



# HIV/AIDS among African Americans in New Jersey

As of December 31, 2016

---

- ◆ New Jersey ranked seventh among United States 50 states in the number of African American living with HIV/AIDS and NJ ranked third highest among U.S. in the rate of living with HIV/AIDS per 100,000 in 2014.
- ◆ One in 64 African Americans in New Jersey is living with HIV/AIDS as opposed to 1 in 661 among Non-Hispanic Whites.
- ◆ Essex County, with the highest proportion of African American residents (39.4% for July 2015 from June 2016 Bridged-Race Estimates), has the 2016 living with HIV/AIDS rate as high as 1 of 44 of Black Non-Hispanic in Essex County.
- ◆ The number of HIV/AIDS cases diagnosed in NJ annually decreased among African Americans from 1995 through 1999, but increased slightly in the year 2000. Then Black HIV/AIDS cases have decreased again between 2005 and 2011, but increased in the year of 2012. African American residents have accounted for 54.4% (more than half) all HIV/AIDS cases ever diagnosed in NJ. Although, the number of new HIV infection declined 43% among Black Non-Hispanic in 10 years (2005-2014), the disparity in impact of HIV/AIDS among race/ethnicity is reflected in continuous pattern.
- ◆ Despite declines in number of deaths due to HIV/AIDS, death due to HIV/AIDS ranked HIV disease is the 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for African Americans males aged 25-54 years old in 2014 and the still remain 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for African American females 25-54 years old in 2014.

## African Americans in New Jersey account for:

---

- ◆ 13.4% of the state's total population on July 2014 from Bridged-Race estimates released at June 2016.
- ◆ 47.6% of all people have diagnosed HIV/AIDS in 2014
- ◆ 50.3% of the people living with HIV/AIDS in the state through 2016

## Among those living with HIV/AIDS, African Americans account for:

---

- ◆ 60.7% of HIV/AIDS cases among women
- ◆ 45.2% of cases among men
- ◆ 55.2% of cases among injection drug users
- ◆ 35.5% of men who have sex with men, but 41% of cases diagnosed in 2014
- ◆ 72% of children living with HIV/AIDS.

## Hard hit areas in New Jersey

---

- ◆ About 66.2% of the state's African Americans 2016 living with HIV/AIDS reside in the following ten cities: Newark, Jersey City, East Orange, Irvington, Paterson, Trenton, Elizabeth, Camden Atlantic City and City of Orange.
- ◆ 65.5% of adults/adolescents and 85.7% of children under 13 living with HIV/AIDS in the Newark metropolitan area (Essex, Morris, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties) are African American.  
73.3% of adults in the city of Newark, 90% adult/adolescents in East Orange and 89.7% adult/adolescents in Irvington living with HIV/AIDS are Black.

## HIV/AIDS Challenges in African American Communities

---

Despite considerable efforts by the Division of HIV, STD and TB Services to target HIV infection through prevention and treatment; HIV is still a major threat in African American communities. Despite declines in infection and death due to HIV/AIDS, disparities have not disappeared. African Americans represent the majority of those infected, many do not know that they are infected and many of those at risk do not get tested for HIV. Furthermore, African Americans are more likely to test late, and when determined to be infected, either do not access care in a timely manner or intermittently participate in treatment. The public sector alone cannot successfully combat HIV and AIDS in the African American community. Community-based efforts help to overcome the current barriers to HIV prevention and treatment, it requires that local leaders acknowledge the severity of the continuing epidemic among African Americans and help reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS. Additionally, HIV prevention strategies known to be effective must be available and accessible for all populations at risk.

## Prevention Efforts Must Focus on High-Risk Behaviors

---

*Adult/Adolescent Men.* Among African American men with HIV/AIDS, injection drug use has accounted for 40.7% of the cumulative infections (*but IDU only for 4.2% among Black men diagnosed HIV/AIDS in 2014*). The second most common exposure for African American men is having sex with other men (MSM), reported cumulative for 23% (*but MSM accounted for 44.7% among Black men diagnosed HIV/AIDS in 2014*), while 4.5% report both *injection* drug use and sex with other men. Accumulatively, about 23.3% were related to heterosexual exposure.

*Adult/Adolescent Women.* Among African American women, injection drug use has accounted 36.2% of all HIV infection (*but Black women diagnosed HIV/AIDS in 2014 has accounted only 3.8% of the HIV infections*), and 55.7% were related to all heterosexual exposure (*but Heterosexual risk accounted for 78.1% among Black women diagnosed HIV/AIDS in 2014*). .

*Data source: Except for cities, rates were based July 2015 population (bridge –race estimates at June 2016). Risk of exposure data is based on modified risk exposure categories as described in the NJ HIV/AIDS report as of 12/31/2016.*

## For more information

---

- ◆ Call or write: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services  
Division of HIV, STD and TB Services PO Box 363  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0363 PO Box 363  
(609) 984-5874



- E-mail: [aids@doh.nj.us](mailto:aids@doh.nj.us)
- ◆ Call the HIV/STD Hotline: 1-800-624-2377 or Visit our website: [www.state.nj.us/health](http://www.state.nj.us/health)