

# PREPARADOS: EMPOWERING VOICES FOR BLACK HIV AWARENESS

Thursday,  
February 6  
1 - 2 p.m. ET



**Oni Blackstock,  
MD, MHS**

*Founder and Executive Director  
—  
Health Justice*

**MODERATOR**



**Maranda C. Ward,  
Ed.D, MPH**

*Assistant Professor and Director  
of Equity  
—  
Department of Clinical Research  
and Leadership,  
G.W. School of Medicine and  
Health Sciences*



**Aniruddha (Anu) Hazra,  
MD**

*Associate Professor of  
Medicine  
—  
University of Chicago Medicine*

**SPEAKERS**



## Oni Blackstock, MD, MHS

*Founder & Executive Director*

Health Justice

# Housekeeping Items

- **Microphones:** All participant microphones are muted. The webinar will begin with introductions and opening remarks by our moderators, followed by presentations from each speaker. *Please submit any questions in the Q&A box for discussion.*
- **Recording & Resources:** All registrants will receive a link to the event recording after its conclusion. Additionally, it will be accessible on NHMAMD.org and our YouTube channel.

# About NHMA

Established in 1994 in DC, the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) is a 501(c)(6) non-partisan, non-profit membership association representing the interests of 50,000 licensed Hispanic physicians in the United States.

The **vision** of the organization is to be the national leader in improving the health of Hispanic populations.

The **mission** of the organization is to empower Hispanic physicians to lead efforts to improve the health of Hispanic and other underserved populations in collaboration with Hispanic state medical societies, residents, medical students, and other public and private sector partners.





# Aniruddha (Anu) Hazra, MD

*Associate Professor of Medicine*

University of Chicago



AT THE FOREFRONT

**UChicago  
Medicine**

# Collective Action: Sustain and Accelerate HIV Progress

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Aniruddha (Anu) Hazra, MD (he/him)

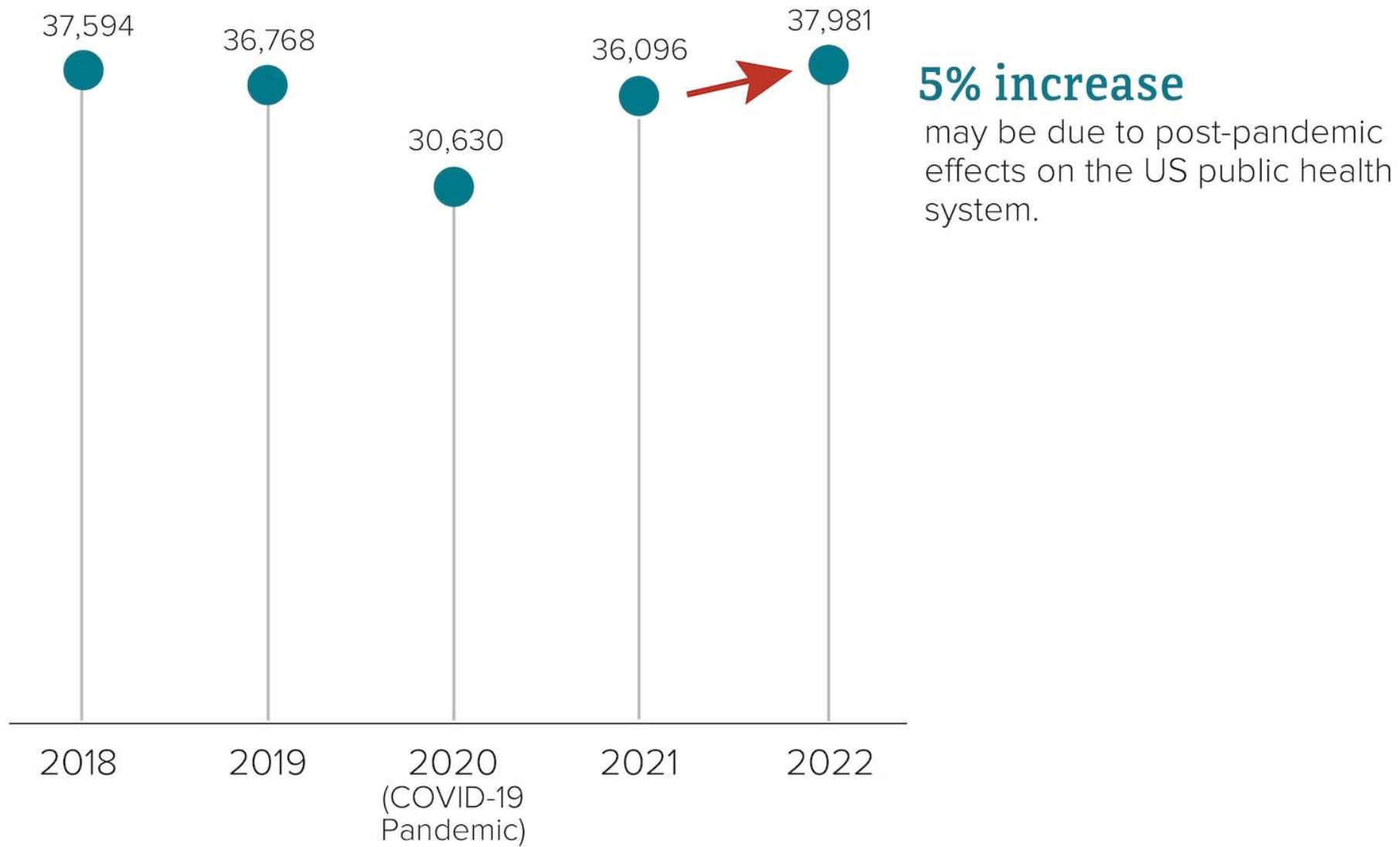
Associate Professor, Section of Infectious Diseases & Global Health

Director of STI Services, Chicago Center of HIV Elimination

Medical Director, DCAM Sexual Wellness Clinic

University of Chicago Medicine

 [@anuhazramd.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/anuhazramd.bsky.social)

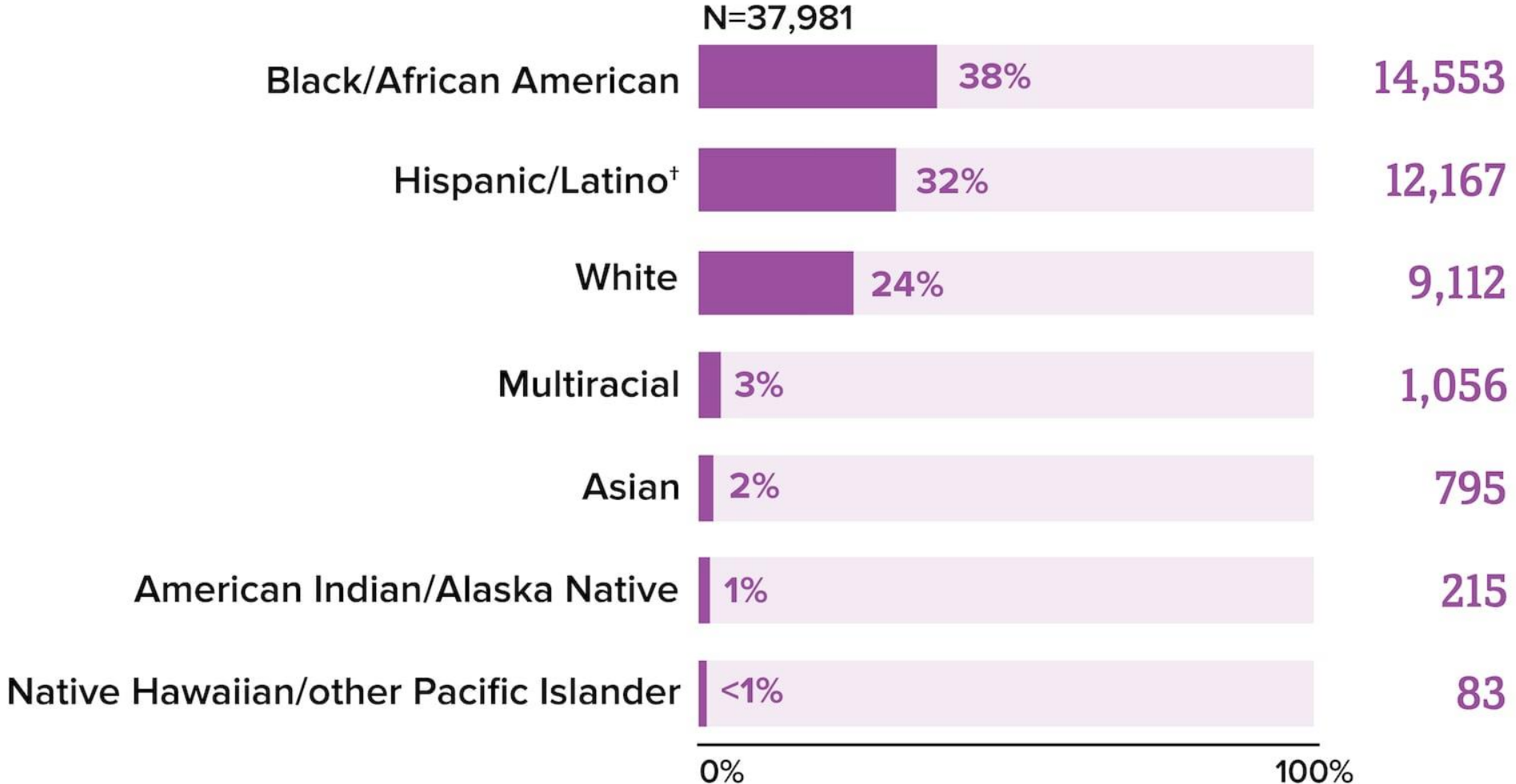


Ending  
the  
HIV  
Epidemic

**Overall Goal: Decrease the number of new HIV diagnoses to 9,588 by 2025 and 3,000 by 2030.**

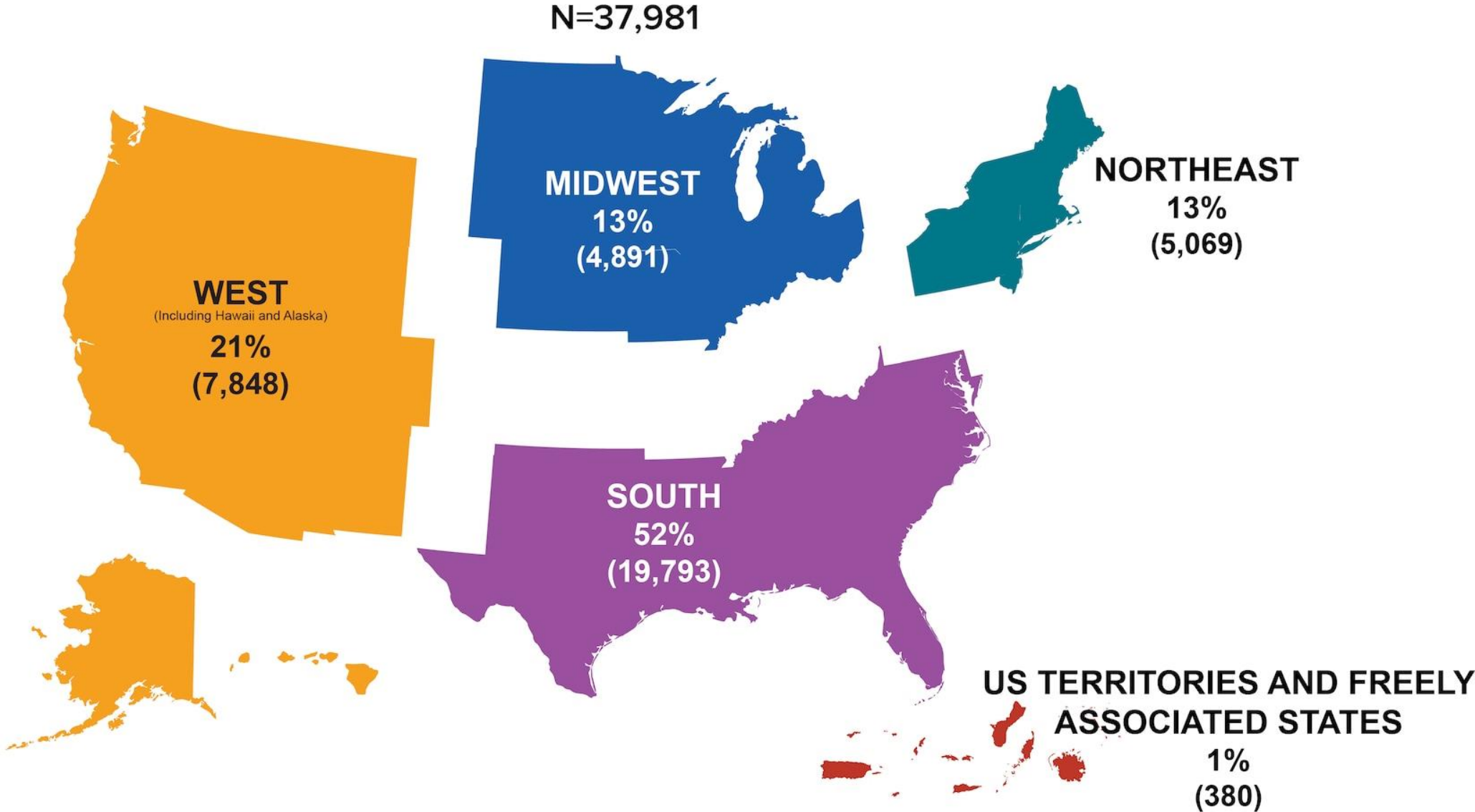


Racial and ethnic differences in HIV diagnoses persist. Racism, HIV stigma, discrimination, homophobia, poverty, and barriers to health care continue to drive these disparities.

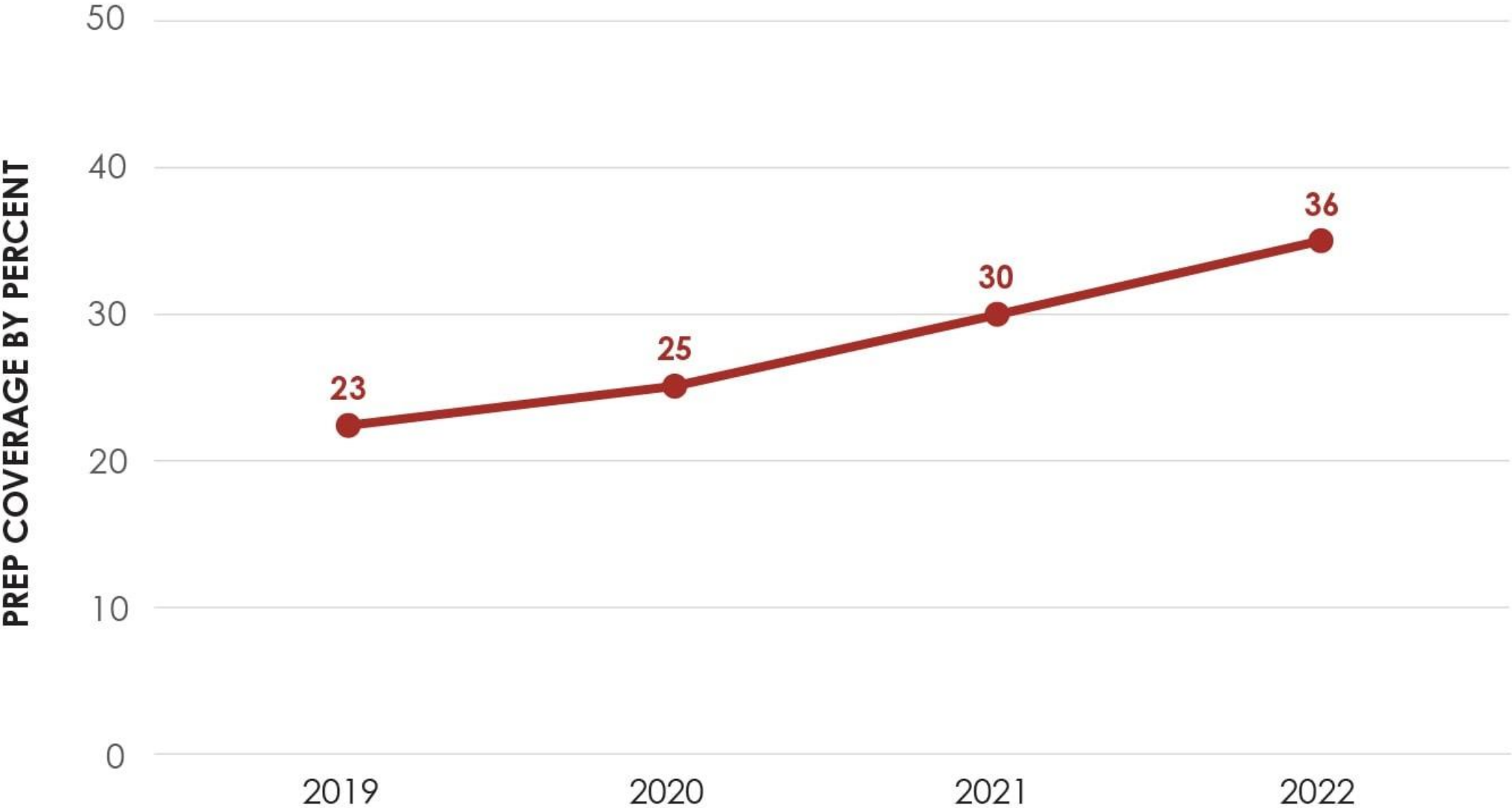




# The South accounted for more than half (52%) of HIV diagnoses in 2022.

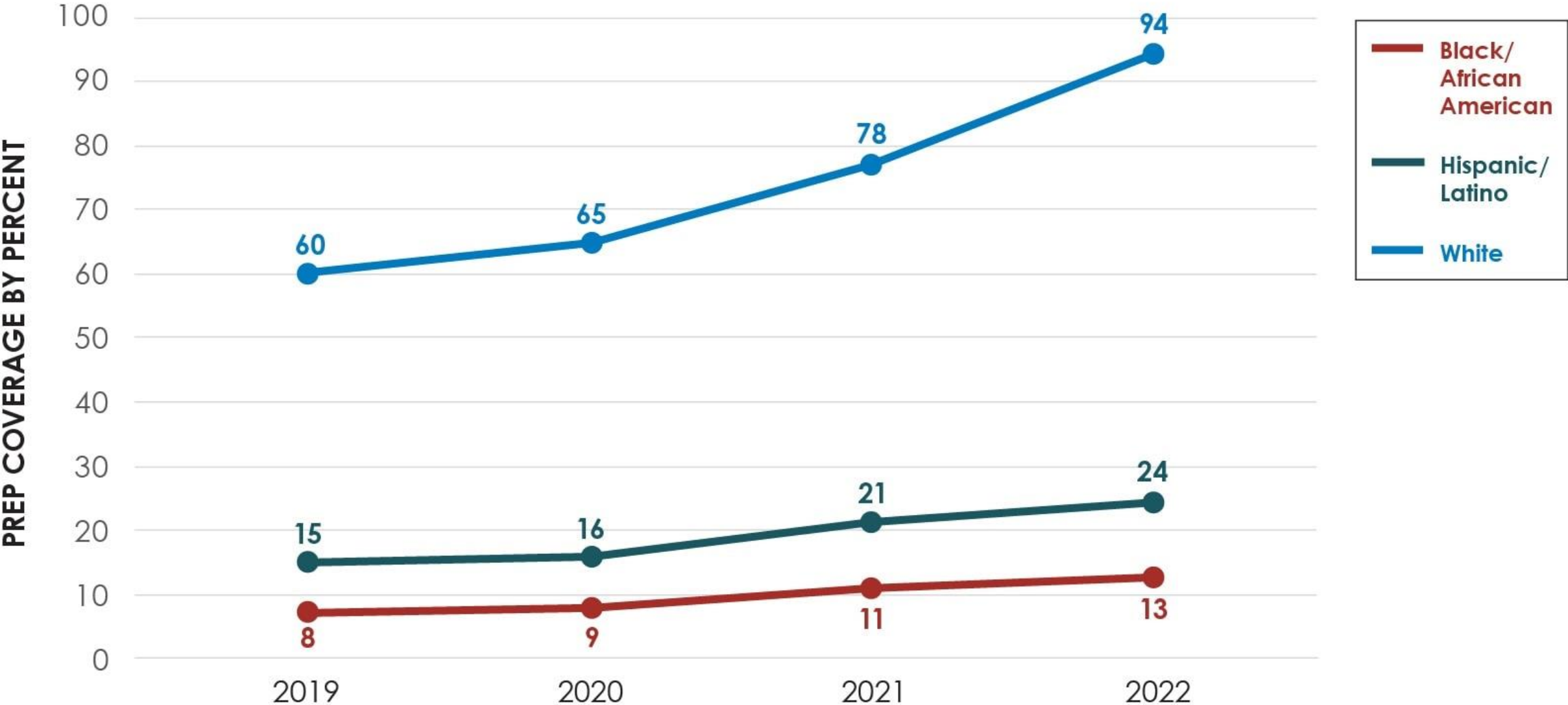


# OVERALL TRENDS IN PREP PRESCRIPTIONS AMONG PEOPLE WHO COULD BENEFIT, 2019-2022\*



\*Data are preliminary.

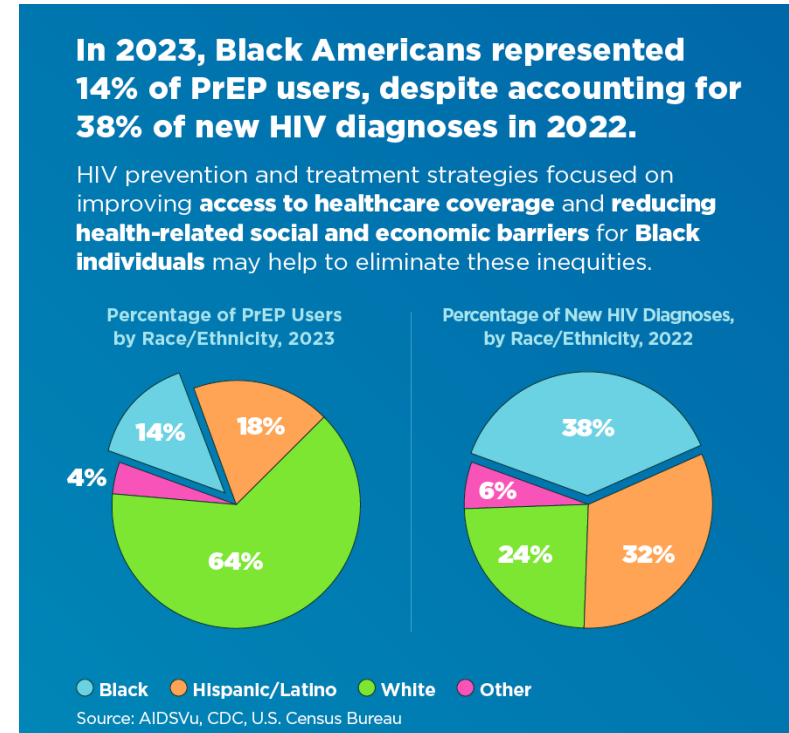
# TRENDS IN PREP PRESCRIPTIONS AMONG PEOPLE WHO COULD BENEFIT, BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2019-2022\*



\*Data are preliminary. The data on PrEP prescriptions by race and ethnicity are limited, and findings are estimated.

# PrEP Uptake in Black Populations

- Black people represented the lowest percentage of PrEP users in 2023 (14%)
- Black people also had the lowest PrEP-to-Need Ratio (PnR), indicating the greatest unmet need for PrEP.



# Social/Structural Determinants of Health (SODH)

Factors that contribute to a person's current state of health. These factors may be biological, socioeconomic, psychosocial, behavioral, or social in nature

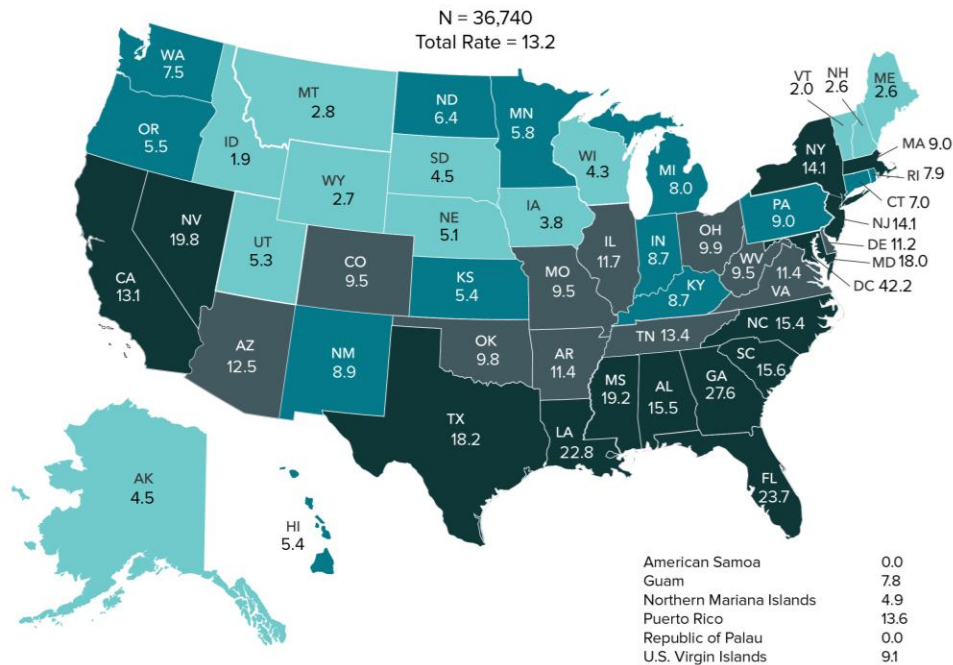
The complex, integrated, and overlapping social structures and **economic systems** that are responsible for most **health inequities**

Social determinants of health are shaped by the distribution of money, power, and resources throughout local communities, nations, and the world

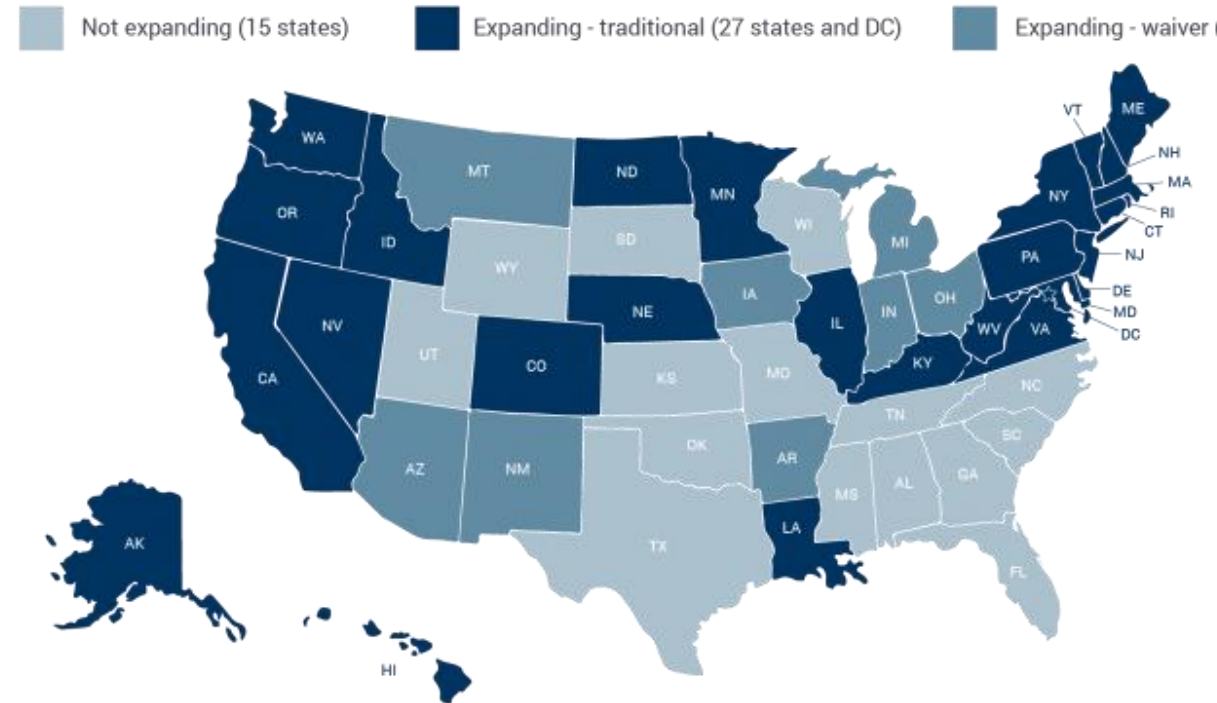


# Access to Care

Figure 1. Rates of Diagnoses of HIV Infection among Adults and Adolescents, 2019—United States and 6 Dependent Areas



State Medicaid Expansion Decisions, November 2019



- Access to care is crucial in ending the epidemic
- Without expanding coverage for underinsured/uninsured, how can we really move the needle?

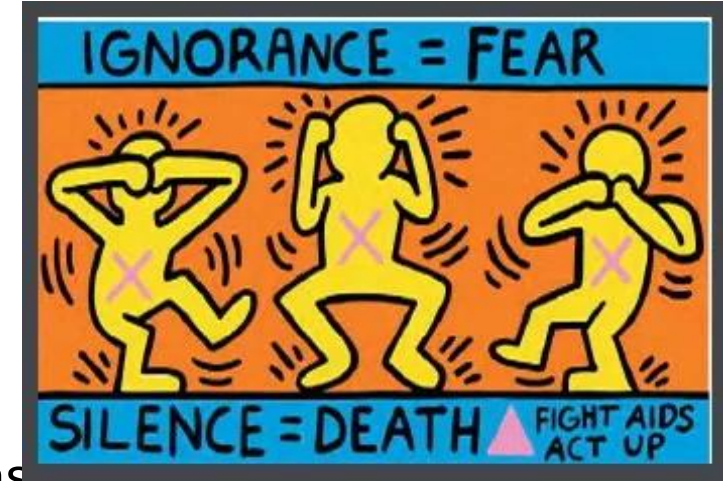
# Structural Level Issues

- Residential segregation – living in neighborhoods with higher HIV/STI prevalence, lower access to healthcare
- Housing = Healthcare
  - People homeless at HIV diagnosis had **27-fold higher odds of death** compared with those with housing
- Criminal justice system – African Americans are disproportionately represented
- Medical mistrust – resulting from historical trauma
  - slavery, oppression, genocide, cultural destruction, displacement, and land loss
  - history of unethical medical experimentation

# HIV is an epidemic FUELED by stigma

*“central to the global AIDS challenge as the disease itself”*

- Stereotype → Prejudice → Discrimination → **STIGMA**
  - → internalized hate, avoidance (coping mechanisms)
- Although explicit biases (i.e., blatant and intentional) have decreased in recent years in the United States, subtle forms (i.e., implicit and unconscious) persist
- Efforts to **normalize** HIV to the same level of other chronic illnesses (such as DM2, heart disease, etc) → decreases stigma
- However, many lay people and healthcare providers still consider HIV/AIDS an **exceptional** disease and treat it as such → increases stigma



Keith Haring



- **Perceived stigma** from providers is associated w/
  - ↓ likelihood of accessing care
  - ↑ likelihood of missing doctors' appointments
  - Nonadherence to medications
- PLWH may engage in various behaviors and actions to maintain s
  - hiding medications
  - using a less stigmatizing illness to explain their medication use
  - compromising adherence to avoid disclosure & anticipated stigma
- Patterns of healthcare utilization may change to avoid stigma
  - using informal care without continuity i.e. wellness clinics
  - not disclosing one's HIV status to health care providers
  - commuting to care outside of their community and avoiding specialty care



# Some Hot Takes

HIV is easier to treat than diabetes in 2025.

HIV is easier to treat than hypertension in 2025.

HIV is easier to treat than coronary artery disease in 2025.

It is safer to have sex with a person living with HIV who is on treatment and undetectable than with a person unaware of their status.



# Final Thoughts

- EtHE initiative is a huge step in utilizing well known tools to eliminate HIV
- However the effect of U=U and PrEP is limited by complex barriers at patient, provider, and system levels
- Without addressing these obstacles we will not be able to end the epidemic
- It is difficult to assess this certain state and local governments' commitment to ending the epidemic based on their policies regarding health access and human rights



# TELL CONGRESS #SAVEHIVFUNDING

SIGN THE PETITION TO  
REJECT OVER \$700  
MILLION IN PROPOSED  
CUTS BY THE HOUSE.

[bit.ly/savehivfunding2025](https://bit.ly/savehivfunding2025)

Thank you!

*Questions?*

*Email: [ahazra2@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:ahazra2@bsd.uchicago.edu)*



# Maranda Ward, Ed.D, MPH

*Assistant Professor & Director of Equity*

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School of Medicine  
& Health Sciences

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



# PrEP Uptake In Black Women

Maranda C. Ward, EdD, MPH  
Assistant Professor & Director of Equity  
Department of Clinical Research and  
Leadership

- Funding support by Gilead Sciences Inc
- Consultant for ViiV Healthcare

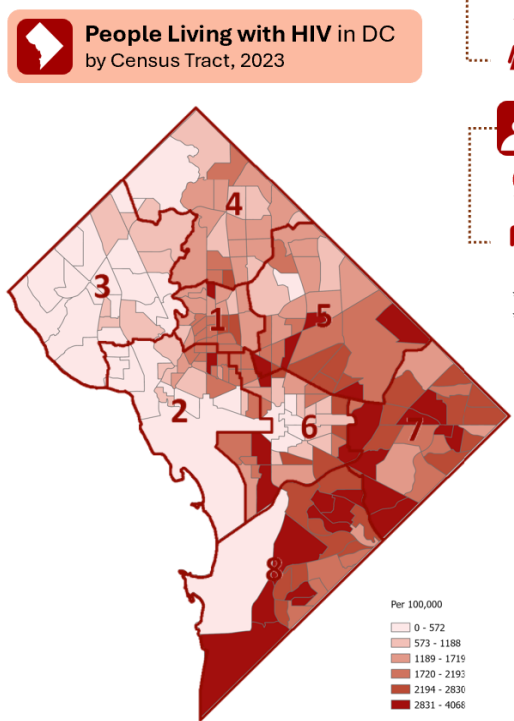
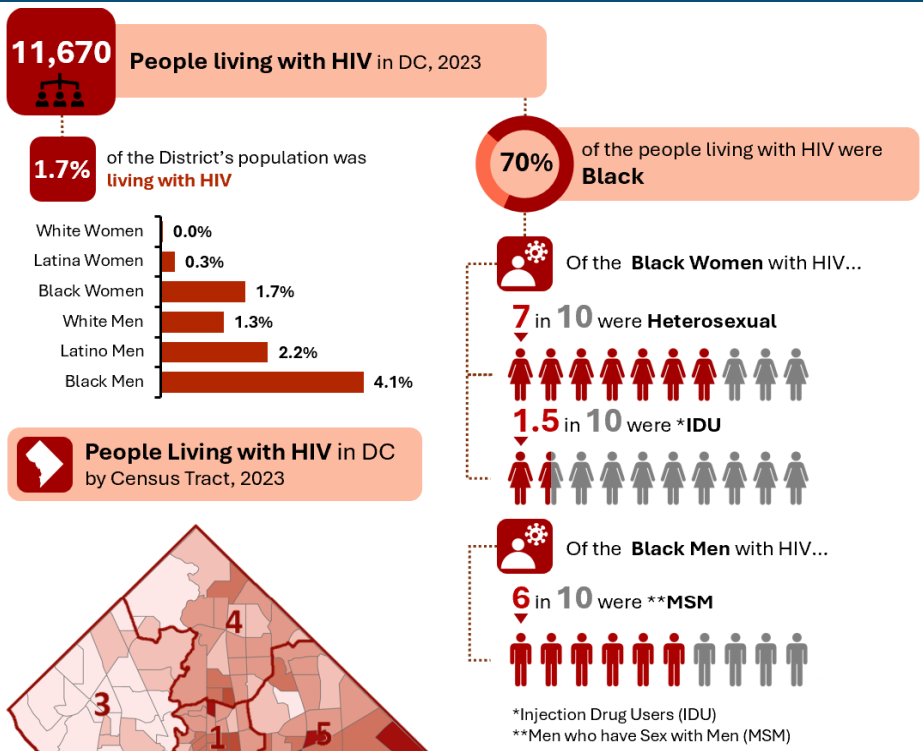


- Identify and evaluate key **cultural and socioeconomic barriers** to PrEP uptake among Black women;
- Review **practical strategies** that participants can implement in their communities to increase PrEP awareness, access, and adherence among Black women; and
- Discuss effective communication techniques for healthcare practitioners that enhance engagement and education about PrEP, ensuring **culturally responsive** and patient-centered conversations

**By 2030, the District aims to have 95% of its residents living with HIV on treatment.**

*What does our 2023 data show towards this goal?*

# Why Black Women?



- Is being **Black** a risk factor for HIV?
- What **unique exposures** to HIV do Black women have?

## Gender/Sex-based

- Female Anatomy
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Gender norms
  - Consent
  - Condom Negotiation
  - Codependence

## Race/Racism-based

- Clinician Bias, Medical mistrust
- Discrimination in society
- Stigma/profiling when screened (i.e., tropes)
- Sexual networks

The literature offers many possible explanations for low PrEP uptake including:

- a lack of awareness;
- misconceptions about who can use PrEP;
- misinformation regarding side effects;
- not having a clinician who compassionately offers or fields questions about the risks and benefits; and
- low self-perception or literacy concerning HIV exposure or candidacy for PrEP.

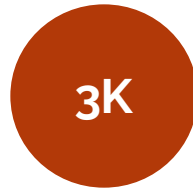




## Two in One Training Series Impact



Number of Speakers



Number of Learners



Viewing Parties

## Two in One Black Women Thought Leaders as Webinar Speakers



**Nikole Hannah-Jones**  
Pulitzer-prize-winning author and racial scholar



**Oni Blackstock, MD**  
HIV physician, researcher, and founder of Health Justice



**Clover Barnes, RN, BSN, MBA**  
Bureau Chief, DC Health HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis, TB Administration



**Annette Gadegbeku, MD**  
Associate Professor of Community Health; Drexel School of Medicine, Faculty Director, Healing Hurt People

## Collaborators

### Co-Sponsoring Organizations:



Latino Commission on AIDS



National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors



Drexel University



GW SMHS Antiracism Coalition



Association of American Medical Colleges



GW SMHS Office of Diversity



D.C. Center for AIDS Research



D.C. Health

### Promoting Organizations:



Social Mission Alliance



GW SMHS Office of Diversity



Physician Assistant Education Association



D.C. Center for AIDS Research

- When addressing health disparities, there must be attention to harms of the **past**, realities with **present** structural oppression and **future** opportunities to partner on population health solutions.

Check out the Course








TEACHING AND LEARNING IN MEDICINE  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10401334.2023.2245382>

 Routledge  
Taylor & Francis Group

OBSERVATIONS

 OPEN ACCESS 

### Teaching at the Convergence of Pandemics and Historically Excluded Patient Populations: The Challenges, and Importance, of Culturally Responsive Communication

Abigail Konopasky<sup>a</sup> , Annette B. Gadegbeku<sup>b</sup> , Leon McCrea<sup>b</sup> , Paige McDonald<sup>c</sup> , Patrick G. Corr<sup>c</sup>  and Maranda C. Ward<sup>c</sup> 

<sup>a</sup>Department of Medical Education, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, Hanover, New Hampshire, USA; <sup>b</sup>Department of Family, Community, and Preventive Medicine, Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA; <sup>c</sup>Department of Clinical Research and Leadership, The George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Washington, DC, USA

#### ABSTRACT

**Issue:** Historically excluded patient populations—particularly racial, ethnic, and sexually and gender minoritized people—experience gross inequities in health, worsened by the HIV and COVID-19 pandemics. Culturally responsive communication (CRC) is a vital tool health professionals can use to address these inequities. Yet CRC can be challenging to teach

#### ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 18 January 2023  
Revised 3 July 2023  
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#### KEYWORDS

Being on PrEP improves sense of **power, control, autonomy, self-love.**

Being on PrEP is **empowering** and makes sex **pleasurable.**

Being on PrEP reminds everyone that **sexual health is health.**

**Take control.**

PrEP is a daily pill that can prevent HIV.

BLACK  
WOMEN  
AND  
PREP



BAI

blackaids.org





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QUESTIONS?

# Upcoming Events

01

## March 13th, 2025: National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on **Threads**

- We will be partnering with various organizations to discuss misconceptions related to women and girls' HIV/AIDS awareness. Sharing other resources to help educate and address barriers.



02

## April 10th, 2025: National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Webinar

- We are excited to host a Zoom webinar that will feature speakers who work closely with youth and actively contribute to addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This event aims to educate participants and provide valuable resources to support this important cause.



Scan to Register.

Interested in participating? Please Contact Marcara Wright at [mwright@nhmamd.org](mailto:mwright@nhmamd.org)  
and Ashley Funes at [afunes@nhmamd.org](mailto:afunes@nhmamd.org)



# 28th Annual NHMA Conference

*Uniendo Voces: Advancing the Future  
of Latino Health*

June 5-7, 2025

Anaheim, California



SCAN TO  
REGISTER



Advocacy



Education



Leadership



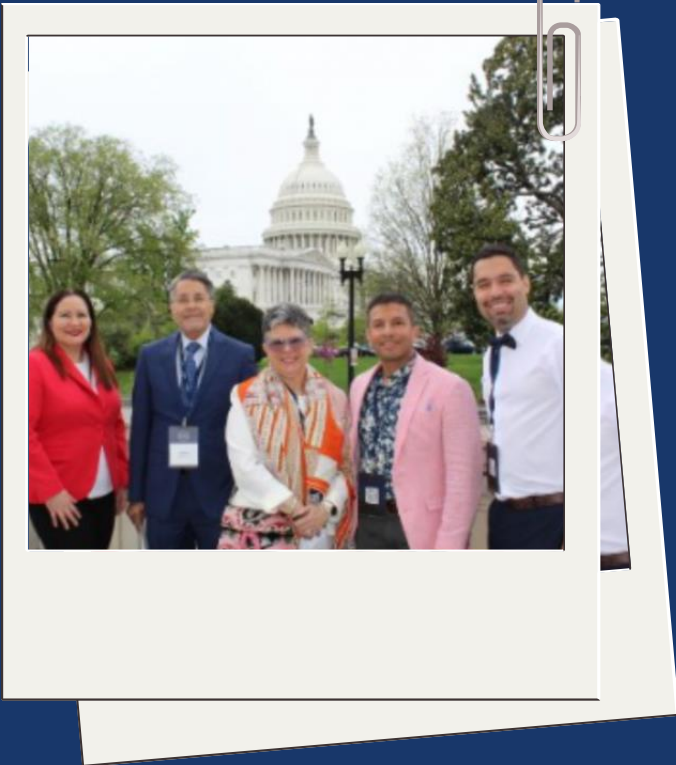
Networking

# Become an NHMA Member Today!

Join a community of healthcare professionals and community leaders dedicated to improving healthcare for Hispanic and Latino communities, eliminating healthcare disparities, and advancing and promoting your profession.

SCAN TO JOIN NHMA





# CONTACT

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