

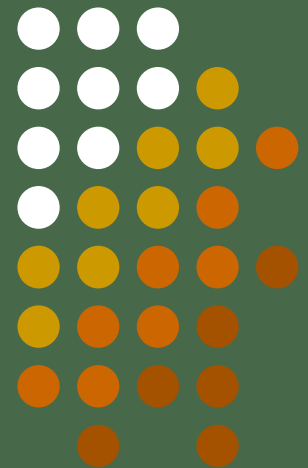
Minority Adolescents with HIV: Minorities Within Minorities

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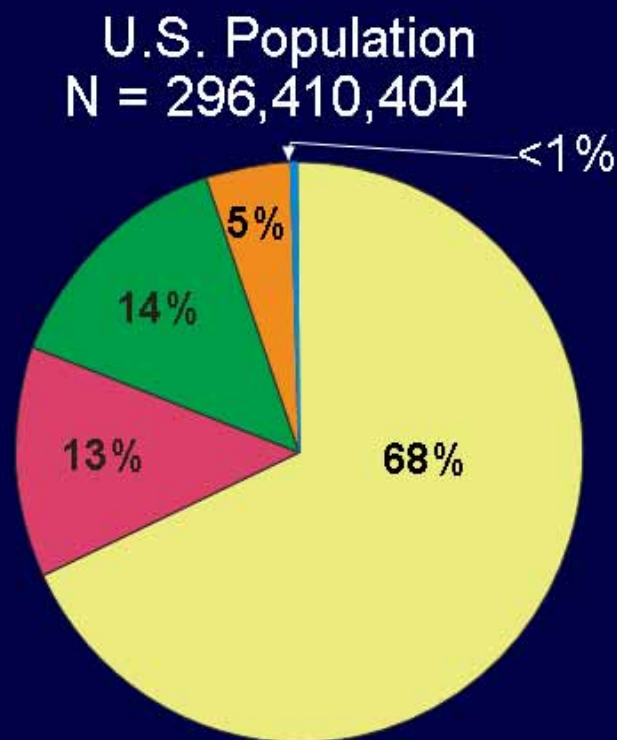
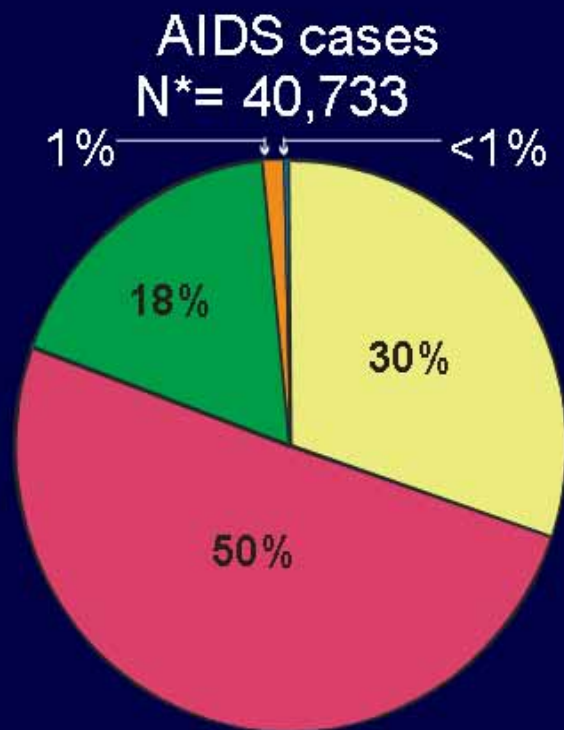
Goulda Downer



NMAETC

National Minority AIDS
Education and Training Center

Proportion of AIDS Cases and Population by Race/Ethnicity, Reported in 2005—50 States and DC



White, not Hispanic
Black, not Hispanic
Hispanic

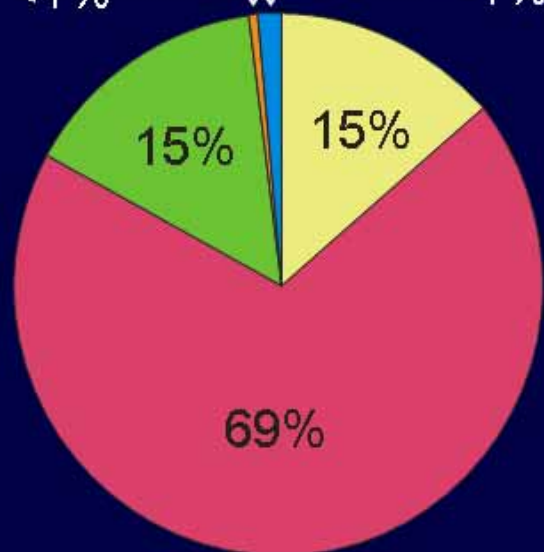
Asian/Pacific Islander
American Indian/
Alaska Native



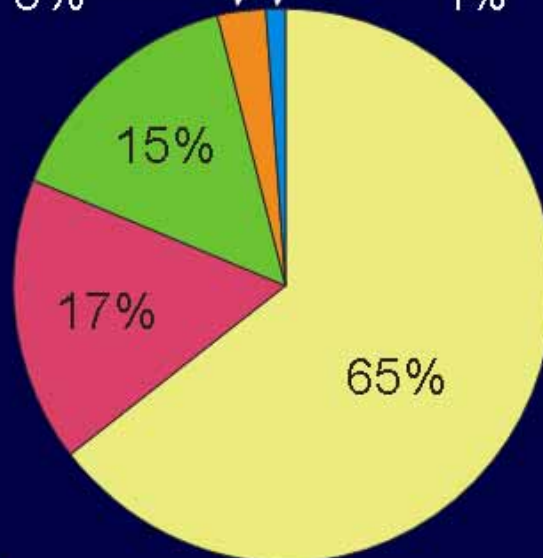
* Includes 283 persons of unknown race or multiple races.

Proportion of HIV/AIDS Cases and Population among Young Adults 13 to 19 Years of Age, by Race/Ethnicity Diagnosed in 2005—33 States

HIV/AIDS cases
N=1,255*



Population, 33 states
N = 18,745,079



White, not Hispanic
Black, not Hispanic
Hispanic

Asian/Pacific Islander
American Indian/
Alaska Native

Note. Data include persons with a diagnosis of HIV infection regardless of their AIDS status at diagnosis. Data from 33 states with confidential name-based HIV infection reporting since at least 2001. Data have been adjusted for reporting delays.

* Includes 13 persons of unknown race or multiple races.



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- In the U.S., 1/2 of all new HIV infections occur in people < 25 yrs
- 1/4 occur in people < 21 y/o.

Office of National AIDS Policy. *Youth and HIV/AIDS 2000: A New American Agenda*. Washington, DC: White House, 2000.

Of HIV infection cases reported in 2001:



- Among men ages 13 to 19, 46 % occurred in YMSM.
- 5% of infected young men acquired HIV through heterosexual contact.
- Among women ages 13 to 19, 37% were acquired heterosexually.
- Risk factors were not identified for 44 % of infected male teens and 57 % of infected female teens



- 93 %of HIV-infected black YMSM were unaware of their infection
- 71% of those with unrecognized HIV infection said it was very unlikely that they were infected
- 42 % believed there was little chance they would ever be infected
- 37% had unprotected anal intercourse in the previous six months.

CDC. Unrecognized HIV infection, risk behaviors, and perceptions of risk among young black men who have sex with men, six U.S. cities, 1994-1998. *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report* 2002; 51:733-36



- In other studies, only 18% of HIV-infected YMSM were aware of their HIV status,
- This was more common among the black (91%) than among the white (60%) HIV-infected YMSM

CDC. Unrecognized HIV infection, risk behaviors, and perceptions of risk among young black men who have sex with men, six U.S. cities, 1994-1998. *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report* 2002; 51:733-36.

Valleroy LA *et al.* HIV prevalence and associated risks in young men who have sex with men. *JAMA* 2000; 284:198-204.



- Consistent condom use among Latinos may be hampered by cultural attitudes about gender roles, including *machismo*, which demands that women be submissive and that men be sexually experienced

Weeks RM *et al.* AIDS prevention for African American and Latina women: building culturally and gender-appropriate interventions. *AIDS Educ Prev* 1995; 7:251-63.

Villaruel AM. Cultural influences on the sexual attitudes, beliefs and norms of young Latina adolescents. *J Society Pediatric Nurses* 1998; 3:69-81.



- knowledge does not discriminate the risk taker from the abstainer.



- Onset of psychiatric disorders
- Emotional turmoil
- Experimentation with “adult” behaviors
- Influence of peers (awareness of world outside of the family)



- The beginning of abstract reasoning occurs in early adolescence
- The shift from concrete →→ abstract reasoning is gradual
- In some people, **the ability to think abstractly never occurs** (or never completely)

Early Adolescence (ages 12-14)



- May see selves as invulnerable
 - – lack ability to ask, “*What if?*”
- Self-absorbed and interested in
 - same sex friendships
 - Starting to examine own sexual feelings

Concrete Thinking



“Why should I take medications—I
feel fine”

Abstract Thinking



- I can improve my health, feel better, live longer and healthier, and decrease risk to my sexual partners by taking my medications

Middle Adolescence (ages 15 - 17)



- Increased intellectual capacity – more abstract reasoning
- Appreciate the consequences of some of their actions
- May revert to concrete thinking when in confusing or stressful situations (Ehrman & Matson, 2002)
- risk-taking & peer influence

Altered Sense of Future Orientation



- What's the point of taking medications – I'm going to die soon anyway”
- “I am going to live forever”



Summary

- Adolescence is the period when:
 - Adult behaviors begin
 - Abstract reasoning is just beginning
 - Psychiatric illnesses often have their onset
 - Physical and cognitive changes occur rapidly
- 50% of new HIV cases occur in people < 25
- 25% occur below 20 y/o



- 80% occur among minority youth
- Yet because of their unique dress, language, behaviors, music, etc., these youth are minorities within their larger cultural-ethnic groups