

NOTEBOOK

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(HIV/AIDS)

GAPS IN CARE

According to new research, approximately 25 percent of HIV/AIDS patients in the U.S. fail to remain in care consistently.

The study, published in the journal AIDS, is among the first in the U.S. to estimate HIV care retention. It included 17,425 HIV infected adults at 12 U.S. clinics. The study's author, at the University of Pennsylvania, says too many people with HIV may be falling through the cracks by not getting life saving care and treatment.

A Centers for Disease Control report shows that only about a quarter of Americans with HIV actually have their virus under control. Just 42 percent of patients had "no gap" in treatment — that is, no more than six months in between seeing a doctor.

Quality care is known to not only save lives but decrease health care costs by preventing unnecessary HIV related illnesses and hospitalizations.

EVERY 10 MINUTES, SOMEONE IN THE UNITED STATES CONTRACTS THE AIDS VIRUS. HALF ARE BLACK. THIRTY YEARS AFTER THE AIDS VIRUS WAS FIRST REPORTED AMONG GAY WHITE MEN, NEARLY HALF OF THE 1 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES INFECTED WITH HIV ARE BLACK MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN—EVEN THOUGH BLACKS MAKE UP JUST 12.6 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION, PBS REPORTS.

ENDGAME: AIDS IN BLACK AMERICA, AIRING TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2012, ON OPB (CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS), BY AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER RENATA SIMONE TAKES VIEWERS ON AN UNPRECEDENTED TWO-HOUR EXPLORATION OF ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST URGENT, MOST PREVENTABLE HEALTH CRISIS.

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