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## WOMEN AND AIDS: JUST THE FACTS

- ◆ **The percentage of new HIV/AIDS cases in the US belonging to women has more than tripled in the last two decades**, rising from 8% in 1985 to 27% in 2005.<sup>viii ix</sup>
- ◆ Among all women, HIV infection was the 5th leading cause of death for those aged 35–44 years, and the 6th leading cause of death for women aged 25–34 years. **The only diseases causing more deaths of women in 2004 were cancer and heart disease.**<sup>x</sup>
- ◆ **Women of color have been especially hard hit** and represent the majority of new HIV and AIDS cases among women, and the majority of women living with HIV/AIDS.<sup>xi</sup>
  - In 2004, HIV infection was the **leading cause of death for black women** aged 25–34 years.<sup>xii</sup>
  - Together, **African American women and Latinas accounted for 82% of total AIDS diagnoses for women** in 2005, though they make up just 24% of the U.S. population of women.<sup>xiii</sup>
  - In 2005, **the AIDS case rate for African American women was 23 times the rate for white women.** The case rate for Latinas was about 6 times the rate for white women.<sup>xiv</sup>
- ◆ **Women with HIV are disproportionately low income:** nearly two-thirds (64%) have annual incomes below \$10,000.<sup>xv</sup>
- ◆ 76% of women with HIV/AIDS receiving medical care report having children under age 18 in their homes.<sup>xvi</sup>
- ◆ 70% of AIDS diagnoses among women are due to heterosexual transmission (in 2005); 27% are due to drug use.<sup>xvii</sup> African American and Latina women account for 81% of the women living with HIV/AIDS in 2005 who acquired HIV through high-risk heterosexual contact.<sup>xviii</sup>
- ◆ Of the approximately 1.2 million people living with HIV/AIDS today in the U.S., more than 300,000 are women.<sup>xix</sup> In 2005, there were 10,774 AIDS cases diagnosed among women.<sup>xx</sup>

## WOMEN AND THE CDC HIV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

- ◆ The CDC does not require the collection of socioeconomic data beyond basic classifications of gender, race and ethnicity.
- ◆ Members of the National Women and AIDS Collective report that among women testing HIV positive in their local and state programs as many as 60% are classified as “No Identified Risk” (NIR) by the CDC HIV surveillance system. According to the CDC, 47% of all women testing HIV-positive in the U.S. are assigned to the NIR group by the CDC HIV surveillance system.<sup>xxi</sup>
- ◆ The number and proportion of cases reported with NIR cases has increased over time from approximately 20% in 1994 to 35% in 2004.<sup>xxii</sup>

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- <sup>viii</sup> CDC data request; 2006. Cited in “Women and HIV/AIDS in the United States,” The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, July 2007, <http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/6092-04.pdf>
- <sup>ix</sup> CDC HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, Vol.17, Revised Edition, June 2007.
- <sup>x</sup> CDC, HIV/AIDS Among Women, June 2007,  
<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/women/resources/factsheets/women.htm#2>
- <sup>xi</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xii</sup> CDC, “HIV/AIDS among Women,” 2007,  
<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/women/resources/factsheets/women.htm#2>
- <sup>xiii</sup> CDC, “HIV/AIDS among Women,” 2007,  
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- <sup>xv</sup> “Women and HIV/AIDS in the United States,” The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, July 2007, <http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/6092-04.pdf>
- <sup>xvi</sup> “Women and HIV/AIDS in the United States,” The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, July 2007, <http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/6092-04.pdf>
- <sup>xvii</sup> CDC, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, Vol.17, Revised Edition; June 2007.
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- <sup>xix</sup> “Women and HIV/AIDS in the United States,” The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, July 2007, <http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/6092-04.pdf>
- <sup>xx</sup> CDC, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, Vol.17, Revised Edition, June 2007.
- <sup>xxi</sup> McDavid, Kathleen. Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, CDC (personal communication, March 22, 2007)
- <sup>xxii</sup> McDavid, Kathleen, and Matthew T. McKenna. *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*. 2006, Vol 20, No. 4, 285-292.