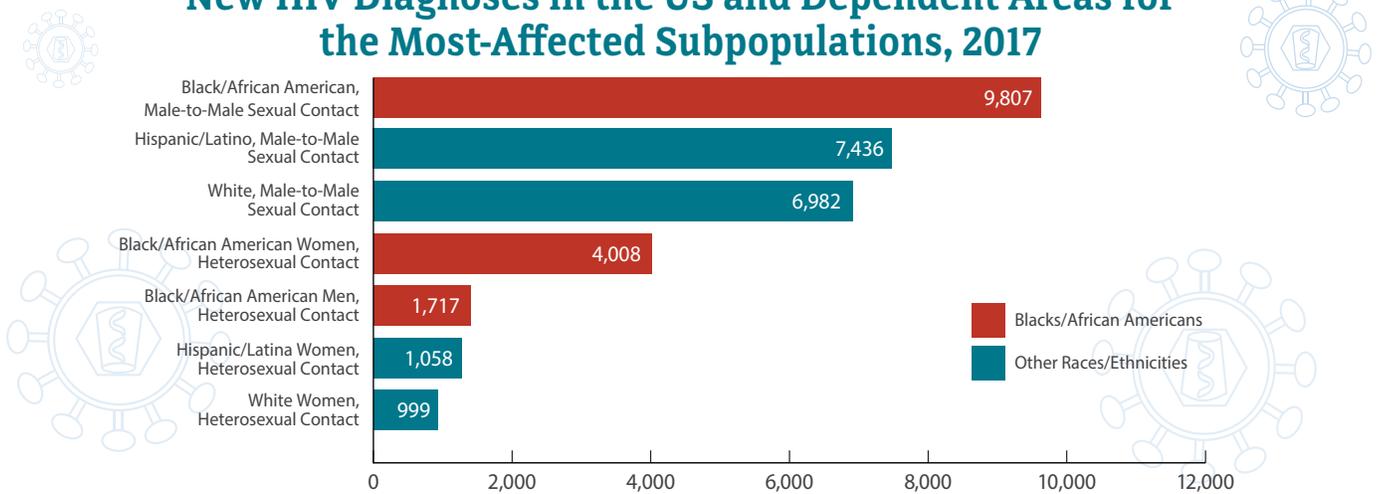


# HIV and African Americans

Of the 38,739 new HIV diagnoses in the US and dependent areas\* in 2017, **16,694 (43%) were among blacks/African Americans.\*\***

## New HIV Diagnoses in the US and Dependent Areas for the Most-Affected Subpopulations, 2017



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

From 2010 to 2016, HIV diagnoses decreased 12% among blacks/African Americans overall.<sup>†</sup> But trends varied for different groups of blacks/African Americans.



\* 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.

<sup>†</sup> In 50 states and District of Columbia.

<sup>§</sup> Includes infections attributed to male-to-male sexual contact *and* injection drug use (men who reported both risk factors).

Around 1.1 million people are living with HIV in the US.<sup>†</sup> 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.

### Why are African Americans at higher risk?

- 1 in 7 blacks/African Americans with HIV are unaware they have it. People who do not know they have HIV cannot take advantage of HIV care and treatment and may unknowingly pass HIV to others.
- Some African American communities continue to experience higher rates of other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) when compared to other races/ethnicities. Having another STD can significantly increase a person's chance of getting or transmitting HIV.
- Limited access to quality health care, lower income and educational levels, and higher rates of unemployment may place some African Americans at higher risk for HIV.
- Stigma, fear, discrimination, and homophobia may also place many African Americans at higher risk for HIV.

### How is CDC making a difference?

- Collecting and analyzing data and monitoring HIV trends among African Americans.
- 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 Americans and providing technical assistance.
- Supporting community organizations that can increase access to HIV testing and care and other services for African Americans.
- Promoting testing, prevention, and treatment through campaigns like *Act Against AIDS*.

AT THE END OF 2015,  
AN ESTIMATED  
**468,800**  
BLACKS/AFRICAN AMERICANS  
HAD HIV.<sup>†</sup>

**6 in 7**  
KNEW THEY HAD THE VIRUS.

FOR EVERY 100  
BLACKS/AFRICAN  
AMERICANS  
WITH HIV IN 2015:<sup>†</sup>



### Reduce Your Risk



Not having sex



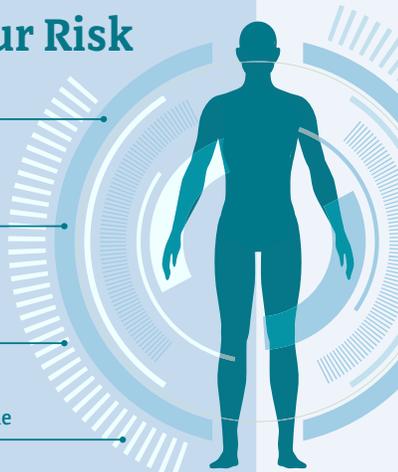
Using condoms



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](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 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](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv)