Today there are an estimated 850,000–950,000 HIV-positive individuals living in the United States—the largest number ever—according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of these, 180,000–280,000 people do not know they are infected, and thus are suffering from a lack of treatment, while at the same time may be unknowingly spreading the virus. About 225,000 more who do know their status aren’t getting the care they need. These numbers will continue to grow unless everyone takes decisive action against the disease.\(^1\)

HIV/AIDS is taking a devastating and disproportionate toll on people of color in the United States. Community leaders and organizations can play a critical role in fighting the disease in their neighborhoods, and The Leadership Campaign on AIDS (TLCA) is dedicated to helping them do it.

**TLCA: Fighting HIV/AIDS in Communities of Color!**

Within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of HIV/AIDS Policy’s TLCA is working externally and internally to support the fight against HIV/AIDS in communities of color. TLCA reaches out to community leaders and local and national organizations to improve education, awareness, and action against the disease. TLCA wants to help minority leaders fight the stigma, fear, and denial that exacerbate the problem, and to help build partnerships that will promote education, prevention, testing, vaccine awareness, and treatment. TLCA also reaches inwardly to help improve the coordination, information-sharing, communication efforts, and effectiveness of the Department’s HIV/AIDS initiatives and programs.

**Know the facts and Educate, Motivate, and Mobilize against HIV/AIDS!**

**African Americans:**
- Account for 39 percent of estimated total AIDS cases diagnosed since the beginning of the epidemic through 2002,\(^2\) though they make up only 12.7 percent of the population.\(^3\)
- Represent an estimated 54 percent of persons newly diagnosed with HIV in 2002.\(^2\)
- Account for 37 percent of estimated total AIDS deaths and 42 percent of all persons estimated to be living with AIDS.\(^2\)

**African American adults and adolescents (people ages 13 and older):**
- Account for 50 percent of AIDS cases newly diagnosed in 2002.\(^2\)
- For ages 25–34 and 45–54, HIV/AIDS was the third leading cause of death in 2001.\(^4\)
- Account for 61 percent of AIDS cases newly diagnosed in 2002 among 13- to 24-year olds.\(^5\)

**African American men:**
- Account for 31 percent of newly reported AIDS diagnoses in 2002 among men who had sex with men.\(^2\)
- For ages 35–44, HIV/AIDS was the second leading cause of death in 2001.\(^4\)

**African American women:**
- Account for 59 percent of total AIDS diagnoses reported among women through 2002.\(^2\)
- Account for 59 percent of all women estimated to be living with AIDS.\(^2\)
- For ages 25–34, HIV/AIDS was the leading cause of death in 2001.\(^4\)

**African American children (under 13):**
- Account for 68 percent of all new estimated AIDS diagnoses in children in 2002.\(^2\)
- Account for 59 percent of total AIDS diagnoses in children through 2002.\(^5\)
- Make up 71 percent of all HIV diagnoses newly reported in children under 13 in 2002.\(^5\)
Did you know?

- An estimated 886,575 Americans have been diagnosed with AIDS from the beginning of the epidemic through 2002. Of the 42,136 estimated new diagnoses in 2002, 74 percent were male and 26 percent were female. Less than 1 percent were children under 13.2

- Hispanics account for 18 percent of total estimated AIDS diagnoses through 2002, though they make up only 13.4 percent of the population.3

- The number of Asian/Pacific Islanders and American Indian/Alaska Natives living with AIDS continues to rise, with an approximately 10 percent increase each year over the past 5 years.2

- Women of color account for 80 percent of all women estimated to be living with AIDS. Women across racial/ethnic groups most commonly report heterosexual contact or injection drug use as their primary modes of exposure to HIV, while males most commonly report homosexual contact and injection drug use.2

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To Learn More

- Visit the CDC National Prevention Information Network at www.cdcnpin.org or call 1-800-458-5231.
- Call the National AIDS Hotline at 1-800-342-AIDS (Spanish 1-800-344-SIDA; TTY 1-800-243-7889).
- Call your doctor or other health care provider.
- Contact your local or state public health department.