

HIGHLIGHTS

- Though African Americans make up 2% of New Mexico's population, they account for 6% of all HIV/AIDS cases.
- In New Mexico, there have been a cumulative total of 306 cases of HIV/AIDS among African Americans since the early 1980s, including 96 individuals who have died.
- Of the 3,405 people living with HIV/AIDS in New Mexico, 6% are African American. African Americans have the highest rate (535 per 100,000 population) of all racial/ethnic groups living with HIV/AIDS in the state (Figure 1).

THE HIV EPIDEMIC AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS

HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects African Americans in the United States, and that disparity has continued to increase over time. Since the epidemic began, African Americans have made up 42% of the total estimated AIDS cases. African Americans accounted for 49% of all new HIV/AIDS cases diagnosed nationwide in 2005 and bear the largest burden of all racial/ethnic groups of people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S.¹ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), African Americans with AIDS often do not live as long as other race/ethnicity groups because of a variety of factors, which include poverty, high rates of sexually transmitted diseases, and stigma.²

HIV AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS IN NEW MEXICO

The rate of HIV/AIDS among African Americans living in New Mexico is roughly three times higher than for any other racial/ethnic group in the state (Figure 1). The mode of exposure most commonly reported among

African American men living with the disease in New Mexico is men who have sex with men (MSM, 55%), which include MSM (44%) and MSM who inject drugs (MSM/IDU, 11%) (Figure 2). Similar to the U.S., the proportion of African Americans living with HIV/AIDS that report injection drug use (15%) is higher than for any other racial/ethnic group in the state (Figure 2).

Regardless of race/ethnicity, the majority of HIV/AIDS cases among African American women in New Mexico can be attributed either directly or indirectly to injection drug use. More than one-third (37%) of African American women reported injection drug use as a risk factor, and 9% reported heterosexual sex with an injection drug user (Figure 3). Forty-two percent of African American women reported only heterosexual contact as their risk factor for HIV.

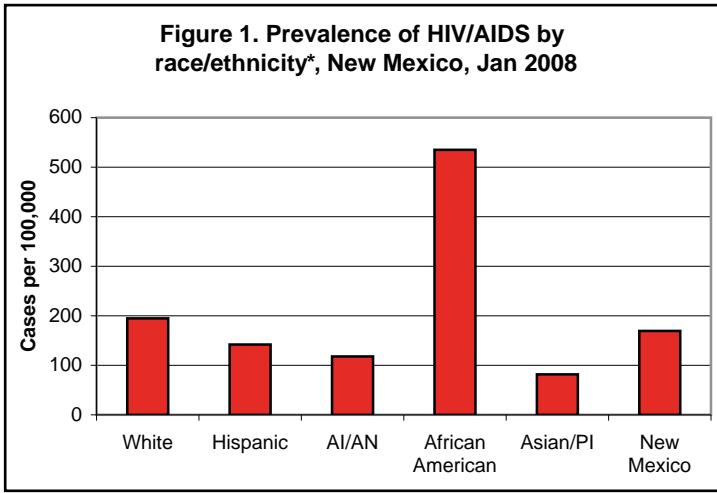
PREVENTION

The New Mexico Department of Health HIV Prevention Program funds providers across the state to deliver HIV prevention interventions. Most organizations are now using evidence-based models from the CDC. A number of the programs are shown to be appropriate for African Americans including:

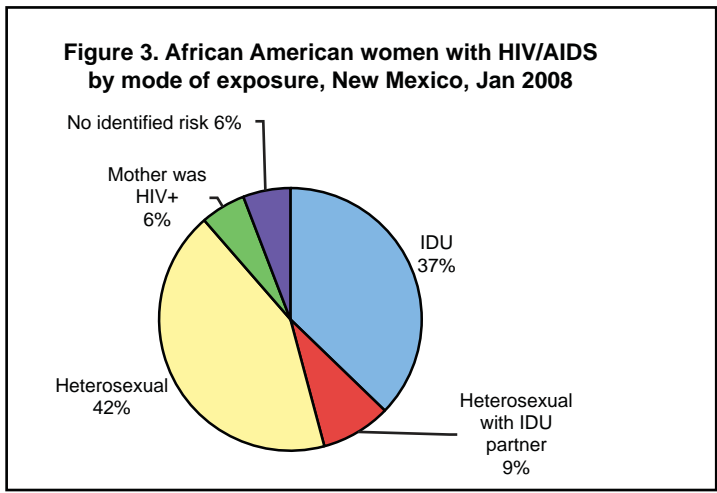
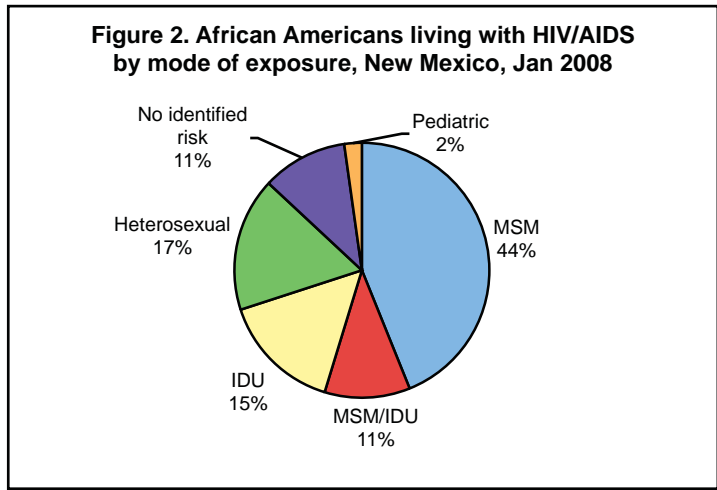
- The Many Men/Many Voices (3MV) intervention targets gay men of color, including MSM that do not identify as gay or bisexual.
- The VOICES/VOCES program is used with African American men and women in clinics and other settings.
- The SISTA project specifically targets sexually active African American women.

REFERENCES

- 1) CDC HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet: HIV/AIDS among African Americans, June 2007, www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/aa/resources/factsheets/pdf/aa.pdf
- 2) CDC HIV/AIDS and African Americans, For the Public, www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/aa



* AI/AN: American Indian/Alaska Native; Asian/PI: Asian/Pacific Islander



HIV & Hepatitis Epidemiology Program
 New Mexico Department of Health
 1190 St. Francis Dr., N1350
 Santa Fe, NM 87502
 (505) 476-3515

<http://www.health.state.nm.us/hiv-aids.html>