

HIV/AIDS and MSM (Men Who Have Sex with Men)



■ Black Men who have sex with men (MSM) comprised the greatest proportion of HIV cases diagnosed in 2003 (32 percent) among all Black men in the United States. In comparison, Black men who contracted HIV through injection drug use and heterosexual sex comprised 11 percent and 13 percent of HIV cases among Black men diagnosed in 2003. (*CDC 2003 HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data*).

■ Despite current medical advances in HIV treatment and opportunistic infection prevention, translation of these breakthroughs into improved morbidity and mortality rates for HIV-positive Black MSM has lagged significantly behind that of MSM of other ethnicities (*Blair, Fleming & Karon, 2002*).

■ A cross-sectional survey of young MSM found that a majority (64 percent) of 920 Black MSM reported having had a previous HIV test, but the median number of lifetime tests was one

test. Furthermore, of the 536 Black MSM in the study who reported testing negative during their last test, 16 percent were HIV-positive and nearly all were unaware of their seropositive status. (*MMWR, 2002*).

- Black MSM comprised one third of all HIV cases among MSM diagnosed in 2003. (*CDC 2003 HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data*).
- HIV-positive Black MSM are less likely than MSM of other races and ethnicities to report access to antiretroviral medications (*Stall et al., 2001*).
- Only eight (six percent) of 129 documented HIV prevention interventions that target Black Americans have targeted Black MSM. Of those eight interventions, only one intervention has been found effective in curbing HIV risk behavior among HIV-negative Black MSM. There are no effective interventions for HIV-positive Black MSM. (*Darbes et al., 2002*).
- The AIDS rate (a measure for the progression of disease) for Black men is twice that of Black women (103.8 per 100,000 persons vs. 50.2 per 100,000 persons).

Estimated number of Black Americans living with AIDS by the end of 2003

Men (homosexual contact)	50,675	33%
Women (heterosexual contact)	43,957	28%
Men (heterosexual contact)	23,513	15%
Men (IDU)	23,658	15%
Women (IDU)	13,244	8.5%
Pediatrics	100	>.5%
Total	155,147	100%

Cumulative AIDS cases among Black Americans through 2003

Men (homosexual contact)	93,413	34%
Men (IDU)	80,282	29%
Women (heterosexual contact)	40,193	15%
Women (IDU)	35,767	13%
Men (heterosexual contact)	24,428	9%
Total	274,083	100%



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Illustrated using professional models.