

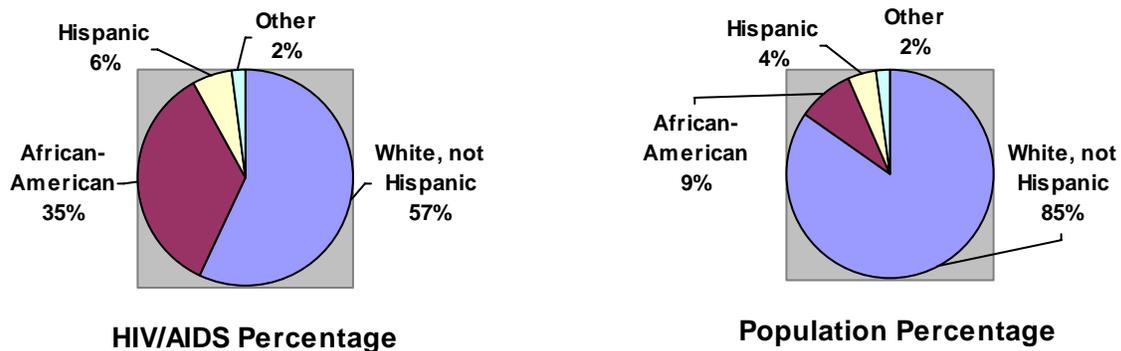
Communities of Color

In December of 1998, the Indiana HIV Prevention Community Planning Group developed a plan that included the creation of a position that would deal with HIV prevention efforts within communities of color in hopes of reducing the disparities in HIV/AIDS. This would include, but not be limited to, African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asian Pacific Islanders. Those efforts include capacity building assistance to community based organizations and local health departments who serve mainly communities of color.

In addition to capacity building assistance, the Communities of Color Program provides assistance and resources for events and outreach efforts targeting minority populations. This includes all nationally recognized awareness days as well as local efforts such as the Black and Minority Health Fair, Northwest Region Women Initiative Leadership Summit, Fiesta Indianapolis and activities at colleges and universities statewide.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, African-Americans make up just under 9% of Indiana's population but account for 35% of the state's HIV/AIDS cases. Hispanics account for less than 5% of the state's population but 6% of the HIV/AIDS cases reported through 2007. See Figure 1. The number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Indiana decreased among whites but showed a steady increase among African-Americans and Hispanics.

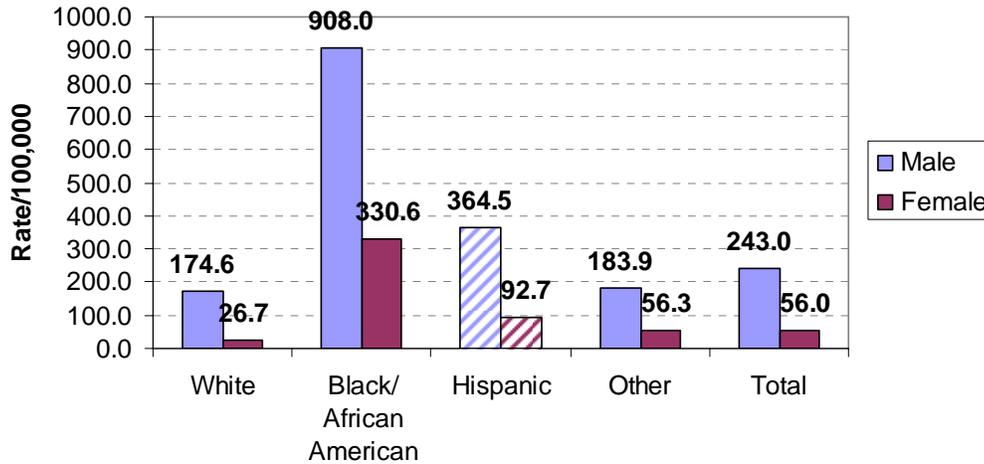
Figure 1. Percentage population and Racial/Ethnic Prevalence of HIV Disease in Indiana



Newly reported infections in 2007 follow a comparable but more striking pattern for women. Of the 107 newly reported cases of HIV among women in Indiana in 2007, 50 of them (47%) were African American and 7 (7%) were Hispanic. Similarly, 37 (47%) of the newly reported cases of AIDS among women in Indiana were African American and 7 (9%) were Hispanic. The most common reported mode of transmission of HIV among women is heterosexual sex.

African-American women have a prevalence rate (number of individuals currently living with the disease) more than ten times higher than White women. The prevalence rate for African-American men is five times greater than the rate for White men. These rates are illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2. People Currently Living with HIV/AIDS (Prevalence Rate) by Race/Ethnicity by Sex 2007



These disparities are not unique to Indiana. African-Americans and Hispanics combine to represent about 25% of the country's population but account for more than 50% of the AIDS cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Furthermore, roughly 78% of this country's HIV+ women are of minority race or ethnicity. The most striking illustration of the disparity can be found among pediatric AIDS cases where African-Americans and Hispanics account for 80% of cases nationally.

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