



# HIV/AIDS among African Americans in New Jersey

As of December 31, 2017

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- ◆ New Jersey ranked sixth 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 2015.
- ◆ One in 65 African Americans in New Jersey is living with HIV/AIDS as opposed to 1 in 650 among Non-Hispanic Whites.
- ◆ Essex County, with the highest proportion of African American residents (39.7% for 2016 Essex population from June 2017 Bridged-Race Estimates), has the 2017 living with HIV/AIDS rate as high as 1 of 45 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. The all new HIV/AIDS cases have decreased 32%, as compared the Black HIV/AIDS cases have decreased 38% from 2006 to 2015. African American residents have accounted for 54% (more than half) all HIV/AIDS cases ever diagnosed in NJ, but still accounted 49% for recent 10 years (between 2006 and 2015). 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 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for African Americans males aged 25-54 years old in 2015 and remain 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for African American females 25-54 years old in 2015.

## African Americans in New Jersey account for:

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- ◆ 13.4% of the state's 2016 total population from Bridged-Race estimates released at July 2017.
- ◆ 47.0% of all people have diagnosed HIV/AIDS in 2015.
- ◆ 49.7% of the people living with HIV/AIDS in the state through 2017.

## Among those living with HIV/AIDS 2017, African Americans account for:

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- ◆ 60.3% of HIV/AIDS cases among women.
- ◆ 44.5% of cases among men.
- ◆ 54.9% of cases among injection drug users.
- ◆ 34.9% of men who have sex with men, but 47% of diagnosed cases in 2015.
- ◆ 79% of children living with HIV/AIDS.

## Hard hit areas in New Jersey

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- ◆ About 65.6% of the state's African Americans 2017 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.
- ◆ 64.8% of adults/adolescents and 93.9% of children under 13 living with HIV/AIDS in the Newark metropolitan area (Essex, Morris, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties) are African American.  
72.6% of adults in the city of Newark, 90.4% 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

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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

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*Adult/Adolescent Men.* Among African American men with HIV/AIDS, injection drug use has accounted for 40.3% of the cumulative infections (*but IDU only for 3.5% among Black men diagnosed HIV/AIDS in 2015*). The second most common exposure for African American men is having sex with other men (MSM), reported cumulative for 22.9% (*but MSM accounted for 51.1% among Black men diagnosed HIV/AIDS in 2015*), 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 35.9% of all HIV infection (*but Black women IDU diagnosed HIV/AIDS in 2015 has accounted only 2.9% of the HIV infections*), and 55.9% were related to all heterosexual exposure (*but Heterosexual risk accounted for 75.1% among Black women diagnosed HIV/AIDS in 2015*).

*Data source: Except for cities, rates were per 100,000 2016 population (bridge –race estimates at Jul/ 2017). Risk of exposure data is based on modified risk exposure categories as described in the NJ HIV/AIDS report as of 12/31/2017.*

## For more information

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- ◆ 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.state.nj.us](mailto:aids@doh.state.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)

