

HIV/AIDS PERINATAL TRANSMISSION AMONG HISPANIC/LATINA WOMEN

WE'LL DEFEAT AIDS
CON GANAS

PERINATAL TRANSMISSION IS WHEN AN HIV/AIDS POSITIVE PREGNANT WOMAN PASSES THE VIRUS TO HER INFANT



- during gestation
- prior to/during delivery
- during breastfeeding

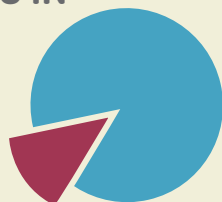
IT IS THE MOST COMMON ROUTE OF HIV INFECTION IN CHILDREN UNDER 13 IN THE US



MANY HISPANIC/LATINA WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE ARE UNAWARE OF HIV TREATMENT OPTIONS

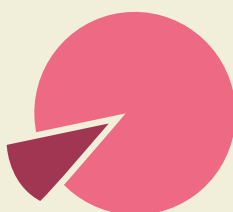


THERE WERE **128** HIV DIAGNOSES VIA PERINATAL TRANSMISSION AMONG CHILDREN UNDER 13 IN 2014 IN THE US



12%

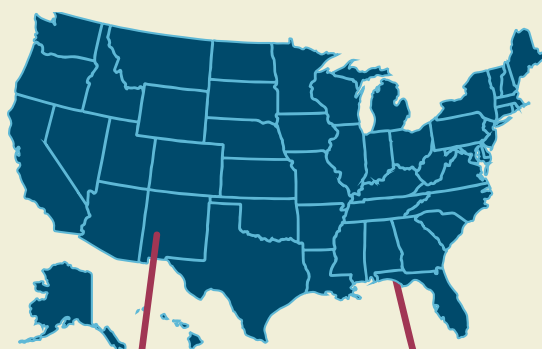
AND **92** AIDS DIAGNOSES VIA PERINATAL TRANSMISSION



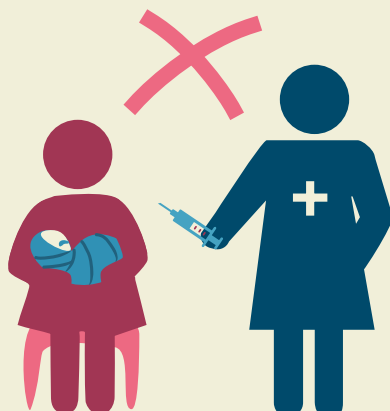
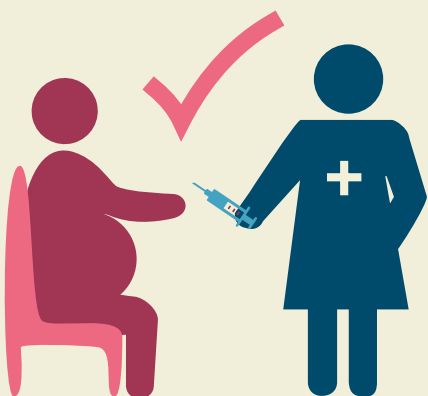
8%

WERE HISPANIC/LATINO CHILDREN

STATE-BY-STATE POLICIES LIMIT LATINA'S ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES



TIMELY ANTIRETROVIRAL TREATMENT PRIOR TO CONCEPTION &/OR DURING PREGNANCY CAN REDUCE HIV RISK



HIV/AIDS PERINATAL TRANSMISSION AMONG HISPANIC/LATINA WOMEN



WHAT IS PERINATAL TRANSMISSION?

A pregnant woman infected with HIV/AIDS can pass the virus to her infant during gestation, prior to or during labor and delivery, or breastfeeding; known as perinatal transmission. Perinatal transmission is the most common route of HIV infection in children under the age of 13 years in the United States and 6 dependent areas. However, advances in antiretroviral treatment of pregnant HIV- infected women carrying out their pregnancies to term have drastically reduced the risk of perinatal transmission.¹

DISPARITIES²

Despite these advances, there were an estimated 128 diagnoses of perinatal HIV transmission in children aged <13 years in 2014 in the United States and 6 dependent areas: 12% (15) were among Hispanic/Latino children. An estimated 92 diagnoses of Stage 3/AIDS were attributed to perinatal transmission in children under the age of 13 years in the United States and 6 dependent areas in 2014 9% (8) were Hispanic/Latino.

RISK FACTORS

- **Lack of Awareness of HIV Status.** Not knowing one's status when trying to conceive or when becoming pregnant increases the risk of perinatal transmission if one is infected, as appropriate and timely antiretroviral treatment prior to conception and/or during pregnancy can greatly reduce the risk of transmission.
- **Uneven HIV Testing Rates.** Studies show that HIV testing rates for pregnant women vary widely. A relatively high proportion of women of childbearing age are unaware that treatment is available with HIV.³ Providing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services that include screening and treatment for HIV as well as other sexually-transmitted infections (STIs), along with family planning services, contraceptive and pregnancy options counseling, and prenatal care may greatly reduce barriers to testing, particularly for those women fearful of accessing testing services due to immigration status, substance use, age, and/or interpersonal violence/relationship coercion.⁴
- **Barriers to women's sexual and reproductive health services.** State-by-state policies that limit or impede Latina's access to family planning centers and clinics due to funding restrictions for termination of pregnancy services also affect women's access to HIV and STI testing, as well as pregnancy testing and prenatal care: such barriers may impinge on the advances made in reducing perinatal transmission of HIV.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Pediatric HIV Surveillance.

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015, November). HIV Surveillance Report, 2014; vol. 26. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/surveillance/>. Accessed March 28, 2015.

3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "One Test. Two Lives". Atlanta: Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/perinatal/1test2lives>

4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV Among Pregnant Women, Infants and Children in the United States. January 2014. Retrieved from <http://www.thebodypro.com/content/70380/hiv-among-pregnant-women-infants-and-children-in-t.html>