

Black Women and HIV in Harris County



The Big Picture

Since 2009, the number of new HIV diagnoses among Black women living in Harris County has decreased by 24%. Still, as of 2018, Black women have the highest cases and rate of new HIV diagnoses compared to women of other races/ethnicities living in Harris County. In 2018, there were 4,420 Black women living with HIV in Harris County. Black women comprised 68% of women living with HIV in the county, but only 20% of the total Harris County female population, highlighting the continued need to promote HIV prevention and education among Black Texas women.

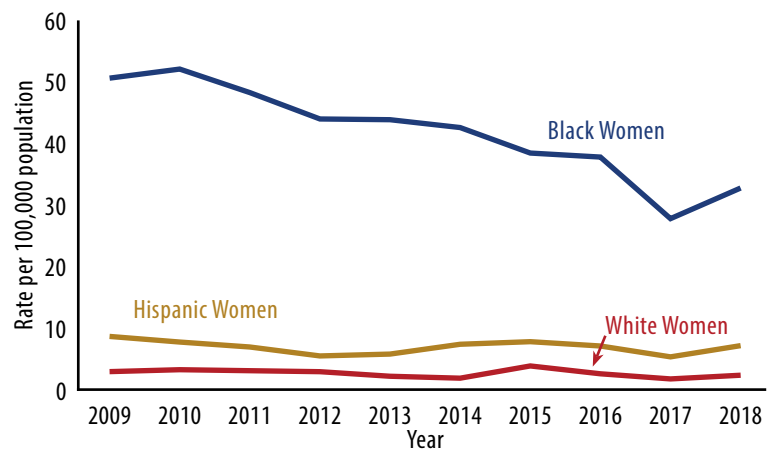
Black Women With HIV Living in Harris County

In Harris County, the rate of Black women living with HIV (942.8/100,000) is 7.1 times the rate of Hispanic women living with HIV and 15 times the rate of White women living with HIV.

The most common way that Black women in Harris County get HIV is through unprotected sex with a male living with HIV (91%). In Harris County, 17% of Black women diagnosed with HIV in 2017 received a late diagnosis, meaning they received an AIDS diagnosis within one year of their original HIV diagnosis.

One in 106 Black women in Harris County are living with HIV.

Rate of New HIV Diagnoses in Women by Race/Ethnicity, Harris County, 2009-2018



Black Women Without HIV-Related Medical Care in 2018

Advances in medical care enable people with HIV to stay healthy and survive longer than ever before. Some persons living with HIV may not seek care because they do not feel ill. Others may have problems affording or accessing health care. Others may not seek medical care because of substance abuse, mental health issues, or HIV-related stigma.

Among the major racial and ethnic groups in Texas, Black Texans have the greatest number (11,431, 33%) of their population who are not receiving HIV medical care. In Texas, **over one in four** Black women living with HIV were out of care in 2018. This represents 3,410 (30%) Black women not in care across the state.

All numbers presented here are for Cisgender Black Women

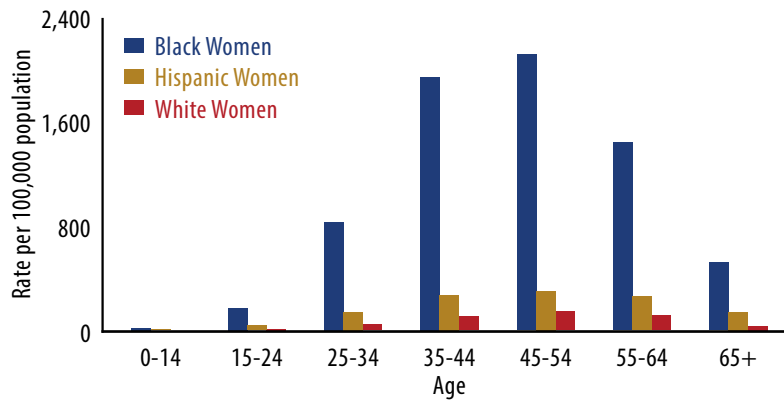


TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

In 2018, **almost one in three** Black women with HIV in Harris County were not receiving HIV medical care. This represents 1,366 Black women not in care.

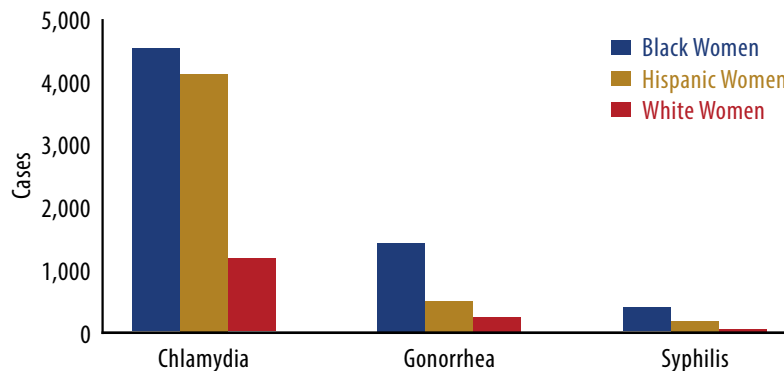
Rate of Women Living with HIV by Age and Race/Ethnicity, Harris County, 2018



HIV and Other STDs

People with STDs are at least two to five times more likely than those without to acquire HIV if they are exposed to the virus through sexual contact. In addition, if a person living with HIV acquires another STD, that person is more likely to transmit HIV through sexual contact than other persons living with HIV. Among women, the Black community has the highest case counts of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis in Harris County.

Cases of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis Among Women by Race/Ethnicity, Harris County, 2018



HIV Prevention for Black Women in Texas

Stigma, trauma, relationship dynamics, and structural factors such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of education can contribute to HIV transmission among Black women.

For more information on how to get involved in HIV prevention for Black women in Texas, please contact Deborah Carr at Deborah.Carr@dshs.texas.gov or (512) 533-3088.

More About Black Women and HIV in Texas

One in every 312 Texans has HIV.
One in 100 Black Texans.
One in 520 White Texans.
One in 360 Hispanic Texans.

From 2016 to 2018, there were 350 new cases of HIV in women under the age of 25 in Texas. 53% of these were among young Black women

The rate of new HIV diagnoses among Black women in Texas is five and 12 times the rate of new HIV diagnoses compared to Hispanic and White women, respectively

Black women have the highest case counts of gonorrhea and the second highest case counts of chlamydia and primary and secondary syphilis in Texas

DSHS TB/HIV/STD Section

(512) 533-3000

dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/txbwi

(Rev. 2/2020)



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services