HIV/AIDS in the African-American Community
As Compared to the General Population in Massachusetts

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A health disparity (defined by the National Institutes of Health) is, “the difference in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of disease and other adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups in the United States, when compared in contrast to a larger group (general population).”

Introduction to HIV/AIDS

- (HIV) Human Immunodeficiency Virus/(AIDS) Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
- Chronic life-threatening diseases
- HIV attacks the body’s immune system
- HIV is a sexually transmitted disease, but can also be spread through other factors

https://www.aclu.org/issues/hiv
Symptoms

- Depending on the phase of HIV, the symptoms can vary;
  - Primary infection (Acute HIV)
    - Muscle aches and joint pain
    - Headache
    - More
  - Progression to AIDS
    - Chronic diarrhea
    - Soaking night sweats
    - More

The Transition of HIV into AIDS

- When HIV is untreated for 10 years or more, it progresses into AIDS
- HIV destroys CD4 cells.
- HIV progresses to AIDS when the body’s CD4 count goes below 200


http://www.aidsalliance.org/jobs
HIV Progression

Before HIV Infection

Acute HIV Infection

Chronic HIV Infection

AIDS

 Weeks to Months

Years

Massachusetts

Total Population

6,755,124

State Population by Race/Ethnicity

- American Indian / Alaska Native (0.2%)
- Asian (6.3%)
- Black (6.8%)
- Hispanic / Latino (10.9%)
- White (74.2%)
- Multiple Race (1.7%)

http://geology.com/county-map/massachusetts.shtml
Percentage of Racial Groups Living With HIV, Worcester County, 2014

- White Non-Hispanic
- Black Non-Hispanic
Why is this so dominant in the African American community?

- African Americans statistically receive less health care coverage.
Lack of Wealth Distribution in Massachusetts

Percentage of Poverty Within Racial Groups in Massachusetts

- White Non-Hispanic
- Black Non-Hispanic
- Asian
Deficiency in Education

Racial Groups Graduating in Massachusetts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Black Non-Hispanic</th>
<th>White Non-Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian/Pacific Islander</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
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Treatment Methods

● **Currently there is no cure for HIV or AIDS**
  ○ **The most effective treatment method involves following a strict schedule of antiretroviral regimens**

● Although the prices have decreased, HIV medication still remain costly

http://www.healthline.com/health/hiv-aids/monthly-cost-treating-hiv#3
Living with AIDS/HIV

- Can place you in a very critical position
- The outlook now is improving
- Medication can improve life
- Support groups and national organizations

https://aidsinfo.nih.gov/understanding-hiv-aids/fact-sheets/19/45/hiv-aids--the-basics
Conclusion

- HIV is a prevalently, serious, and critical topic
- Wealth distribution, deficiency in education, and insurance
- The first HIV Infected blood sample was collected in 1959...It’s 2017 and HIV is still active and very prevalent
- Awareness = Prevention
Bibliography