

## Stigma and Black Men

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# Learning Objectives

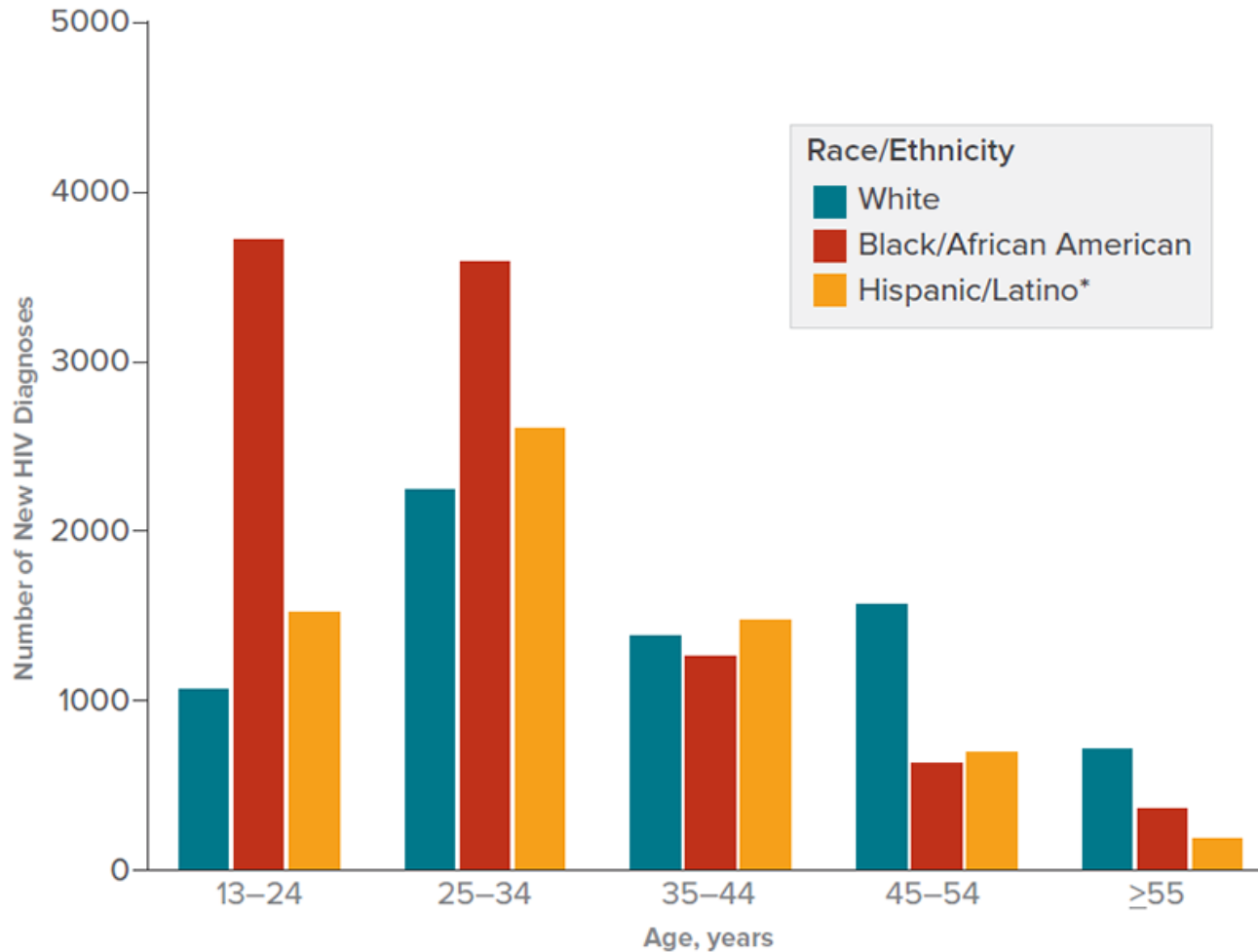
- Understand HIV risk for African American men.
- Understand what HIV stigma means to Black Men.
- Identify the impact and consequences of HIV stigma.
- Discuss strategies for addressing HIV stigma when caring for Black men.

# HIV & African American Men

The CDC estimates that African Americans represent more than one-third of all people living with HIV. Black men who have sex with men (MSM) are the most affected.

- **If current rates persist, the CDC projects that approximately one in 20 black men, and one in two black gay and bisexual men will be diagnosed with HIV during their lifetimes.**

# HIV Diagnoses Among Men Who Have Sex With Men, by Race/Ethnicity and Age at Diagnosis, 2015—United States



# What Stigma Means to HIV+ Black Men

- 1) What do you consider to be the most impactful HIV stigma issues that HIV+ Black men typically face when it comes to accessing care and receiving quality health care and treatment?
- 2) How does this same question apply for HIV+ Black men who identify as gay, bisexual or other personal sexual preferences?
- 3) What advice would you give providers that will help them effectively address HIV stigma when caring for Black men who may identify as gay, bisexual or other personal sexual preferences?

# The Most Impactful Stigma Issues HIV+ Black Men Face

***”I think the biggest issues for Black men are that racism and homophobia hits them from every community they identify with...”***

## **Michele Peake Andrasik, PhD**

Lead Behavioral Scientist, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center’s HVTN  
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Global Health, University of Washington  
Core Faculty, Center for AIDS Research Sociobehavioral Prevention Research

# The Most Impactful Stigma Issues HIV+ Black Men Face

- Rejection, historical and on-going discrimination, racism, internalized racism, judgment, and anxiety play a huge part in Black men accessing and receiving quality care and treatment.
- Underlying bias about Black men, often plays out when they seek medical services and is only heightened when sexual activity and HIV are included in the equation.
- These interactions increase the likelihood of Black men **not** seeking HIV testing and/or delaying care.

# Stigma By Any Other Name

## Beliefs & Opinions

Stereotype

Prejudice

Bias

## Judgments & Fears

Homophobia

Addictophobia

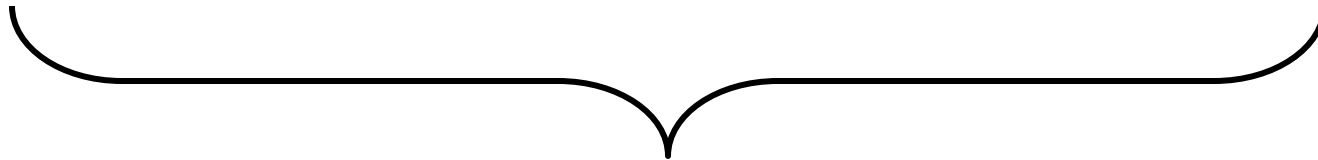
Xenophobia

## Behaviors & Actions

Discrimination

Racism

Sexism



**STIGMA**



# HIV Related Stigma

**Public Stigma:** stigma held by members of the public about people with devalued characteristics

## □ HIV/AIDS

- Perceptions of risk
- HIV testing
- HIV Serostatus Disclosure

## □ Homonegativity

- HIV Prevention Efforts

## □ Black-Latino-AI/AN Male Identity

- Fear
- Criminalization

# Consequences of HIV Stigma

**Internalized Stigma:** When people with devalued conditions believe that negative public attitudes apply to them and suffer negative consequences as a result

- Depression
- Decreased awareness of HIV prevention methods
- Reduced condom use
- Increased likelihood to have sex while high or intoxicated
- Non-disclosure of HIV status to sexual partners
- Decreased HIV testing
- Increased unprotected intercourse

# Addressing HIV Stigma & Caring for Black Male Patients

- Take the time to listen
- Get to know the individual and not make assumptions
- Do not judge and work to establish a genuine rapport
- Take comprehensive sexual and drug inventories.
- Never ask a question like “you don’t need another HIV test do you?”

# Addressing HIV Stigma & Caring for Black Male Patients

- Conversations should provide open ended opportunities to be examined for the range of STI's unless the person declares celibacy.
- Offer STI screening unless the person refuses noting that diseases are frequently found in the local area and it is best to be cautious.
- Do not assume because someone is a minister or teacher that there is a difference in need for a range of screenings.

# Case Study

A 43-year-old African American male comes to your clinic after having tested HIV positive at a local community health fair 6 months earlier. He never followed through to receive a confirmatory test.

He has been married for 20 years and has 2 children, ages 2 and 18. He served 5 years in prison for selling heroin and became sexually involved with an inmate whom he has continued to see after his release for the past 2 years.

His male partner continues to have sex with other men and refuses to get tested.

The patient has not talked to his wife about his status for fear of what might happen if she is also found to be positive.

# Discussion Questions

1. What questions would you ask the patient and how would you ask them?
2. What do you need to know about this patient to develop a care plan?
3. What do you see as the potential social-cultural and HIV related stigma issues for this patient and how would you address them?
4. Who else from your team should be in conversation with the patient?

# Related Topics & Resources

- The Impact Of HIV Stigma, Historical Trauma, & Institutional Racism In HIV Care
- The Impact of Structural Factor on HIV Health Outcomes
- Health Equity & Social Justice In HIV Care
- Privilege & Power In HIV Care
- Cultural Humility

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