



## The Facts about 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<sup>th</sup> (Metro TeenAIDS)

There are between 1000 and 1500 young people under 20 infected with HIV in the Washington, D.C. area, most of which 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.

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*)

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.

By the end of 2002, the reported death toll attributed to AIDS in D.C. was 6,605.

The Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) rates in the District surpass the national rates on all fronts. Both Chlamydia and Gonorrhea rates for DC are more than double the national averages.

According to the 2003 Youth Risk Behavior Survey data for the District of Columbia (and nationally):

- 27.8 percent of District students had their first drink of alcohol other than a few sips before age 13 (27.8 percent in US);
- 33.8 percent of District students had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days (44.9 percent in US);
- 12.6 percent of District students tried marijuana for the first time before age 13 (9.9 percent in US);
- 5.4 percent of District students had used heroin one or more times during their life (3.3 percent in US);
- 3.9 percent of District students had used a needle to inject any illegal drug into their body one or more times during their life (3.2 percent in US); and
- 3.7 percent of students had used any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase one or more times during the past 30 days (4.1 percent in US) (YRBSS).