



AKOMA FACT SHEET

May 2003

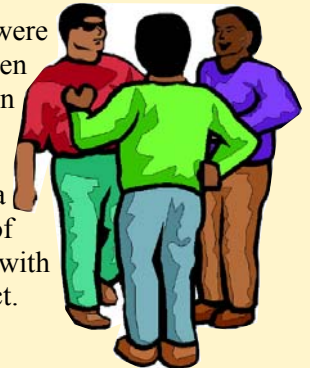
No. 2

HIV/AIDS Among African Americans

Look at a Serious Health Crisis

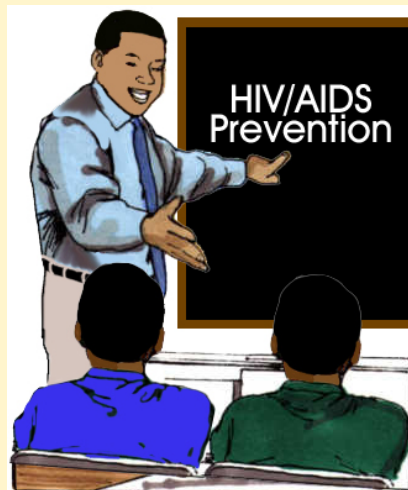
In the early 1980s, HIV/AIDS was considered primarily a gay white male disease in the United States. Today, however, the epidemic has expanded and the disease is also a major health problem in the African-American community, where men and women of every age and sexual orientation are affected.

- 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>

