

**AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES
HIV RESOURCE CENTER**

FACT SHEET # 2

AIDS AMONG WOMEN -- UNITED STATES, 1994

February 27, 1995

- In 1993, HIV/AIDS was the fourth leading cause of death among women aged 25-44 in the United States.
- The incidence of AIDS is increasing more rapidly among women than men.

In 1994:

- women with AIDS represented 13% of the cumulative total of 58,448 cases among women.
- of the 79,674 persons 13 years or older reported with AIDS, 14,081 (18%) occurred among women -- nearly threefold greater than the proportion (534 [7%] of 8,153) reported in 1985.
- the median age of women reported with AIDS was 35 years, and women aged 15-44 years accounted for 84% of cases.
- more than three fourths (77%) of cases among women occurred among blacks and Hispanics, and rates for black and Hispanic women were 16 and seven times higher, respectively, than those for white women.
- the Northeast region accounted for the largest percentage of AIDS cases reported among women (44%), followed by the South (36%), West (9%), Midwest (7%), and Puerto Rico and U.S. territories (4%).
- of all cases among women, 61% were reported from five states: New York (26%), Florida (13%), New Jersey (10%), California (7%), and Texas (5%).
- 59% of AIDS cases among women were reported based on criteria added in the 1993 expanded AIDS surveillance case definition. This total included 7,181 women with severe HIV-related immunosuppression (percentage of total lymphocytes <14% or CD4 <200 cells), 557 with pulmonary TB, 376 with recurrent pneumonia, and 164 with invasive cervical cancer.
- 41% of women with AIDS reported injecting-drug use; 38%, heterosexual contact with a partner at risk for or known to have HIV /AIDS; and 2%, recipient of contaminated blood or blood products; 19% had no specific HIV exposure reported. Of all women who were initially reported without risk but who were later reclassified, most had heterosexual contact with an at-risk partner (66%) or a history of injecting-drug use (27%).
- of the 5,353 women reported with AIDS attributed to heterosexual contact, 38% reported contact with a male partner who was an injecting drug user; 7% , a bisexual male; 2%, a partner who had hemophilia or had received HIV-infected blood or blood products; and 53% , a partner who had documented HIV infection or AIDS but whose risk was unspecified..