

Snapshot of HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS in the United States

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that more than 20 percent of those living with HIV/AIDS in the United States do not know they are infected.

- Approximately 1.1 million people in the United States were living with HIV/AIDS in 2006 – with an estimated 56,000 new HIV/AIDS infections occurring each year.¹ More than one in five, 232,700 of the 1.1 million people infected with HIV, are unaware of their status.²
- In 2006, African Americans comprised nearly half (49 percent) of the newly diagnosed HIV-positive population in the United States, and Latinos made up 18 percent of new HIV diagnoses.³

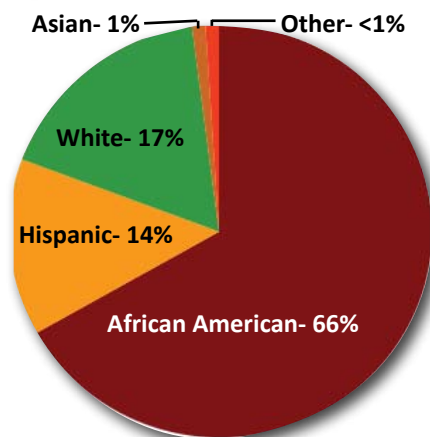
Women are the New Face of HIV/AIDS

Women have been affected by HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic, but the face of HIV/AIDS in the United States is changing.

More women, particularly African American women and Latinas, are becoming infected with the virus. African American women and Latinas together represent 80 percent of new HIV and AIDS cases among women, and the majority of women living with the disease.

- In 2005, 66 percent of new HIV infections diagnosed among women were among African American women, while 14 percent were Hispanic (see chart).⁴
- In 1985, women accounted for eight percent of HIV cases in the United States—today, women represent 27 percent of new HIV cases in the United States.⁵

Race/ethnicity of women in the U.S. with HIV/AIDS diagnosed during 2005⁴



¹ New Estimates of U.S. HIV Prevalence, 2006. CDC, October 2008. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/factsheets/pdf/prevalence.pdf>

² Ibid.

³ HIV/AIDS in the United States, 2006. CDC, August 2008. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/us.htm>

⁴ HIV/AIDS Among Women, 2005. CDC, August 2008. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/women/resources/factsheets/pdf/women.pdf>

⁵ Women and HIV/AIDS in the United States. Kaiser Family Foundation, October 2008. <http://www.kff.org/hiv/aids/upload/6092-061.pdf>

Snapshot of HIV/AIDS (continued)

HIV/AIDS in the South: The Realities

The southern region of the United States is in a state of emergency – HIV/AIDS is devastating the South.

Rising infection rates coupled with inadequate funding and resources have produced a crisis:

- The number of persons living with AIDS has increased from 1993 to 2005 at a greater rate in the South than in the other regions of the United States. The South also has the highest number of people dying from AIDS in the United States.⁶
- Southern states comprise 65 percent of all AIDS cases among rural populations.⁷
- Nearly four of ten (40 percent) Americans living with AIDS reside in the South.⁸

HIV/AIDS in South Carolina

Nationally, South Carolina ranked ninth highest in AIDS case rates among states and territories in 2006.⁹

HIV continues to disproportionately affect minorities in South Carolina, especially among women.

- Women made up almost a third of new HIV infections in 2007. Today, there are more than 4,500 women living with HIV/AIDS in South Carolina.¹⁰
- In 2007, more than seven out of every ten newly diagnosed HIV infections occurred among African Americans, though they represent only a third of South Carolina's population.¹⁰
- More than eight out of ten women with HIV are African American. African American women have an HIV/AIDS case rate 12 times greater than that of white women in South Carolina.¹⁰

⁶ Southern States Manifesto: Update 2008. Southern AIDS Coalition. <http://southernaidscoalition.org/Manifesto%20Update%20Final%20pdf%20071408.pdf>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report. Cases of HIV Infection and AIDS in the United States, 2006. CDC, 2008. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/2006report/pdf/2006SurveillanceReport.pdf>

⁹ AIDS Case Rate per 100,000 Population, All Ages, 2006. Kaiser Family Foundation. <http://statehealthfacts.org/comparebar.jsp?ind=511&cat=11>

¹⁰ South Carolina's STD/HIV/AIDS Data: STD/HIV Division Surveillance Report. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, December 2007. http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/stdhiv/docs/HIVSTD%20surveillance%20report_12312007.pdf