

Women

**Answers about HIV
vaccine research**



bethegeneration.nih.gov

What is a vaccine?

A vaccine helps your body defend itself against infections like HIV.

Why do we need a vaccine against HIV?

- **THERE IS STILL NO CURE FOR AIDS.**
- **Drugs can help people infected with HIV avoid developing AIDS, but they do not cure HIV. The drugs are expensive and can cause serious side effects.**
- **Vaccines are our best hope of ending AIDS. Vaccines have saved millions of lives and have completely stopped the spread of deadly diseases like smallpox.**

What is happening in HIV vaccine research?

- **More HIV vaccines are being tested than ever before.**
- **WE STILL NEED THOUSANDS OF HIV-NEGATIVE VOLUNTEERS.**

HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects women*

Women:
Represent nearly
1 in 4 newly
reported cases of
HIV infection in the
United States



Women of color are increasingly affected by HIV/AIDS

African American Women: In 2006, the AIDS case rate among African American women was 21 times as high as among white women

White



African American



In 2006, the AIDS case rate among Hispanic/Latina women was 5 times as high as among white women

White



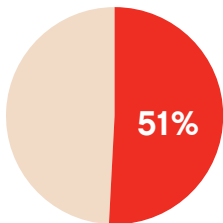
Hispanic/Latina



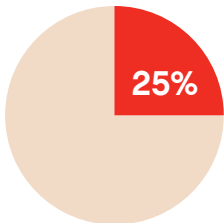
How is HIV/AIDS affecting women?

Women are increasingly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

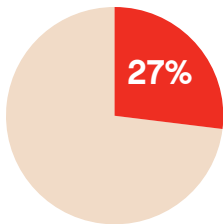
■ U.S. Population
■ Women



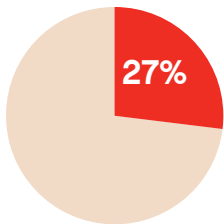
U.S. Population



New HIV Infections



Newly Reported
AIDS Cases



Deaths of Persons
with AIDS

What you should know about preventive HIV vaccine research

- There is no HIV vaccine available.
- The best long-term hope for controlling the HIV/AIDS pandemic is the development of a preventive HIV vaccine.
- HIV vaccine research is part of a comprehensive approach to control the AIDS pandemic that includes prevention, care and treatment strategies.
- You can't get HIV from the HIV vaccines being tested.
- There is something everyone can do to help in the search for a vaccine.

How safe are the vaccines being tested in people?

- HIV vaccines can't cause HIV because they don't contain HIV.
- Protecting the safety and privacy of volunteers is extremely important. Volunteers are given complete information about the study and possible risks before they join. Volunteers can also leave the study whenever they wish.
- The vaccines may cause side effects. They include soreness at the site of injection, low-grade fever and body aches. These symptoms typically go away quickly.

How can I be sure the research is being done right?

- The vaccine studies meet the highest U.S. Food and Drug Administration standards for protecting volunteers.
- The studies are constantly reviewed for safety.

- **Community Advisory Boards** made up of local citizens provide advice on the studies and keep local communities informed.

Who is doing the research?

Many public and private research organizations are working to find an HIV vaccine. These include universities, biotechnology companies, drug companies and public agencies like the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

Where can I learn more?

For more information on preventive HIV vaccine research, go to:
<http://betheneration.nih.gov>,
or e-mail betheneration@nih.gov.

bethegeneration.nih.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
Division of AIDS

May 2009

NIH Publication No. 09-6072

HIV VACCINE RESEARCH
Our best minds. Our best science. Our best hope.

