HIV/AIDS among Hispanic Women/Latinas

Background

In 2013, an estimated 1,610 diagnoses of HIV infection were among Hispanic/Latina females in the United States and 6 Dependent Areas, including Puerto Rico. The rate of HIV infection among adult and adolescent Hispanic/Latina women was 7.0, more than three times the rate of non-Hispanic white adult and adolescent women.

THE FACTS

- In 2013, Hispanic/Latina adult and adolescent women comprised 15% (20,203,077) of the female population in the United States and 15% (1,392) of diagnosed HIV infections.
- Heterosexual contact accounted for 86% (1,385) of diagnosed HIV infections among Hispanic/Latina adult and adolescent women, compared to 74% (1,168) non-Hispanic white women and 90% (5,288) non-Hispanic African-American women in 2013.
- In 2013, injection drug use (IDU) was the second most common mode of HIV transmission among adult and adolescent women in the United States.
  - 13% (209) of HIV infections diagnosed among adult and adolescent Hispanic/Latina women in 2013 were attributed to IDU, compared to 9% (529) non-Hispanic African-American women and 25% (395) non-Hispanic white women.
- The rate (per 100,000 population) of Stage 3/AIDS classification among adult and adolescent women in the United States in 2013 was 4.4 for Hispanic/Latina women, compared to 1.1 non-Hispanic white women, and 25.1 non-Hispanic African-American women.
- From 1985 through 2013, the percentage of Stage 3/AIDS classifications among adult and adolescent Hispanic/Latina women has not changed considerably, hovering at about 20%.

Differences across location:

- Rates of HIV diagnoses in 2013 among Hispanic/Latina women were highest in the Northeast (39.8), followed by the South (38.9), Midwest (22.6) and West (21.8).2
- Rates of Stage 3/AIDS diagnoses in 2013 among Hispanic/Latina women were highest in the Northeast (11.5), followed by the South (5.0), Midwest (2.5), and West (1.7).2
- Adult and adolescent women in Puerto Rico are disproportionately impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. For example:
  - The rate of adult and adolescent women living with diagnosed HIV infection year-end 2012 was 360.4 in Puerto Rico, compared to 169.4 across all United States and 6 Dependent Areas.
  - The rate of Stage 3/AIDS classification among adult and adolescent women with HIV infection in 2013 was 6.6 in Puerto Rico, compared to 4.8 in the United States and 6 Dependent Areas.

Risk Factors

- Uninsured and underinsured Hispanic/Latina women face several barriers in accessing quality healthcare, including HIV testing and/or treatment.3
- Risk factors for Hispanic/Latina women (such as condom use, accurate assessment of individual and/or partner’s risk, etc.) may vary depending on country/territory of birth; length of time living in the United States; immigration generation and documentation status, level of education attained, household income and age.4,5
- For many adult women, including Hispanic women/Latinas, the health of their family is a high priority that can often take precedence over personal health due to time, financial resources, and competing responsibilities (i.e. work, school, childcare, etc.). This may result in some Hispanic/Latina women delaying primary care and/or women’s sexual and reproductive health care (including HIV/STI testing) until there is a pressing need or an emergency.6

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day - www.nlaad.org


