

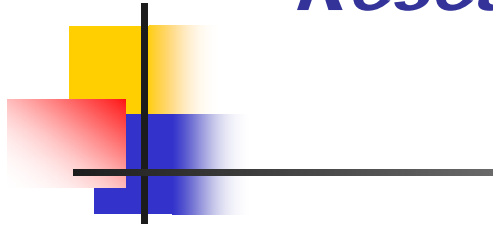


# Women and HIV/AIDS

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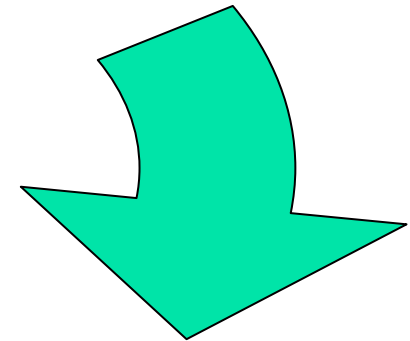
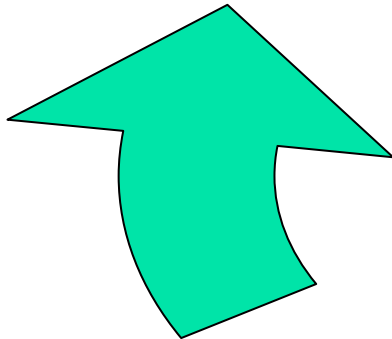


Health Care  
(Societal Efforts)

Restoration

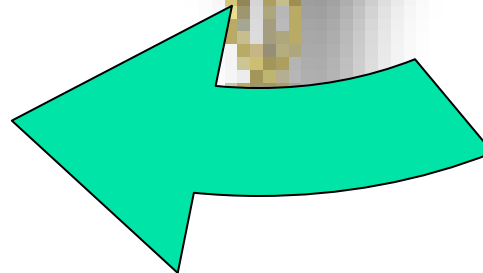
Health Promotion

Health Services  
(Delivery Components)



Prevention

Rehabilitation





# Definition

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- AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome.
  - It is a disease caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
  - Most People who are infected with HIV eventually develop AIDS.



# Definition; Cont:

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- HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus that weakens the body's defense (immune) system until it can no longer fight off illnesses such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, cancerous tumors and others. HIV kills CD4 cells (T cells), which help the body's immune system to defend against infection.
- HIV is a virus that causes AIDS.
- AIDS is a long-life infection that weakens the body's natural ability to fight off disease. Over a period of time, a person who is HIV positive cannot fight infections.



## Definition; Cont:

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- AIDS is the last stage on the long continuum of HIV infection and may result from damage caused by HIV, secondary cancer, or opportunistic organism.
- AIDS is defined as disabling or life-threatening illness caused by HIV or a CD4+ T-Lymphocyte count of less than 200/ml with documented HIV infection.



# Signs and Symptoms

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- Individuals infected with HIV generally develop antibodies within a short period but may exhibit no symptoms for many years.
- Symptoms
  - persistent fever
  - night sweats
  - weight loss begin to occur more often when the CD4 count drops below 500/mm.
- The development of AIDS is estimated to occur at 11 years on an average from the time of HIV infection



# Incidence and Prevalence

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- Although most people with AIDS are men, the number of women progressing to AIDS is increasing almost four times as fast as the number of men For United States.
- Women age 25-44, HIV/AIDS are a leading cause of death
- Women are a rapidly growing proportion of the population with HIV/AIDS.



# Incidence and Prevalence

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- Nearly two thirds (64%) of persons reported AIDS acquired through heterosexual exposure were women
- 77% were blacks or Hispanics

# Transmission



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- Sexual contact involving the exchange of body fluids, with an infected person.
- Sharing or reusing needles, syringe, or other equipment used to prepare injectable drugs.
- Prenatal transmission from an infected mother to her fetus during pregnancy or delivery or to an infant when breast-feeding.
- Transfusions or other exposure to HIV-contaminated blood or blood products, organs, or semen.



# Causative Factors

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- For women, heterosexual exposure to HIV, followed by injection drug use, are the greatest causes for exposure.
- Aside from the inherent risks in injection drug use, drug use overall contributes to a higher risk of contracting HIV if heterosexual sex with an injection drug user occurs or when sex is traded for drugs or money.



# Minority Women and Psychosocial Issues

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- Black and Hispanic minority women are at particular risk. Despite representing less than one-fourth of the total U.S. female population, Black and Hispanic women represent more than three-fourths (77%) of all AIDS cases in women.
- It is common for women to face the triple burden of racism, classism, and sexism.



# Minority Women and Psychosocial Issues

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- Many women of color come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, further compounding the impact of HIV/AIDS on them and their families.
- Poor families are often unjustly labeled dysfunctional because they are disadvantaged.
- Many disadvantaged families are able to cope creatively with the challenge of HIV despite their limited resources.

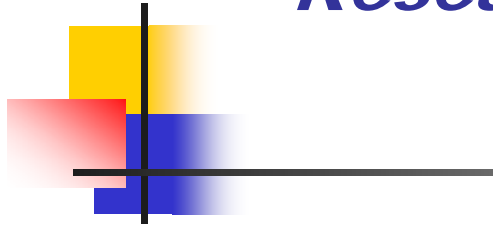


# Treatment

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- **Reporting Symptoms/Risk Behavior to Health Care Providers**
- **Importance of Follow-up Treatment/Care**
- **Safe Sex**
- **Abstinence**
- **Use of Condoms/Protected Sex**
- **Testing for HIV/AIDS**
  - **Viral Load and CD4+ T-lympocyte**
- **Common Medications**
  - **Therapy may include the common AIDS drugs -AZT and 3TC, as well as protease inhibitors. Similar to Indinavir, AZT and 3TC blocks viral reproduction.**

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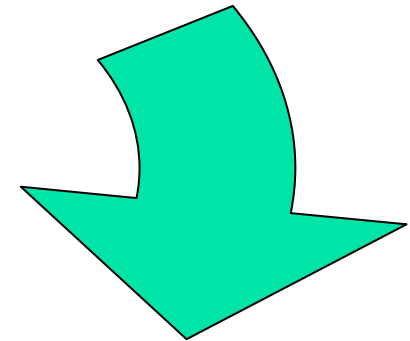
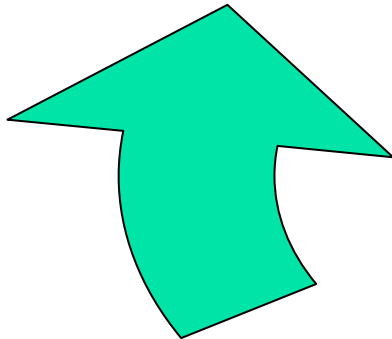


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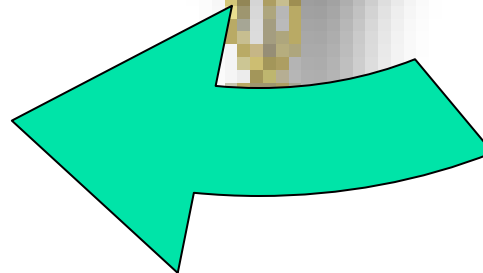
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# Women and HIV/AIDS

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**The End**