**INTRODUCTION**

African American and Hispanic women constitute 24% of the US female population. 3

**METHODS**

The purpose of the Women Living Positives survey was to assess health and communication needs of HIV-infected women. The survey was conducted by GfK Roper Public Affairs, a public opinion polling firm, and funded by Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. The Well Project, a nonprofit organization focusing on women's health issues, also contributed to the study.

**RESULTS**

In 2006, women made up an estimated 27% of adult and adolescents with AIDS in the United States. The Women Living Positives survey found that 15,000 women were newly infected with HIV/AIDS annually, with approximately 24% being African American and Hispanic women.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The results of the survey suggest that many HIV-infected women change health care providers due to suboptimal communication. The study emphasizes the need for awareness of ethnic and cultural issues that influence a patient's interaction with health care providers and satisfaction with their medical care.

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**REFERENCES**