HIV and African American People

42% Black/African American* people made up 42% (16,002)† of the 37,968 NEW HIV DIAGNOSES in the US and dependent areas‡ in 2018.

Among Black/African American people, most new HIV diagnoses were among men.

Men (N=11,905) **
- Male-to-Male Sexual Contact: 79% (9,444)
- Heterosexual Contact: 15% (1,739)
- Injection Drug Use: 4% (436)
- Male-to-Male Sexual Contact and Injection Drug Use: 2% (268)
- Other ††: <1% (18)

Women (N=4,097) **
- Heterosexual Contact: 92% (3,758)
- Injection Drug Use: 8% (313)
- Other ††: 1% (26)

Good progress has been made with reducing HIV diagnoses among most age groups, with HIV diagnoses decreasing 7% among Black/African American people overall from 2014 to 2018.

* Black refers to people having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. African American is a term often used for people of African descent with ancestry in North America. This fact sheet uses African American, unless referencing surveillance data.
† Adult and adolescent Black/African American people aged 13 and older.
‡ American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Republic of Palau, and the US Virgin Islands.
** Based on sex assigned at birth and includes transgender people.
†† Includes perinatal exposure, blood transfusion, hemophilia, and risk factors not reported or not identified.
‡‡ Does not include perinatal and other transmission categories.
Black/African American people who don’t know they have HIV can’t get the care and treatment they need to stay healthy.

At the end of 2018, an estimated **1.2 MILLION PEOPLE** had HIV. Of those, 482,900 were among Black/African American people.***

It is important for Black/African American people to know their HIV status so they can take medicine to treat HIV if they have the virus. Taking HIV medicine every day can make the viral load undetectable. People who get and keep an undetectable viral load (or remain virally suppressed) can stay healthy for many years and have effectively no risk of transmitting HIV to their sex partners.

Compared to all people with HIV, Black/African American people have lower viral suppression rates. More work is needed to increase these rates. For **every 100 Black/African American people with HIV in 2018:**

- **63** received some HIV care
- **48** were retained in care
- **51** were virally suppressed

For comparison, for every **100 people overall** with HIV, **65** received some HIV care, **50** were retained in care, and **56** were virally suppressed.

There are several challenges that place some African American people at higher risk for HIV.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge of HIV Status</th>
<th>Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some African American people don’t know their HIV status. People who don’t know they have HIV can’t get the care they need and may pass HIV to others without knowing it.</td>
<td>African American people have higher rates of some STDs. Having another STD can increase a person’s chance of getting or transmitting HIV.</td>
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<th>Racism, HIV Stigma, and Homophobia</th>
<th>Social and Economic Issues</th>
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<td>Racism, HIV stigma, and homophobia can negatively impact risk-taking behaviors, knowledge of HIV status, HIV care, and other needed services for many African American people.</td>
<td>African American people experiencing poverty may find it harder to get HIV prevention and care services.</td>
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How is CDC making a difference for African American people?

- Collecting and analyzing data and monitoring HIV trends.
- Supporting community organizations that increase access to HIV testing and care.
- Conducting prevention research and providing guidance to those working in HIV prevention.
- Promoting testing, prevention, and treatment through the Let’s Stop HIV Together campaign.
- Supporting health departments and community-based organizations by funding HIV prevention work and providing technical assistance.
- Strengthening successful HIV prevention programs and supporting new efforts funded through the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative.

*** In 50 states and the District of Columbia.

For more information visit [www.cdc.gov/hiv](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv).

All content is based on the most recent data available in January 2021.