Women and HIV/AIDS in the U.S.: Update on Epidemiology and Key Trends

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for
Women and HIV/AIDS in the United States: Setting an Agenda for the Future

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Women as a Proportion of Newly Reported AIDS Cases, 1986-2001

Note: Includes reported cases among women 13 years of age and older.
Figure 2
Trends in Number of People Estimated to be Living with AIDS, by Sex, 1993-2001

Note: Includes estimated prevalence among those 13 years of age and older.
Figure 3

Note: Includes estimated deaths among those 13 years of age and older.
Figure 4
AIDS Case Rates per 100,000 Women, by Race/Ethnicity, 2001

Note: Includes reported cases among women 13 years of age and older. White, African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native women do not include those of Latino origin.
AIDS Case Rates Among Women, by State, 2001

Note: Rates per 100,000 women. Includes reported cases among women 13 years of age and older. These rates should be interpreted with caution—high rates in some states may be more indicative of a small population of women rather than a large number of AIDS cases.


U.S. Case Rate for Women = 9.1 per 100,000
N=11,082

Figure 5
Estimated AIDS Cases, by Sex and Exposure Category, 2001

Note: Includes estimated cases diagnosed among those 13 years of age and older, after the reclassification of cases where cause of exposure was not reported or identified. May not total 100% due to rounding.
Reported HIV* Cases Among Adolescents And Young Adults, by Sex, 2001

Reported HIV Cases Among 13-19 year olds

- Male: 43%
- Female: 57%

N = 1,155

Reported HIV Cases Among 20-24 year olds

- Male: 59%
- Female: 41%

N = 3,402

*From the areas with confidential HIV case surveillance for adults and adolescents in 2001.
Selected Characteristics of People with HIV/AIDS in Care, 1996

- Earn < $10,000/year
  - Women: 64%
  - Men: 41%
- High School or Less
  - Women: 73%
  - Men: 46%
- Children under 18 at home
  - Women: 76%
  - Men: 34%
- Medicaid
  - Women: 61%
  - Men: 39%
- Uninsured
  - Women: 21%
  - Men: 19%

Note: Includes persons 18 years and older.

Differential Access to Care Among People with HIV/AIDS in Care, by Sex, 1998

Figure 9

Differential Access to Care Among People with HIV/AIDS in Care, by Sex, 1998

Note: All results shown are significantly different from men (p < .05) after adjustment for CD4 count. Includes persons 18 years and older. Higher hospitalization rates result from failure to receive indicated outpatient therapy. Source: Shapiro, et al., “Variations in the Care of HIV-Infected Adults in the United States.” Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 281, No. 24, 1999.
Figure 10
Reasons for Postponing Care Among People with HIV/AIDS in Care, by Sex, 1996

Percent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Transportation</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too Sick to Go to Doctor</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One or More Competing Needs</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All results shown are significant at p<0.01. Includes persons 18 years and older.
Women Living with HIV/AIDS: Key Findings from Focus Groups

- How women get HIV diagnosis affects follow-up, receptivity to care and treatment
- Having insurance coverage, a connection to AIDS service organization, and an experienced provider (particularly in treating women) make a difference
- Ryan White/ADAP is critical for uninsured
- GYN care, labs, mental health, dental services – poorly addressed for many
- Many women with HIV/AIDS face additional challenges – parenting and caregiving -- often putting others first
- Stigma and discrimination persist, especially with dental providers
- Women with HIV/AIDS want more information about HIV disease, care, support networks

Focus groups of women living with HIV/AIDS in Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Miami, and Savannah
Figure 12

Percent of women of reproductive age who:

- Have Never been Tested for HIV: 34%
- Have Ever Been Tested for HIV: 65%
- Don't Know: 1%

How they know they were tested for HIV:

- Asked to be tested: 46%
- Doctor/nurse told her: 19%
- Other: 20%
- Under impression it was routine part of exam: 15%

Note: Includes women ages 18 to 49.
Concerned about HIV/AIDS in abstract, less on personal level

Know the basics, but misperceptions and gaps in knowledge persist

Not all use condoms consistently, depends on context and relationship

Many open to learning more about HIV/AIDS, BUT also say they know enough – educational challenge

Most effective prevention messages present real information and deal with issues such as trust and risk

Doctors, educators, and popular media most effective educators

Focus groups of women living with HIV/AIDS in Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Miami, and Savannah
In Thinking About the Problem of HIV/AIDS in the U.S. Today, Percent of Women Who Say The Country is…

- Don’t know/Refused: 9%
- About the same: 19%
- Losing ground: 31%
- Making progress: 41%

Percent of Women Who Say They are Personally Concerned About HIV/AIDS…

- Not concerned at all: 46%
- Somewhat concerned: 15%
- Very concerned: 18%
- Not too concerned: 20%
- Don’t know/Refused: 1%

### Percent of Women Who Say Impact of HIV/AIDS on Women Has…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stayed about the same</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shifted towards women</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shifted away from women</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know/refused</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Percent of Women Who Say That in the U.S., Women Account for…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>About 50% of new AIDS cases</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About 25% of new AIDS cases*</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About 10% of new AIDS cases</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know/Refused</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Women accounted for 26% of newly reported AIDS cases in 2001, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Women’s Main Sources of Information About HIV/AIDS, 2003

Percent of Women Who Say They Mainly Get Information About HIV/AIDS From…

- Media (TV, Radio, Newspaper) 73%
- Family/Friends 7%
- Other 7%
- Internet 2%
- Don't Know 3%
- Doctor/Other Health Professional 8%

Women and HIV: Policy Issues for Discussion

Prevention
- How do we do a better job of reaching younger women, women of color?
- How do we reenergize the issue of HIV and women in our public education efforts?

Care and Treatment
- How can we improve access to care and support services for women?
- What is needed to support women’s roles as caregivers and mothers?
- What is the best way to integrate reproductive health care and other key services with HIV care?

Research
- What are the major gaps in research for women at risk for and living with HIV?
- How do we increase participation of women, in particular women of color and youth in clinical trials?
Women and HIV: Cross Cutting Policy Issues

- How do we raise awareness of the issue of women and HIV domestically?

- Are financing mechanisms adequate? Medicaid cutbacks, limits on ADAP, Ryan White Reauthorization, support for Federal Agencies? Implications of state fiscal crisis?

- What are the current policy initiatives that stand to affect women at risk for HIV and women living with HIV/AIDS (e.g. testing of newborns, Ryan White reauthorization, Medicaid)?

- How can we make progress toward eliminating disparities by gender and race/ethnicity?

- How do we work more effectively to get the voices of community-based agencies at the table?

- What role should key institutions play (government, media, HIV/AIDS organizations, women’s groups)? How do we engage them?