



National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NWGHAAD) is an annual, nationwide observance that sheds light on the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls. This year marks the 12th observance of National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. This year's theme is *The Best Defense is a Good Offense*.

United States

- ⌘ Nationally, 1 in 4 persons living with HIV is female.
- ⌘ From 2010 to 2015, the number of newly diagnosed HIV cases decreased 23% among females. In 2015, there were 7,402 new HIV diagnoses among females for a rate of 5.4 per 100,000 females in the US.
- ⌘ The most common transmission route for new HIV infections for women is high-risk heterosexual contact (86%) followed by injection drug use (13%).
- ⌘ Black women and other women of color are disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic. In 2015, the HIV infection rate among black women was over 16 times higher than among white women and almost 5 times higher than Hispanic/Latina women across the nation.

Estimated Rates of HIV Diagnoses Among Females, by Race/Ethnicity United States, 2015	
Race/Ethnicity	Rate (per 100,000 females)
American Indian/Alaska Native	5.6
Asian	1.7
Black/African American	26.2
Hispanic/Latino	5.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	3.5
White	1.6

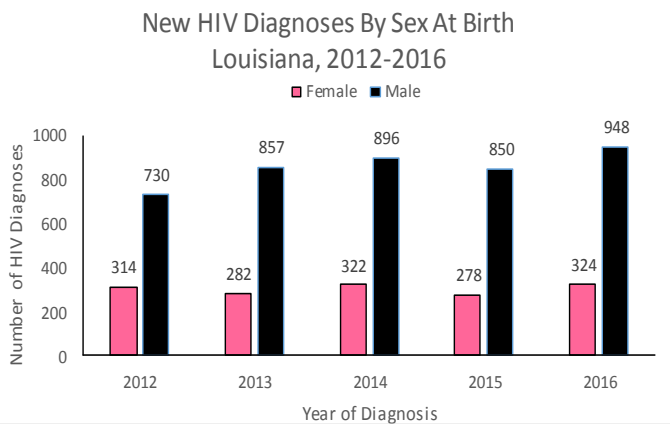
- ⌘ At the end of 2014, approximately 230,360 women in the US were living with HIV infection.
- ⌘ The rate of black women living with HIV infection (813.4 per 100,000) is 18 times greater than the rate of white women living with HIV infection (45.1 per 100,000) and 4 times greater than the rate of Hispanic/Latina women living with HIV infection (192.7 per 100,000).
- ⌘ Only half of women living with HIV are in HIV medical care. Women face a variety of risk factors including substance use, biologic vulnerability, lack of recognition of a partner's status and most importantly, high-risk heterosexual behaviors.
- ⌘ It is especially important for women of child-bearing age and pregnant women to receive HIV testing. Approximately 25% of women do not receive an HIV test during prenatal care. If an HIV positive mother receives appropriate antiretroviral treatment during pregnancy, labor, and delivery, and completes a treatment course for the newborn and does not breastfeed, there is a less than 1% chance of HIV transmitting to the child.

For more information and/or testing locations, visit www.HIV411.org or call 1-800-99-AIDS-9



Louisiana

- ⌘ In 2016, 1,272 people in Louisiana were newly diagnosed with HIV; 324 (25%) were women.
- ⌘ Black women have consistently made up the largest proportion of new HIV diagnoses among Louisiana women. Of the 324 women diagnosed with HIV in 2016, 257 (79%) were black, 51 (16%) were white, and 14 (4%) were Hispanic/Latina. Only 32% of Louisiana’s population is black. The very high rate of HIV infection among black women in Louisiana is a significant health disparity.



- ⌘ Between 2012 and 2016, the proportion of new HIV diagnoses that were female ranged between a high of 30% in 2012 to a low of 25% in 2013, 2015 and 2016.
- ⌘ In 2016, 16% of new female diagnoses were among young women under the age of 25. Women, aged 25-44, made up an additional 57% of new HIV diagnoses among females.

Women Living with HIV Infection in Louisiana by Public Health Region, 2016	
Statewide	6,195 (100%)
New Orleans	1,853 (30%)
Baton Rouge	1,811 (29%)
Houma	296 (5%)
Lafayette	421 (7%)
Lake Charles	258 (4%)
Alexandria	271 (4%)
Shreveport	556 (9%)
Monroe	371 (6%)
Hammond/Slidell	358 (6%)

- ⌘ In 2016, 88% of the new HIV diagnoses for females were in women infected through high risk heterosexual contact; 11% of the diagnoses were in women infected through injection drug use.
- ⌘ In 2016, 6,195 women were living with HIV in Louisiana, with highest populations in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge regions.

- ⌘ At the time of HIV diagnosis, 21% of the women had a diagnosis of AIDS. Within 3 months of the HIV diagnosis, an additional 4% of the women were diagnosed with AIDS. Women who progress to an AIDS diagnosis quickly after their initial HIV diagnosis have been diagnosed late in their disease progression. Prevention measures must aim to increase the number of women being tested for HIV in order to identify them at an earlier stage of their disease progression so that they may benefit from early entry into HIV medical care.
- ⌘ Approximately 150-160 HIV positive women give birth in Louisiana each year. Many of these women have little to no prenatal care. It is Louisiana law that all pregnant women be tested for HIV and syphilis at their first prenatal care visit and repeat testing is conducted in the third trimester and that pregnant women found to be positive for HIV and/or syphilis are reported directly to the health department.

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