



Fact Sheet Youth and HIV in Washington, DC

The District of Columbia has the highest AIDS rate of any American city. ("Incidence of AIDS in District Tops Study," July 17, 2003, *The Washington Post*)

25 new cases of young people living with HIV who were not connected to medical or social services were uncovered by Metro TeenAIDS and Children's National Medical Center between January 1, 2004 and April 30 2004. (Metro TeenAIDS)

There are between 1000 and 1500 young people under 20 infected with HIV in the Washington, D.C. area, most of whom do not know their status. (DC Department of Health)

According to a White House report, youth under 25 have the fastest growing number of HIV infections of any group. This means that two young people are infected with HIV every hour of every day in the US. (Office of National AIDS Policy. *Youth and HIV/AIDS 2000: A New American Agenda*. Washington, DC: White House, 2000)

Almost 80% (exactly 74.9% through December 2002) of all new AIDS cases in the District are among African Americans, who make up 61 percent of the population. (July 2003, *The Washington Post*)

Through Dec. 2002, Caucasians accounted for 20.8% of all AIDS cases in D.C., Latinos accounted for 3.9% and Asian/Pacific Islanders accounted for .04%. (*State Health Facts Online*, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation)

Women account for nearly half of all new cases in wards 7 and 8. (July 2003, *The Washington Post*)

Strong evidence shows that young people in the District of Columbia—particularly disadvantaged, low-income, minority youth in Wards 5, 6, 7, and 8—are at the highest risk for HIV infection. (DC Department of Health)

By the end of 2002, the reported death toll attributed to AIDS in D.C. was 6,605. (DC Department of Health)

The Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) rates in the District surpass the national rates on all fronts. (DC Department of Health)

- The national rate for gonorrhea is 131.6 per 100,000, however, the rate in DC is 473 per 100,000.
- The national rate for syphilis is 2.2 per 100,000, but in DC the rate is 6.5 per 100,000.

- For chlamydia, the national rate is 257.5 per 100,000, while the DC rate is 560.3 per 100,000. (DC State Plan, Profile)

Each year U.S. youth under age 20 experience nearly four million sexually transmitted infections (STIs)—including herpes, genital warts, chlamydia, gonorrhea, and HIV. (American Social Health Association. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases in America: How Many Cases and at What Cost?* Kaiser Family Foundation, 1998)

According to the 2003 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System data for high school students in the District of Columbia (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention):

- 63.9% of District students had had at least one sexual intercourse (46.7% in US);
- 45.1 % of District students had had sexual intercourse with one or more people during the past three months, of whom 19.2% had drunk alcohol or used drugs before the last sexual intercourse (34.3% and 25.4% in US);
- 25.1% of District students had had sexual intercourse with four or more people during their life (14.4% in US);

Intravenous drug use and sexual contact are the chief modes of HIV transmission nationwide. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

In the United States there are presently about 877,000 people living with AIDS.

Worldwide there are presently 42 million people with HIV or AIDS and there were approximately 5 million new AIDS cases in the last year alone.

Worldwide each day, almost 6,000 youth ages 15 to 24 are infected with HIV5—that is, some 250 youth are infected during every hour of every day and two of them every hour are American youth. (Office of National AIDS Policy)