Concerns: Women’s Disparities

Black women have a HIV rate 15 times higher than white women.

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According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the disparity between Black and white women in the rate of new HIV infections is so vast that if Black women had the same lower acquisition rate as their white counterparts, there would be some 3,900 fewer new cases of the virus among them annually. That figure represents 1 in 10 of the estimated 38,700 new infections in the United States in 2016, when an estimated 60% of new infections among women were in Black women. Estimated new infections in this group declined steadily between 2010 and 2014, from 5,300 to 4,000 new cases. But then, estimated new infections rose to 4,100 in 2015 and to 4,200 in 2016. Between 2010 and 2016, the number of estimated new infections among white women remained stable at around 1,400. In 2016, the new infection rate per 100,000 Black women was 24.4 new cases, a rate 15 times higher than that of white women.

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