

Mistrust in the Context of HIV/Hepatitis/STD Prevention and Treatment

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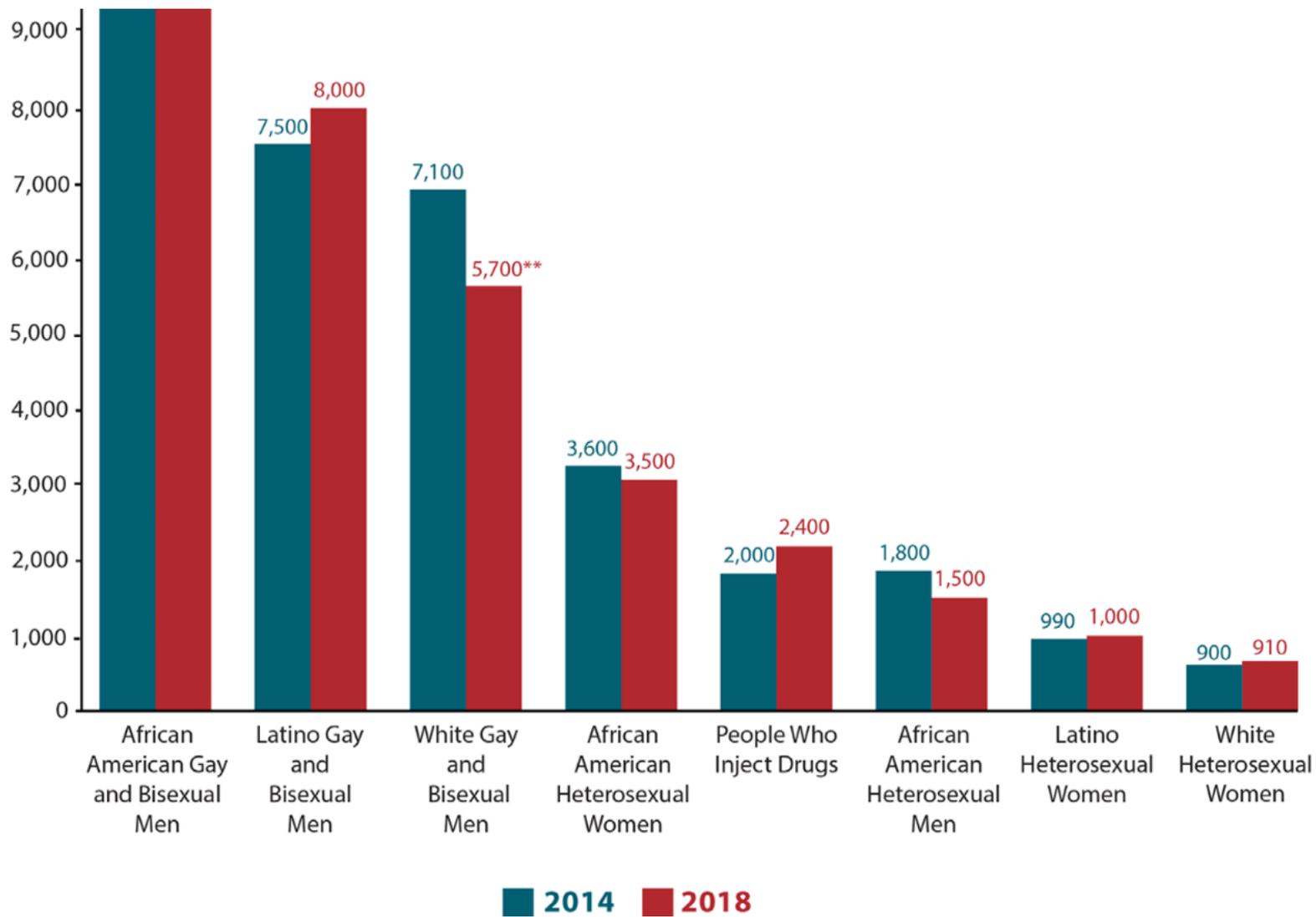
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Disclosure Statement

- I have no financial interests or relationships to disclose

Case

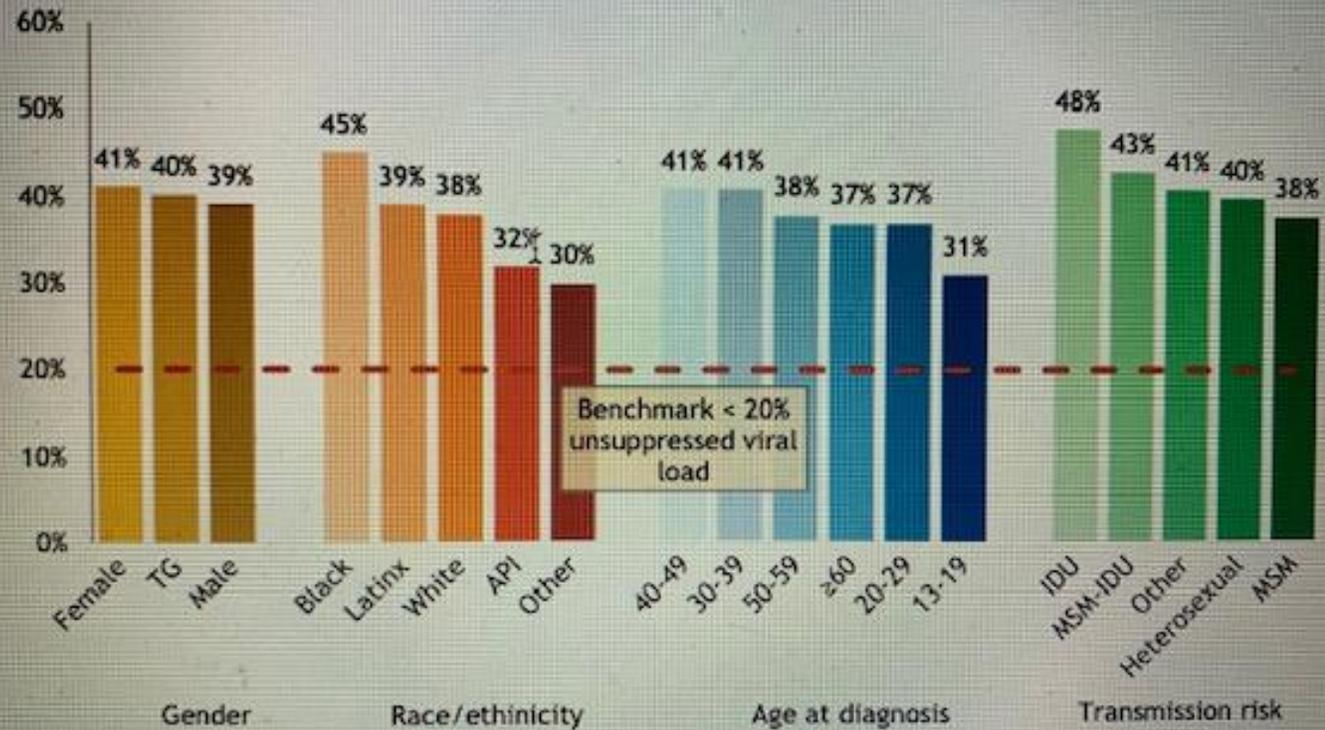
23-year-old African American man presents to clinic with purulent penile discharge and dysuria x 2 days. He reports having sex with both men and women. Patient was offered STI testing and treated empirically with ceftriaxone and azithromycin. This is patient's third visit to clinic in an 8 month time interval - past two visits were for treatment of primary syphilis and genital herpes respectively. When PrEP was discussed, patient stated 'I don't want any experimental medication – I am not a guinea pig'. As his medical provider, what should you do next?



New Infections by Race and Transmission Group, U.S. 2014-2018

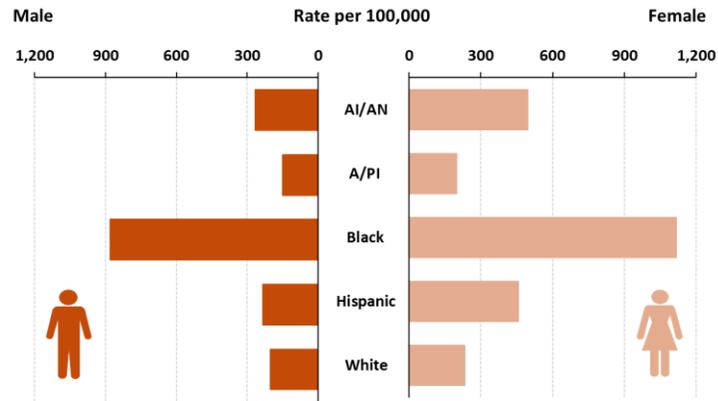
Source: CDC, [Estimated HIV Incidence and Prevalence in the United States 2014–2018](#), 2020.

Figure 38: Unsuppressed viral load¹ by selected demographic and risk characteristics among persons aged ≥ 13 years diagnosed through 2018 and living in LAC at year-end 2019

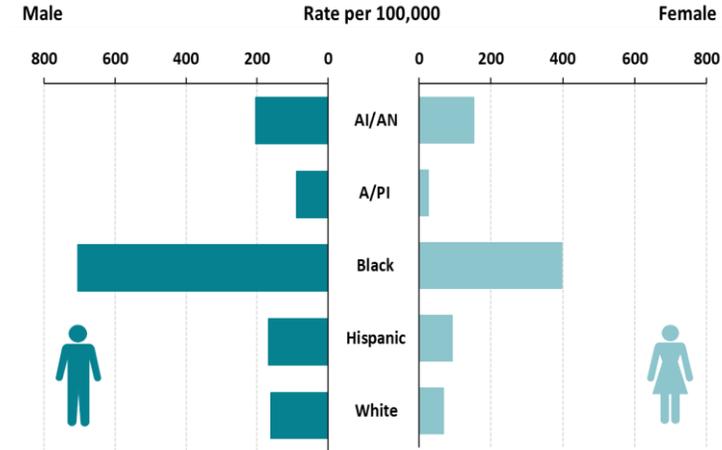


LAC is not within the target for viral suppression for PLWDH. In 2019, the largest disparities were observed among females, Blacks, persons aged 30-49 years, and persons with IDU transmission risk, where $> 40\%$ were virally unsuppressed.

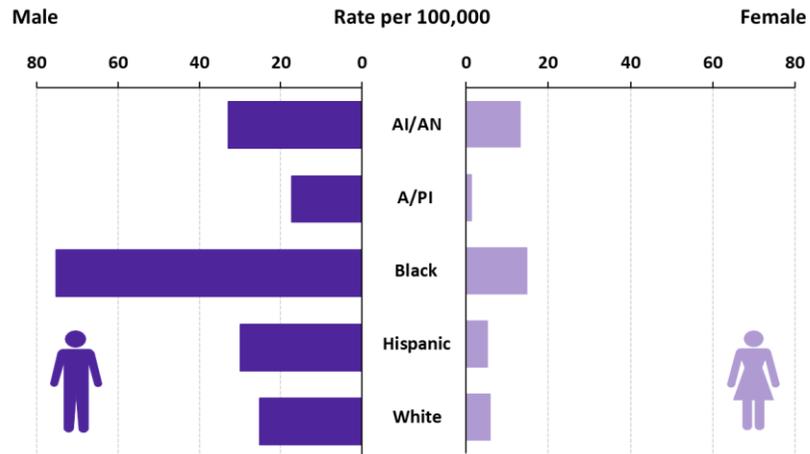
Chlamydia, 2018 Incidence Rates by Gender and Race



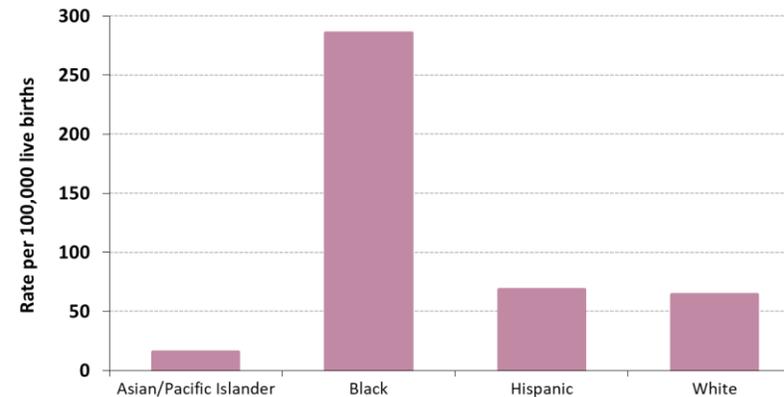
Gonorrhea, 2018 Incidence Rates by Gender and Race



Primary and Secondary Syphilis, 2018 Incidence Rates by Gender and Race



Congenital Syphilis, 2018 Incidence Rates by Race/Ethnicity of Mother



Hep C

- More prevalent in AA than any other racial group in the US
- AA patients are significantly less likely to achieve sustained virologic response after hepatitis C treatment with direct-acting antivirals compared with white patients
- AA are twice as likely to die from hep C compared with white patients
- 2019 UConn study found that mistrust of healthcare providers is likely to prevent AA men from seeking routine preventive health screenings

• <https://www.hhs.gov/hepatitis/blog/2017/02/27/hepatitis-c-disparities-among-african-americans.html>

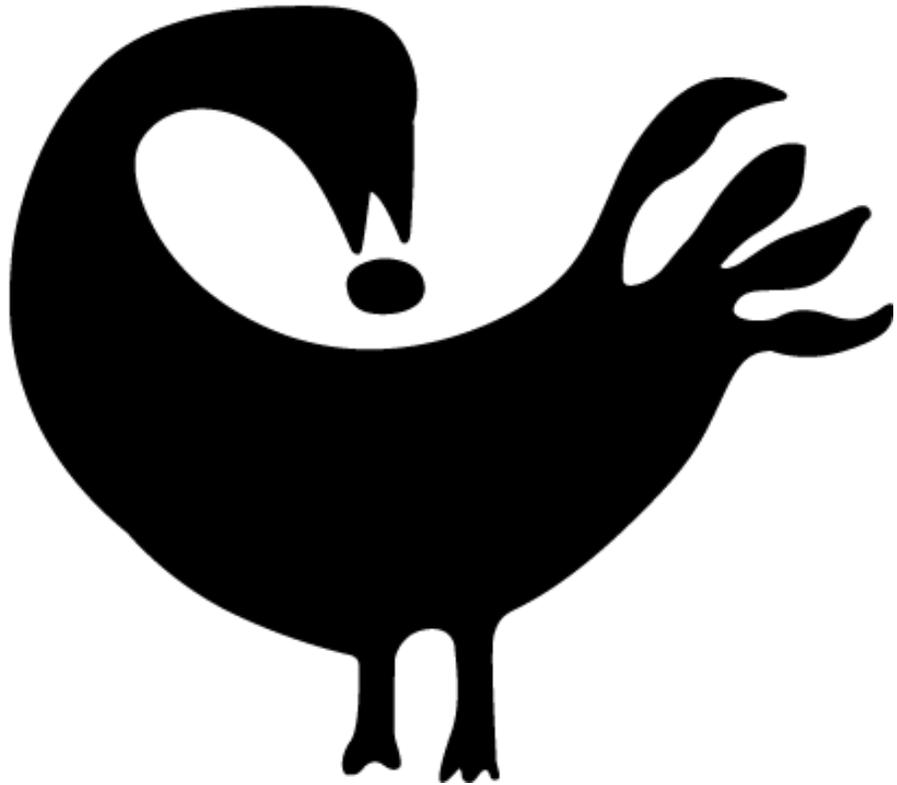
• Wizdom Powell, Jennifer Richmond, Dinushika Mohottige, Irene Yen, Allison Joslyn, Giselle Corbie-Smith. **Medical Mistrust, Racism, and Delays in Preventive Health Screening Among African-American Men.** *Behavioral Medicine*, 2019; 45 (2): 102 DOI: [10.1080/08964289.2019.1585327](https://doi.org/10.1080/08964289.2019.1585327)

Current State of Affairs

- Structural racism and discrimination
- Discrimination leads to mistrust
- Mistrust is a form of coping



How did we get here?



- Tuskegee
- Henrietta Lacks
- Experiments on Slaves
- Ethics around HIV trials – AZT trial concerns



HIV Conspiracy Theory and It's Effect

Case Continuation

- Spent first visit just listening to patient's concerns and asking questions to better understand how they see their HIV risk and what they are doing to mitigate this risk
- Patient refused PrEP at first visit but agreed to close follow up and establish as a primary care patient
- After 2 more visits, patient agreed to start PrEP and has followed me to my current practice and is still adherent to Truvada for PrEP

How do we move forward?



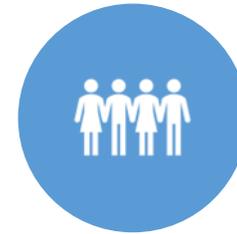
ACKNOWLEDGE THE
HISTORICAL CONTEXT



PRACTICE EMPATHY –
UNDERSTAND WHERE YOUR
PATIENTS ARE COMING
FROM



USE MOTIVATIONAL
INTERVIEWING SKILLS



IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL
NETWORKS AND
COMMUNITY BASED
INTERVENTIONS



DIVERSITY OF HEALTHCARE
FORCE MATTERS

Acknowledgement

I would like to say a special word of thanks to Dr. Nina Harawa for inviting me to be part of this conference. I am truly humbled to have been asked to share my experiences and thoughts on this crucial topic.

References

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- Wizdom Powell, Jennifer Richmond, Dinushika Mohottige, Irene Yen, Allison Joslyn, Giselle Corbie-Smith. **Medical Mistrust, Racism, and Delays in Preventive Health Screening Among African-American Men.** *Behavioral Medicine*, 2019; 45 (2): 102 DOI: [10.1080/08964289.2019.1585327](https://doi.org/10.1080/08964289.2019.1585327)

Questions?



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