

## HIV/AIDS AND PEOPLE OF COLOR

**P**eople of color in the United States are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. These statistics on African-Americans, Latinos, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and American Indians/Alaskan Natives will provide some insight into the significance of the problem.

Health care providers and educators can provide better services related to HIV/AIDS prevention by developing a greater understanding of these groups and their cultural values.

### AFRICAN-AMERICANS

- In 1997, there were an estimated 106,240 African-Americans living with AIDS compared with 45,928 in 1992.<sup>1</sup>
- Through December 1998, 108,874 African-American males and 32,733 African-American females had died of AIDS-related causes.<sup>2</sup>
- Among the cumulative reported African-American male adult/adolescent AIDS cases through December 1998, 38 percent were among men who have sex with men, 35 percent were from injecting drug use, 7 percent were from heterosexual contact, and 21 percent were from other exposure categories.<sup>3</sup>
- Among the cumulative reported African-American female adult/adolescent AIDS cases through December 1998, 44 percent were from injecting drug use, 37 percent were from heterosexual contact, and 19 percent were from other exposure categories.<sup>4</sup>
- HIV is now the leading cause of death among African-American males and of African-American females ages 25 to 44.<sup>5</sup>
- In 1997, 90.4 percent of African-American females and 89.1 percent of African-American males reported being taught about HIV/AIDS in school.<sup>6</sup>
- In 1997, 75.3 percent of African-American females and 70 percent of African-American males reported talking about HIV/AIDS with parents or other adult family members.<sup>7</sup>
- Through December 1998, 59,033 Latino males and 11,901 Latina females had died of AIDS-related causes.<sup>9</sup>
- Among the cumulative reported Latino male adult/adolescent AIDS cases through December 1998, 43 percent were among men who have sex with men, 36 percent were from injecting drug use, 5 percent were from heterosexual contact, and 16 percent were from other exposure categories.<sup>10</sup>
- Among the cumulative reported Latina female adult/adolescent AIDS cases through December 1998, 41 percent were from injecting drug use, 47 percent were from heterosexual contact, and 12 percent were from other exposure categories.<sup>11</sup>
- HIV is the second leading cause of death among Latino males and Latina females ages 25 to 44.<sup>12</sup>
- In 1997, 85.1 percent of Latina females and 86.6 percent of Latino males reported being taught about HIV/AIDS in school.<sup>13</sup>
- In 1997, 64.7 percent of Latina females and 57 percent of Latino males reported talking about HIV/AIDS with parents or other adult family members.<sup>14</sup>

### ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDERS

- In 1997, there were an estimated 2,100 Asian/Pacific Islanders living with AIDS compared with 1,010 in 1992.<sup>15</sup>
- Through December 1998, 2,504 Asian/Pacific Islander males and 286 Asian/Pacific Islander females had died of AIDS-related causes.<sup>16</sup>
- Among the cumulative reported Asian/Pacific Islander male adult/adolescent AIDS cases through December 1998, 74 percent were among men who have sex with men, 5 percent were from injecting drug use, 3 percent were from heterosexual contact, and 17 percent were from other exposure categories.<sup>17</sup>
- Among the cumulative reported Asian/Pacific Islander female adult/adolescent AIDS cases through December 1998, 17 percent were from injecting drug use, 47 percent were from heterosexual contact, and 35 percent were from other exposure categories.<sup>18</sup>

### LATINOS

- In 1997, there were an estimated 52,537 Latinos living with AIDS compared with 23,840 in 1992.<sup>8</sup>

## AMERICAN INDIANS/ ALASKAN NATIVES

- In 1997, there were an estimated 886 American Indians/Alaskan Natives living with AIDS compared with 461 in 1992.<sup>19</sup>
- Through December 1998, 877 American Indian/Alaskan Native males and 158 American Indians/Alaskan Native females had died of AIDS-related causes.<sup>20</sup>
- Among the cumulative reported American Indian/Alaskan Native male adult/adolescent AIDS cases through December 1998, 57 percent were among men who have sex with men, 16 percent were from injecting drug use, 2 percent were from heterosexual contact, and 24 percent were from other exposure categories.<sup>21</sup>
- Among the cumulative reported American Indian/Alaskan Native female adult/adolescent AIDS cases through December 1998, 47 percent were from injecting drug use, 36 percent were from heterosexual contact, and 17 percent were from other exposure categories.<sup>22</sup>

## REFERENCES

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