Preventing HIV Infection in Women – Keep Moving Forward

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Goals of the Presentation

- Review the domestic epidemiology
- Example of an epidemic “hotspot”
- Recent challenges in biomedical prevention
- The way forward – creative and multilevel prevention
HIV Infection Among African American Women

Running out of time....
Proportions of AIDS Cases among Adults and Adolescents, by Race/Ethnicity and Year of Diagnosis 1985–2006—United States and Dependent Areas

Note. Data have been adjusted for reporting delays.
Estimated Number of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, by Race/Ethnicity, 2003–2006—33 States

- Black, not Hispanic
- White, not Hispanic
- Hispanic
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- American Indian/Alaska Native

Note: Data include persons with a diagnosis of HIV infection regardless of their AIDS status at diagnosis. Data from 33 states with confidential name-based HIV infection reporting since at least 2003. Data have been adjusted for reporting delays.
Reported AIDS Cases among Female Adults and Adolescents, by Region and Race/Ethnicity, 2006
50 States and DC

- White, not Hispanic
- Black, not Hispanic
- Hispanic

Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>No. of cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>487 (N=3,053*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>205 (N=995*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>795 (N=5,323*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>230 (N=828*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Region totals include females of unknown race or multiple races.
Proportion of HIV/AIDS Cases and Population among Female Adults and Adolescents, by Race/Ethnicity
2006—33 States

HIV/AIDS cases
N = 9,252*

- 1% White, not Hispanic
- 18% Black, not Hispanic
- 65% Hispanic

Female Population, 33 States
N = 80,394,974

- 3% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 13% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 71% Other

Note: Data include persons with a diagnosis of HIV infection regardless of their AIDS status at diagnosis. Data from 33 states with confidential name-based HIV infection reporting since at least 2003. Data have been adjusted for reporting delays. *Includes 41 female adults and adolescents of unknown race or multiple races.
Proportion of AIDS Cases among Female Adults and Adolescents, by Transmission Category 2006—United States and Dependent Areas

Sex with injection drug user 11%
Injection drug use 24%
Other/not identified† 2%
High-risk heterosexual contact* 73%
Sex with men of other or unspecified risk factor ‡ 62%

Note. Data have been adjusted for reporting delays and cases without risk factor information were proportionally redistributed.
*Heterosexual contact with a person known to have, or to be at high risk for, HIV infection.
†Includes blood transfusion, perinatal exposure, and risk factor not reported or not identified.
‡Includes sex with a bisexual male, a person with hemophilia, and HIV-infected transfusion recipient, or an HIV-infected person with an unspecified risk factor.
Estimated Number of HIV/AIDS Cases and Rates for Female Adults and Adolescents, by Race/Ethnicity 2006—33 States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Rate (cases per 100,000 population)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White, not Hispanic</td>
<td>1,664</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black, not Hispanic</td>
<td>6,033</td>
<td>56.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total*</td>
<td>9,252</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. Data include persons with a diagnosis of HIV infection regardless of their AIDS status at diagnosis. Data from 33 states with confidential name-based HIV infection reporting since at least 2003. Data have been adjusted for reporting delays. * Includes 41 female adults and adolescents of unknown race or multiple races.
AIDS Rates for Female Adults and Adolescents Reported in 2006—United States and Dependent Areas

Rate (per 100,000 population)
- <4.0
- 4.0–10.0
- >10.0

* Rates were not calculated for areas reporting fewer than 5 AIDS cases in females in 2006.
HIV Infection in the nation’s capitol

Women in the crosshairs of an epidemic...
Proportion of Reported Living Female HIV/AIDS Cases and Population, by Race/Ethnicity - District of Columbia, 2006

*Other race includes mixed race individuals, Alaska Natives, American Indians, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, and unknown races.*
Mode of Transmission in Newly Reported HIV cases – Women, District of Columbia

Data source: DC DOH HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet 11/07
Snapshot of an epidemic

- Rates of HIV infection in some wards of DC rival those in developing nations
- Black women are 58% of the District’s female population, but 93% of the women living with HIV and 90% of all new female cases
Snapshot of an epidemic - 2

- DC perinatal HIV transmission accounts for 6% of the national cases.
- DC has the 1) highest rate of newly reported AIDS cases in the nation and 2) the highest rate of people living with AIDS.
- The AIDS mortality rate in DC is TEN TIMES the national average.
Where do we go from here?

Prevention needs a makeover....
Role of Biomedical Prevention

- Microbicicides offer an important prevention option, BUT
- The CS Gel trial was halted early due to more infections in the product group.
- Vaccines offer the hope of partial or complete immunity, BUT
- The STEP Trial had to be halted
Looking Forward

- Prevention continues to offer the best option, BUT....
- We need greater diversity of prevention intervention strategies in our armamentarium.
- There are no studies of WSW in the compendium of prevention interventions and this must change.
Looking Forward

- It is time to declare WAR on HIV transmission. This means looking for synergy between existing prevention methods and new ones.
- Think outside of the box. Example, HOUSING is HIV Prevention. It’s not a biomedical intervention, but it is life saving!
Looking Forward

- Everyone has a role in HIV prevention. PLWH are an essential part of this effort.
- Closer community-academic-federal alliances are needed to carry the prevention message and strategies into our heavily impacted communities.
The Challenges Remain

- Since 1985 AA male incarceration has increased 700%, AA female incarceration 300%
- Blacks and Hispanics present with AIDS sooner after testing.
- Similar degrees of risk behavior in whites and AAs confer very different RR of HIV infection
Take Home Points

- HIV continues to heavily impact women of color
- All lives have value and we must push for effective prevention strategies that respect that value while promoting prevention.
- Effective community-academic-federal partnerships are sorely needed change the trajectory of the epidemic
Take Home Points - 2

- HIV prevention needs a Manhattan Project approach = time + $$$
- Microbicides and Vaccines continue to be important avenues to be explored.
- HIV transmission patterns reflect a lack of social justice that has been present for decades and demand action
Take Home Points - 3

- Every single person can do HIV prevention – it’s called speaking up!!
- Talk to friends, pastors, co-workers, anyone who will listen
- Our *silence* promotes social injustice, our **ACTIONS** will promote change
A Final Thought

“I’m counting my days down to glory...my breathing is short and I’m down to bones. But every day I try to tell one woman to look at me – don’t turn away- LOOK AT ME. ‘I’m the face of the disease you can’t see until it’s too late.’ If I can do this, can’t you and your fancy science help us too? We can put a man on the moon – tell me you can’t stop this. It isn’t rocket science...”

-- Louise A 3 weeks before her death in 1992
Speak the TRUTH with POWER....

Push for CHANGE in our lifetime