Responding to the HIV/AIDS Crisis in the African American Community

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Healthy People, Healthy Families: Connecting Marriage Research to Practice Conference
Overview

• Epidemiologic trends of HIV/AIDS in U.S.
• HIV/AIDS and African Americans
• CDC response to HIV/AIDS in African American community
• Next steps: Heightened national response to HIV/AIDS in the African-American community
• Summary
Estimated HIV Infection Prevalence, by Year, 1977-2003, United States

Note: Estimates are from Glynn et al., NHPC 2005. Population estimates are from U.S. Census Bureau.
Estimated Prevalence Rates for Adults and Adolescents Living with HIV Infection (not AIDS), 2005—33 States and U.S. Dependent Areas

Note. Data from 33 states and U.S. dependent areas with confidential name-based HIV infection reporting since at least 2001. Data have been adjusted for reporting delays.
Estimated Number HIV Infected and Awareness of HIV Status in United States

Number HIV infected: 1,039,000 – 1,185,000

Number unaware of their HIV infection: 252,000 - 312,000
(24%-27%)

Glynn M, Rhodes P. 2005 HIV Prevention Conference
Awareness of Serostatus Among People with HIV and Estimates of Transmission

~25% Unaware of Infection

~75% Aware of Infection

People Living with HIV/AIDS: 1,039,000-1,185,000

Accounting for:

~54% of New Infections

~46% of New Infections

New Sexual Infections Each Year: ~32,000

Marks G, et al
AIDS 2006; 20:1447
African Americans are disproportionately affected by the epidemic.
AIDS in African Americans

• Of the 956,019 AIDS cases reported to CDC through 2005, African Americans accounted for
  – 45% of the total
  – 60% of women
  – 59% of heterosexual persons at high risk
  – 59% of children aged <13 years
AIDS in African Americans

- Of AIDS cases reported during 2005, 48% were in African American adults and adolescents.

- Of the more than 1 million Americans estimated to be living with HIV, 47% are African Americans.
Proportion of AIDS Cases and Population by Race/Ethnicity, Reported in 2005—50 States and D.C.

AIDS cases
N*= 40,733

- White, not Hispanic: 50%
- Black, not Hispanic: 30%
- Hispanic: 18%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 1%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: <1%

U. S. Population
N = 296,410,404

- White, not Hispanic: 68%
- Black, not Hispanic: 14%
- Hispanic: 13%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 5%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: <1%

* Includes 283 persons of unknown race or multiple races.
AIDS Rates for African American Adults and Adolescents, Reported 2001-2005—50 states and DC

Note. Excludes cases from U. S. dependent areas because of the lack of census information by race and age categories for these areas.
Transmission Categories for African American Adult and Adolescent Males Living with HIV/AIDS at the End of 2005—33 states

N = 139,412

- MSM, 48%
- MSM and IDU, 7%
- IDU, 23%
- High risk heterosexual, 22%
- Other, 1%

Transmission Categories for African American Adult and Adolescent Females Living with HIV/AIDS at the End of 2005, 33 States

No. = 81,483

- Heterosexual contact, 74%
- IDU, 24%
- Other, 2%

Proportion of AIDS Cases and Population among Adolescents 13 to 19 Years of Age, by Race/Ethnicity Reported in 2005—50 States and D.C.

AIDS cases
N=496*

- White, not Hispanic: 17%
- Black, not Hispanic: 13%
- Hispanic: 69%
- < 1%

U.S. Population
N = 29,589,854

- White, not Hispanic: 17%
- Black, not Hispanic: 16%
- Hispanic: 62%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: < 1%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 1%

Note. Data based on person's age at AIDS diagnosis.
*Includes 4 persons of unknown race or multiple races.
Why Are African Americans Disproportionately Affected by HIV?

- High rates of other STDs
- Substance abuse
- High rates of incarceration
- Poverty
- Racism and discrimination
- Stigma and homophobia
CDC’s HIV Prevention Programs
HIV/AIDS Prevention Strategic Framework

- HIV Prevention Strategic Plan (2001)
HIV Testing in Health Care Settings

• CDC recently released new recommendations for HIV screening of adults, adolescents, and pregnant women in health care settings:
  – Normalize HIV screening in health care settings
  – Voluntary HIV screening for adults and adolescents and pregnant women in health care settings, not based on risk
  – Repeat HIV screening of persons with known risk, at least annually
  – Opt-out testing
DEBIs: Evidence-based HIV Interventions

• Development and dissemination of DEBIs an important strategy
• Persons at greatest risk are able to obtain intensive support to reduce risk behaviors and adopt protective strategies
CDC HIV Prevention Funding and Burden of HIV*

*Note: Excludes funding directed through STD and TB prevention programs.
HIV Prevention Funds Targeting African American Communities

- Funds targeting African American communities include:
  - $140 million to state and local health departments that partner with community groups
  - $30 million in direct funds to community-based organizations to supplement the efforts of state and local health departments
  - $15 million for capacity building
  - $14 million to research new prevention interventions
  - $41 million to better monitor the epidemic
Heightened National Response to HIV/AIDS
In the African American Community
CDC Launches Heightened National Response to HIV/AIDS in African American Community

- Partnership meeting held at CDC March 8
- Brought together >75 leaders to mobilize response to HIV/AIDS in the African American community
National Response to HIV/AIDS in African American Community: Strategy

- Expand the reach of prevention services
- Increase opportunities for diagnosing and treating HIV/AIDS
- Develop new, effective prevention intervention for African Americans
- Mobilize broader action within communities to help change perceptions on HIV/AIDS
CDC Expanding Partnerships

- Other federal agencies, state and local health departments
- Academic institutions
- Community- and faith-based organizations
- Entertainment
- Media
- Civic and business leaders
- Other leaders, groups not historically involved
FY 2007 HIV Testing Initiative

- $45 million

- Majority of funds to health departments to increase HIV testing opportunities for populations disproportionately affected by HIV—primarily African Americans who are unaware of their HIV status
Summary

- African Americans bear a disproportionate burden of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the U.S.
- CDC is directing increased resources to the epidemic in the African American community
- As a next step, CDC has launched a heightened response to HIV/AIDS in the African American community
Change…

Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.

James Baldwin (1924-1987)  
African American writer
Thank you.