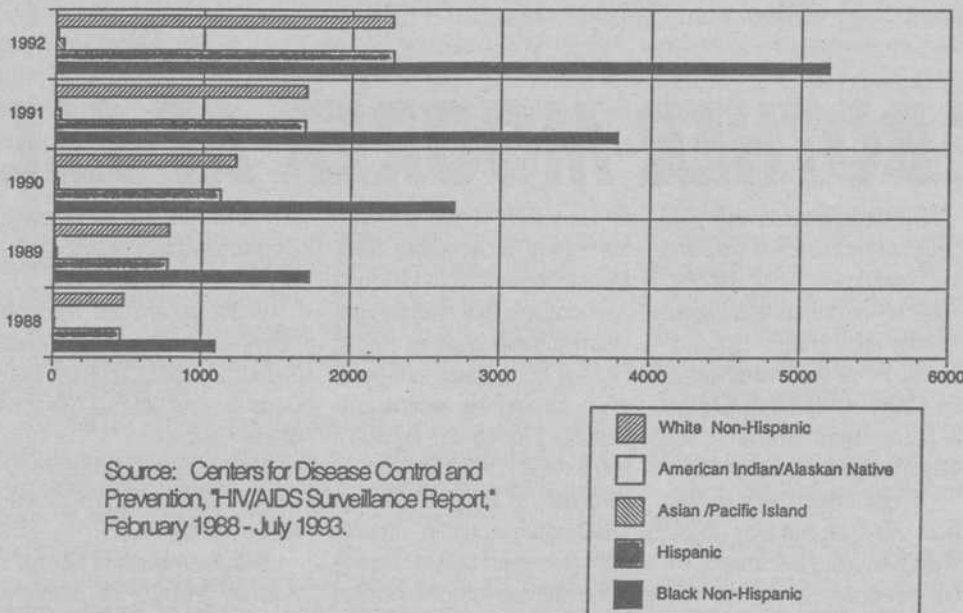


QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE NEED FOR A WOMAN-CONTROLLED METHOD OF HIV AND STD PREVENTION

The Increase in Women Infected with HIV through Heterosexual Contact 1988 - 1992



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report," February 1988 - July 1993.

Q. How many women are really affected by AIDS and other STD's?

In the United States, an estimated 80,000 women between the ages of 15 and 44 are currently infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and women constitute the fastest growing group of people with AIDS.

In October 1993, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that AIDS has become the fourth leading killer of women 25 to 44 years of age.

African American women and Latinas are the hardest hit; they account for approximately 73 percent of cases among women. In 1987, AIDS became the leading killer of African American women in New York and New Jersey (Brettle and Leen, 1991).

Worldwide, even greater proportions of women are affected. By the year 2000 there will be as many or more women with HIV worldwide than men

(Petros-Barvazian and Merson, 1990; Viravaidya, et al., 1991). As early as 1992, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that over three million women in sub-Saharan Africa had been infected with HIV (Global Programme on AIDS, 1992).

In addition to AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases pose a serious threat to women's health. At least 56 million people — more than one in five Americans — are believed to be infected with a viral STD other than AIDS (Division of STD/HIV Prevention, Division of STD/HIV Prevention 1992 Annual Report, (1993).

One study of sexually active teenage women found that there are four million new cases of chlamydia in the U.S., and three-quarters of these are asymptomatic in women.

Left undiagnosed and untreated, infections such as syphilis, gonorrhea, human papillomavirus (HPV) and chlamydia

can do great, long-term damage; and all STD's, both those which create visible, open sores and those that are invisible and asymptomatic, increase a woman's risk of contracting AIDS.

WOMEN'S TALKING CIRCLE

Any woman interested in sharing and exploring her inner spirit in a caring supportive group of women involved with preserving Native American spirituality and culture while discussing matters of personal importance are encouraged to attend the WOMEN'S TALKING CIRCLE.

In addition to sharing concerns associated with day to day living, the group members bring their knowledge of arts and crafts to the group.

This informal small group meets weekly each Thursday evening at the Las Vegas Indian Center, 2300 W. Bonanza Ave. Meeting times vary. For further information and meeting time for next Thursday's meeting please

FOR THE LADIES WOMEN OF COLOR CONFERENCE



BONITA ARMSTRONG

By Bonita Armstrong

The Second Annual Women of Color Conference is set for Saturday, April 30, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Community College of Southern Nevada, Cheyenne Campus.

Any women of any race and from any socio-economic background could benefit from the workshops this conference will offer. Some of the workshops available are: "Citizenship and

Immigration," "Alcohol, Drugs and Men," "Kaleidoscope of Success," "Take Those Skills and Use Them," and more.

If your need is to understand that there are other women out there with the same situations, desires and goals, then you could benefit from this conference. If you want to find out what to do in order to finish school or take control of your life again, this conference is for you. If you just want to have some fun and learn

a lot at the same time, then this conference is for you.

This may be the step many of you have been wanting and needing to take to get your lives on track again or to solidify the steps and plans you have already made.

Don't miss this important opportunity to learn and grow as women in the '90s.

If you're interested call 643-6060, Ext. 272. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

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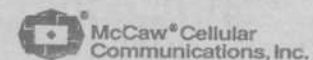
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