

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day — February 7, 2019

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is observed each year on February 7 to highlight the continuing disproportionate impact of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) on the U.S. black/African American (black) population.

In 2017, blacks represented 13% of the U.S. population (1), but accounted for 44% of all new HIV diagnoses (2). Among racial/ethnic groups, the highest rate of new HIV diagnoses occurred among blacks (41.1 per 100,000 population). Blacks also had the highest rate of new diagnoses of HIV infection in each of the four census regions of the United States; the highest overall rate was among blacks in the South (44.8 per 100,000 population).

Partner services is an effective, high-yield strategy for identifying undiagnosed HIV infections and thereby linking persons with newly diagnosed HIV infection into HIV care. A study reported in this issue of *MMWR* presents the first national level analysis of HIV partner services offered to blacks through CDC-funded health departments (3). CDC supports a range of efforts to reduce the risk for acquiring or transmitting HIV infection among blacks (<https://www.cdc.gov/features/BlackHIVAIDSAwareness>).

References

1. US Census Bureau. Population and housing unit estimates datasets 2017. Washington, DC: US Department of Commerce, US Census Bureau; 2016. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/data/data-sets.html>
2. CDC. Diagnosis of HIV infection in the United States and dependent areas, 2017. HIV surveillance report, vol. 29. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2018. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-2017-vol-29.pdf>
3. Rao S, Song W, Mulatu MS, Rorie M, O'Connor K, Scales L. HIV partner service delivery among blacks or African Americans — United States; 2016. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;68:81–86.

HIV Partner Service Delivery Among Blacks or African Americans — United States, 2016

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Identifying persons with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection who are unaware of their infection status, linking them to HIV care, and reducing racial/ethnic disparities are important national HIV prevention goals (1). Blacks/African Americans (blacks)* are disproportionately affected by HIV infection in the United States. Although blacks represent 13% of the U.S. population (2), in 2017, 44% of diagnoses of HIV infection were in blacks, and the rate of new diagnoses in blacks (41.1 per 100,000 persons) was approximately eight times that of non-Hispanic whites (5.1) (3). HIV partner services are offered by health officials to persons with diagnosed HIV infection (index patients) and their sex- or needle-sharing partners, who are notified of their potential HIV exposure and offered HIV testing and related services (4). CDC analyzed 2016

* Persons categorized as blacks/African Americans were not Hispanic or Latino.

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