

Women and HIV/AIDS



In the United States

- Women account for more than one in four new HIV/AIDS diagnoses and deaths caused by AIDS.
- The proportion of AIDS diagnoses reported among women has more than tripled since 1985.
- 71% of women diagnosed with AIDS in 2005 contracted the disease through heterosexual sex.
- African Americans constituted 67% of women diagnosed with AIDS in 2005.
- In 2004, teen girls represented 43% of AIDS cases reported among people aged 13 to 19.
- African Americans and Hispanics represent 25% of all women in the U.S. but they account for 83% of AIDS cases among women.
- African-American women are 24 times more likely to have AIDS than white women.
- AIDS is the leading cause of death for African-American women aged 25 to 34.

Around the Globe

- Worldwide, women constitute close to half of all people living with HIV/AIDS, almost 18 million in total.
- Globally and in every region, more adult women (15 years or older) than ever before are now living with HIV.
- Women are at least twice as likely to acquire HIV from men during sexual intercourse than vice versa.
- Only 20% of young women aged 15 to 24 correctly identify ways of preventing HIV transmission and reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission.
- Fewer than 8% of pregnant women are currently offered services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, women constitute 59% of all people living with HIV/AIDS, a figure that rises to 76% among young people aged 15 to 24.
- According to a four city study in India, almost 90% of HIV-positive women were infected with HIV by their husbands.



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The Foundation for AIDS Research

Sources: UNAIDS, Kaiser Family Foundation, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2006.