



# AKOMA FACT SHEET

May 2003

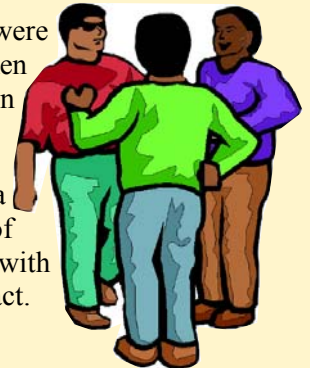
No. 5

## HIV/AIDS Among African Americans

### Look at a Serious Health Crisis

In the early 1980s, HIV/AIDS was considered primarily a gay white male disease in the United States. Today, however, the epidemic has expanded and the disease is also a major health problem in the African-American community, where men and women of every age and sexual orientation are affected.

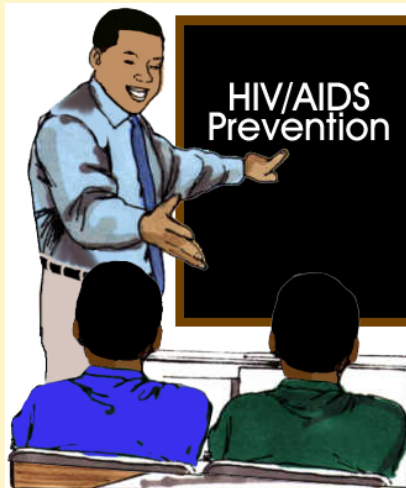
- African-American men account for 43 percent of HIV cases reported among men in 2001.
- 32 percent of African-American men who have sex with men were found to be infected with HIV in a recent multi-city study of men ages 23 to 29 years, compared to 14 percent of Latinos and seven percent of whites in the study.
- While information on recent HIV infection is limited, data reported to CDC through 2001 suggest that the leading cause of HIV infection among African-American men is sexual contact with other men, followed by injection drug use and heterosexual contact.



### Prevention is the Key to Curtailing the Epidemic

CDC is committed to working with communities to slow the spread of HIV among African-Americans. Of the \$744 million that CDC received for domestic HIV/AIDS prevention in 2001, over 40 percent supported activities targeted to reduce HIV/AIDS among African-Americans. The vast majority of CDC's HIV prevention budget flows to communities to fund programs for those at increased risk for HIV. CDC is working in partnership with African-American communities to ensure that appropriate HIV prevention programs are designed for and delivered to high-risk African

Americans. CDC funds hundreds of community-based organizations for HIV prevention programs to reach African-Americans across the nation.



- A New Orleans-based HIV prevention program, which was designed to reach young African-American men who have sex with men, has recruited and trained more than 90 prevention peer educators. These peer educators do street outreach in the French Quarter and conduct venue-based outreach at bars and community centers throughout the city. Additionally, peer educators host regular community awareness sessions, health fairs and support groups. The program also sponsors a "safe house" where young men can seek confidential and discreet HIV counseling, testing and referral services.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2001). HIV/AIDS Among African Americans. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/Facts/afam.htm>