

SUNDAY MORNING

HEALTH CORNER


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HIV/AIDS Awareness


African Americans make up about 42% of all new HIV/AIDS cases in the United States. Out of the 42%, 31% of this population are males, while females make up the other 11%. The HIV/AIDS epidemic in the African American community has continued to be a significant problem; fortunately, HIV/AIDS diagnoses have decreased by 15% in the past decade.




Facts about HIV/AIDS

 HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. If HIV is not treated, it can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).


 There is currently no effective cure. Once people get HIV, they have it for life.


 Proper medical care can control HIV, and people with HIV who get effective HIV treatment can live long, healthy lives and protect their partners.


 If current rates persist, CDC projects that approximately one in 20 black men and one in 48 black women will receive a diagnosis of HIV during their lifetimes.



Why are Rates Higher in the African American Community?

 1 in 7 African Americans with HIV is unaware they have it. There needs to be more access to resources and education regarding HIV/AIDS.

 Poverty rates among African Americans are high. The socioeconomic issues associated with poverty, including limited access to high-quality health care, housing, and HIV prevention education.

 Stigma, fear, and discrimination may prevent African Americans from accessing HIV prevention and care services.

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