

## National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day — February 7, 2020

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) 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 or African American (black) population. During 2018, blacks represented 13% of the U.S. population but accounted for 43% of all newly diagnosed HIV infections (1).

In February 2019, a new national initiative, Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America (EHE), was proposed. The plan calls for intensified efforts to diagnose, treat, prevent, and respond to HIV infections in the United States, with an overall goal of reducing new HIV infections by  $\geq 90\%$  by 2030 (2).

A study reported in this *MMWR* issue presents data on CDC-funded HIV testing and outcomes among blacks who were tested in jurisdictions that are the initial focus of EHE. In these jurisdictions during 2017, blacks accounted for 43.2% of CDC-funded tests and 49.1% of newly diagnosed HIV infections (3). CDC supports a range of efforts for reducing the risk for acquiring or transmitting HIV infection among blacks. Additional information is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/raciaethnic/africanamericans>. Information about NBHAAD is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/awareness/nbhaad.html>.

### References

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2. Harris NS, Johnson AS, Huang YA, et al. Vital signs: status of human immunodeficiency virus testing, viral suppression, and HIV preexposure prophylaxis—United States, 2013–2018. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;68:1117–23. <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6848e1>
3. Essuon AD, Zhao H, Wang G, Collins N, Karch D, Rao S. HIV testing outcomes among blacks or African Americans—50 local U.S. jurisdictions accounting for the majority of new HIV diagnoses and seven states with disproportionate occurrences of HIV in rural areas, 2017. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020;69:97–102.

## HIV Testing Outcomes Among Blacks or African Americans — 50 Local U.S. Jurisdictions Accounting for the Majority of New HIV Diagnoses and Seven States with Disproportionate Occurrences of HIV in Rural Areas, 2017

Aba D. Essuon, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Hui Zhao, MS<sup>2</sup>; Guoshen Wang, MS<sup>1</sup>; Nicoline Collins, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Debra Karch, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Shubha Rao, MPH<sup>1</sup>

Identifying persons with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection who are unaware of their status and linking them to care are critical steps in achieving viral suppression and reducing the risk for transmitting HIV (1). In 2017, 43% of new diagnoses of HIV infection were among persons who self-identify as blacks or African Americans (blacks) (2), who represent 13% of the U.S. population (3). Fewer blacks, compared with whites, were linked to HIV medical care within 90 days of diagnosis, retained in care, or virally suppressed (4). Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) is an initiative intended to reduce new HIV infections by 90% from 2020 to 2030 (5). EHE's Phase 1 is focused on 50 jurisdictions\* that accounted

\* <https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/ending-the-hiv-epidemic/overview>.

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