HIV and African American Gay and Bisexual Men

Of the 38,739 new HIV diagnoses in the US and dependent areas* in 2017, 10,070 (26%) were among black/African American** gay and bisexual men.***

Black/African American gay and bisexual men made up 34% of HIV diagnoses among all gay and bisexual men.

3 out of 4 black/African American gay and bisexual men who received an HIV diagnosis were aged 13 - 34.

New HIV Diagnoses Among Gay and Bisexual Men by Age and Race/Ethnicity in the US and Dependent Areas, 2017***

From 2010 to 2016, HIV diagnoses remained stable overall among black/African American gay and bisexual men.† But trends varied by age.

Subpopulations representing 2% or less of HIV diagnoses among gay and bisexual men are not reflected in this chart. Hispanics/Latinos can be of any race.

* American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Republic of Palau, and the US Virgin Islands.
** Black refers to people having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa, including immigrants from the Caribbean and South and Latin America. African American is a term often used for Americans of African descent with ancestry in North America. Individuals may self-identify as either, both, or choose another identity altogether. This fact sheet uses African American, unless referencing surveillance data.
*** Includes infections attributed to male-to-male sexual contact and injection drug use (men who reported both risk factors).
† In 50 states and District of Columbia.
Around 1.1 million people are living with HIV in the US.† People 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 with HIV who gets and stays virally suppressed or undetectable can stay healthy and has effectively no risk of transmitting HIV to HIV-negative partners through sex.

What places some African American gay and bisexual men at higher risk?

- Many African American gay and bisexual men do not know their HIV status. People who do not know they have HIV cannot get the treatment they need and may pass the infection to others without knowing it.
- African American gay and bisexual men have lower rates of viral suppression compared to gay and bisexual men of other races/ethnicities. Because of the low rates of viral suppression, greater number of people with HIV in that population, and the greater likelihood of having sex partners of the same race, compared with other races/ethnicities, African American gay and bisexual men have a greater chance of coming in contact with HIV.
- Limited access to quality health care, lower income and educational levels, and higher rates of unemployment and incarceration may place some African American gay and bisexual men at higher risk for HIV.
- Stigma, homophobia, and discrimination put gay and bisexual men of all races/ethnicities at risk for many health issues and may affect whether they are able to get quality health care.

How is CDC making a difference?

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

Reduce Your Risk

- Not having sex
- Using condoms
- Not sharing syringes
- 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 syringes with a person who has 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 to find a testing site. Without treatment, HIV can make a person very sick or may even cause death. If you have 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