Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) among African Americans in New Mexico

New HIV Diagnoses

**U.S. Data**
- African Americans experience a disproportionate burden of HIV compared with persons of other race/ethnicities. In 2011, African Americans in the U.S. accounted for 47% of all new diagnoses of HIV infection, although they account for only 12% to 14% of the U.S. population.\(^1\,\text{,}\,2\)
- The estimated lifetime risk of becoming infected with HIV in the U.S. is 1 in 16 for African American males, and 1 in 32 for African American females, a far higher risk than for White males (1 in 104) and White females (1 in 526).\(^3\,\text{,}\,4\)
- Although the number of new HIV diagnoses among African American females in the U.S. declined 21% between 2008 and 2010, African American females are still diagnosed with HIV at 20 times the rate of White women and 5 times that of Hispanic/Latina women.\(^1\)

**New Mexico Data**
- African Americans make up less than 2% of New Mexico's population.\(^5\) From 2008 to 2012, African Americans contributed 6% (n=43) of newly diagnosed persons in New Mexico (Figure 1, Incidence).
- Females accounted for 35% of newly diagnosed cases among African Americans, a far higher percentage than for any other race.
- From 2008 to 2012, 42% of newly diagnosed African American cases reported men who have sex with men (MSM) as their most likely transmission category, 14% reported high risk heterosexual sex (HRH), and 12% reported injection drug use (IDU). Nearly one-third (30%) of newly diagnosed cases did not report a transmission category.

**Persons Living With HIV**
- The prevalence rate of HIV infection for African Americans is nearly three times higher than for any other racial/ethnic group in the U.S.\(^3\) This holds true in New Mexico, where the African American prevalence rate is nearly four times higher than the rate for any other racial/ethnic group.\(^6\)
Of the 2,900 people living with HIV in New Mexico, approximately 7% (n=188) are African American (Figure 1, Prevalence).

Like other racial/ethnic groups, the transmission category most commonly reported among HIV positive African Americans in New Mexico is MSM (Figure 2).

One-half of African American women living with HIV in New Mexico reported high risk heterosexual (HRH) sex as their transmission category.

Approximately 14% HIV positive African Americans living in New Mexico are African-born. This sub-population of African Americans may require culturally specific public health efforts to promote HIV prevention and medical and social care.

**Prevention and Advocacy**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) High-Impact Prevention approach encourages targeted testing in high-risk populations including MSM and racial/ethnic minorities, as well as focusing on stages of linkage and retention in care for those who are currently living with HIV.

Both the *Testing Makes Us Stronger* (gay and bisexual men) and *Take Charge. Take the Test* (women) are testing campaigns specifically designed to reach African American populations.1

The New Mexico Department of Health HIV Prevention Program funds organizations that use evidence-based models from CDC. Programs designed for African Americans in New Mexico include:

- **Many Men/Many Voices (3MV)** is an intervention that targets gay and transgender men of color, including men who have sex with men (MSM) who may not identify as gay.

- **VOICES/VOCES** is a single-session model that uses a video to promote condom use and skills. VOCES can also be used with teens or adults in a variety of settings for African American men and women.

**References**