Collecting and analyzing data and monitoring HIV trends among women.
- Conducting prevention research and providing guidance to those working in HIV prevention.
- Supporting health departments and community organizations by funding HIV prevention work for women and providing technical assistance.
- Promoting testing, prevention, and treatment through campaigns like *Act Against AIDS*.

Visit [www.cdc.gov/hiv](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv) for more information about CDC's HIV prevention activities among women.

\*\* People living with HIV who take HIV medicine as prescribed and get and stay virally suppressed have effectively no risk of sexually transmitting HIV to HIV-negative partners.

AT THE END OF 2014,  
AN ESTIMATED  
**255,900**  
WOMEN WERE  
LIVING WITH HIV.

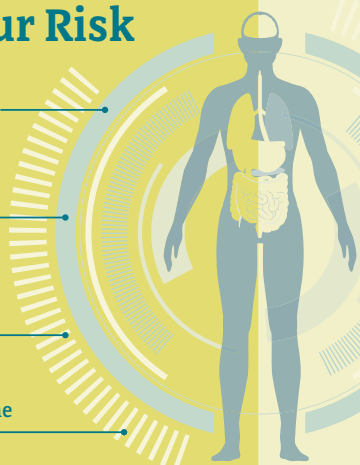
**1 in 8**  
DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE  
LIVING WITH THE VIRUS

FOR EVERY 100 WOMEN  
LIVING WITH HIV IN 2014:



## Reduce Your Risk

- Not having sex
- Using condoms
- Not sharing needles
- Taking medicine to prevent or treat HIV



## HIV IS A VIRUS THAT ATTACKS THE BODY'S IMMUNE SYSTEM.

It is usually spread by anal or vaginal sex or sharing needles with a person who is living with HIV. The only way to know you have HIV is to be tested. Everyone aged 13-64 should be tested at least once, and people at high risk should be tested at least once a year. Ask your doctor, or visit [gettested.cdc.gov](http://gettested.cdc.gov) to find a testing site. Without treatment, HIV can make a person very sick or may even cause death. If you are living with HIV, start treatment as soon as possible to stay healthy and help protect your partners.

For More Information

Call 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
Visit [www.cdc.gov/hiv](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv)