




SUNDAY MORNING Health Corner


Let's Stop HIV Together: Facts about HIV & AIDS

African Americans account for approximately 42% of all new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in the United States. Males account for 31% of the 42%, with females accounting for the remaining 11%. The HIV/AIDS epidemic in the African American population has remained a significant issue. Fortunately, HIV/AIDS diagnoses have dropped by 15% during the last decade.


 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 cure for HIV/AIDS. Once infected, your body is unable to rid itself of it. There are, however, numerous drugs that can control HIV and prevent problems.


 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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