

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day — February 7, 2017

February 7 is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, an observance intended to raise awareness of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), and encourage action to reduce the disproportionate impact of HIV on blacks/African Americans (blacks) in the United States. From 2010 to 2014, the annual HIV diagnosis rate decreased for blacks by 16.2% (1); however, in 2015, blacks accounted for approximately half (45%) of all new HIV diagnoses (17,670), 74% of which were in men (1). The majority of these diagnoses were among gay and bisexual men.

The annual rate of HIV diagnosis among black women (26.2 per 100,000) was approximately 16 times the rate among white women (1.6) and approximately five times the rate among Hispanic women (5.3). Among blacks living with diagnosed HIV infection in 2013, 54% were receiving continuous HIV medical care (two or more CD4 or viral load tests ≥ 3 months apart) and 49% had a suppressed viral load (<200 copies/mL at most recent test) (2).

Additional information regarding National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/features/blackhivaidsawareness>. Additional information about blacks and HIV is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/raciaethnic/africanamericans>.

References

1. CDC. HIV surveillance report, 2015; vol. 27. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2016. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/surveillance/>
2. CDC. Monitoring selected national HIV prevention and care objectives by using HIV surveillance data—United States and 6 dependent areas, 2014. HIV surveillance supplemental report 2016; vol. 21(no. 4). Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2016. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-supplemental-report-vol-21-4.pdf>

HIV Care Outcomes Among Blacks with Diagnosed HIV — United States, 2014

Andre F. Dailey, MSPH¹; Anna Satcher Johnson, MPH¹; Baohua Wu, MS¹

Since the release of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) (1) and the establishment of the federal Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Care Continuum Initiative (2), federal efforts have accelerated to improve and increase HIV testing, care, and treatment and to reduce HIV-related disparities in the United States. National HIV Surveillance System (NHSS)* data are used to monitor progress toward reaching NHAS goals,[†] and recent data indicate that blacks have lower levels of care and viral suppression than do persons of other racial and ethnic groups (3). Among persons with HIV infection diagnosed through 2012 who were alive at

*NHSS is the primary source for monitoring HIV trends in the United States. The system collects, analyzes, and disseminates information about new and existing cases of HIV infection.

[†]NHAS was updated in July 2015 to look forward to 2020. The NHAS goals to be accomplished by 2020 are as follows: 1) 85% of all persons with newly diagnosed HIV infection to be linked to care, 2) 90% of persons living with diagnosed HIV to be retained in care, and 3) 80% of persons living with diagnosed HIV to have a suppressed viral load.

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