



HIV/AIDS

AMONG

# AMERICAN INDIAN & ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN



More than 1 million people in the United States are living with HIV – and their numbers are higher than ever before. Unfortunately, 1 in 3 aren't aware they're infected and may spread the virus unknowingly.

HIV stigma is taking a devastating toll on **American Indians and Alaska Natives**. To protect future generations, we must:

## Stop the Silence!

**Learn your status, protect yourself and your loved ones, and end stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.**

Each of us plays a critical role in fighting the disease, and **Project Red Talon** is dedicated to helping you do your part.

**StoptheSilence.org**

**Talk to your tribe, family, kids, & intimate partners.**

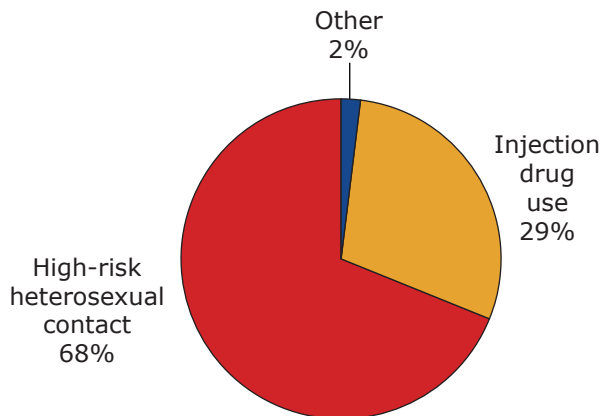
## Did you know?

- **Women of color account for 80% of all women living with AIDS.**
- In 2004, the rate of HIV/AIDS was nearly two and a half times higher among Native women than among white women.
- Almost a third of all HIV/AIDS cases among American Indians and Alaska Natives occur among women.
- **Young people are at risk too.** Half of new HIV infections now occur among teens and young adults.
- **Early testing and treatment are critical.** American Indians and Alaska Natives have the lowest AIDS survival rate of any group, with just 1 in 4 individuals living more than 3 years after their diagnosis.
- Women are less likely than men to receive the most effective treatments for HIV/AIDS.



**Women** most commonly report **heterosexual contact** as their primary cause of exposure to HIV.

*Transmission Categories for AI/AN Females Diagnosed With HIV/AIDS Between 2001 and 2005*



In 2001, nearly half of new HIV diagnoses among Native women occurred among teens and young adults.

Having an STD can make you 2 to 5 times more likely to acquire HIV through sexual contact. Many STD infections don't cause any signs or symptoms, and AI/AN women have higher rates of certain STDs than women of other ethnicities.

Sexually active women age 25 and below should seek STD screening at least once a year. Routine HIV screening is recommended for everyone age 13 to 64, regardless of risk, and yearly screening is recommended for individuals at high risk.

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For more information, visit us online at: [www.npaihb.org](http://www.npaihb.org)*

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# What Can You Do?

- Protect yourself against HIV infection. Know the risks associated with sex and drug use.
- Get tested to better protect yourself and your partners.
- Support National Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day on March 10th.
- Volunteer at a tribal HIV/AIDS program.
- Get medical care and support if you're living with HIV.
- Be a friend to someone living with HIV/AIDS.
- Stop the silence! Help end stigma associated with HIV.

## To Learn More

- Find an STD/HIV testing site near you at: [www.hivtest.org](http://www.hivtest.org)
- **Call your doctor or other healthcare provider**
  - Visit Stop the Silence at: [www.stopthesilence.org](http://www.stopthesilence.org)
- **Contact your tribal health department**
- Call the CDC National AIDS Hotline at: 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
- **Visit the CDC National Prevention Information Network at:** [www.cdcnpin.org](http://www.cdcnpin.org) or call 1-800-458-5231