

WIHS

The University of Mississippi Medical Center
The University of Alabama in Birmingham

Studying Women's Health

Wise WOMEN

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN BIRMINGHAM AND UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI STUDY TEAM

FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AND UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI STUDY TEAM



SITTING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT; VENETRA MCKINNEY, DEBORAH KONKLE-PARKER, MIRJAM-COLETTE KEMPF, ZENORIA CAUSEY, STANDING COUNTER CLOCKWISE; MARY BERGERON, TINA BARNES, KYLE SHERRIN, MICHELENE BROCK, JACKIE SIMPSON, JANICE SWINTON

African American Women & HIV: What do the studies say?

Do you feel “linked fates” with African Americans and particularly African American women in the south? Is your group identity and consciousness linked to your racial and gender identification? Do you identify with the collective historical experiences, culture, traditions, and practices of African Americans as a group?

Researchers evidenced that as a group, in the U.S., because historically we share a history of racial discrimination, gender discrimination, and oppression as a group that our

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Queen Hatfield – What's Your Story?

I am a 39 year old female still looking into developing a life. I am not young, but I am a seeker. A seeker of dreams. No one can stop you, but you. You see a desire or better yet a yearning. A yearning to do something for yourself, family or maybe a friend... You can achieve. Motivate yourself to be your own billboard and get to your greater... Life doesn't stop because someone says it, it stops when you stop. If you like, please let us hear your stories.

Cont. African American Women & HIV: What do the studies say?

collective consciousness of these experience help bring us together to fight for change. It is believed that recognizing gender, discrimination, oppression around you, in your community, in the government, church community, etc., should incite us as a group to work together to change things. They found that women with a high Critical Consciousness had better health outcomes and positive behaviors.

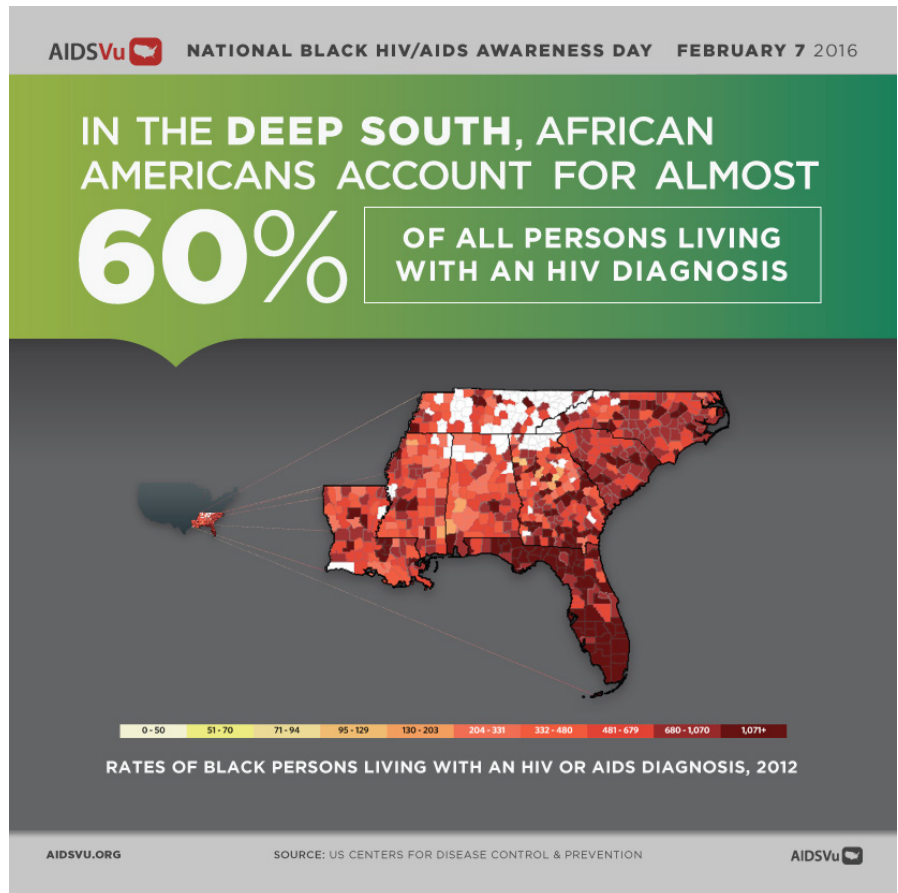
This study recruited WIHS participants from Chicago found that women with high critical consciousness similar to the participants enrolled here. "Critical consciousness was analyzed from CORE interview questions which demonstrated that women who a high critical consciousness against perceived gender discrimination and/or racial discrimination and took action to change the outcome, had greater success in keeping their CD4 numbers good; those women who were not critical or did not perceive racial and gender discrimination experienced poorer health outcomes." ¹"Critical Consciousness, Racial and Gender Discrimination and HIV Disease Markers in African American Women with HIV" (AIDS Behav, 2014, Jul: 18(7): 1237-1246.

African American women in the southeastern United States constitute the fastest growing segment of those infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). A study researching "why" found little data exist about the relationships between HIV infection risks and preventive practices. Four themes were revealed:

- **"a man will be a man"**
- **inconsistent and/or no condom use**
- **safe relationships**
- **racism and discrimination**

²"Perceived HIV-Related Sexual Risks and Prevention Practices of African American Women in the Southeastern United States" Health Care For Women International, Volume 20, Number 6, 1 November 1999, pp. 579-591(13).

The following paragraph reflects how black women during slavery were treated. Looking at the above four themes of some black women in the south, and our shared history can you relate to how our past experiences can dictate our present circumstances as black women in the south in 2017 and the spread of HIV?



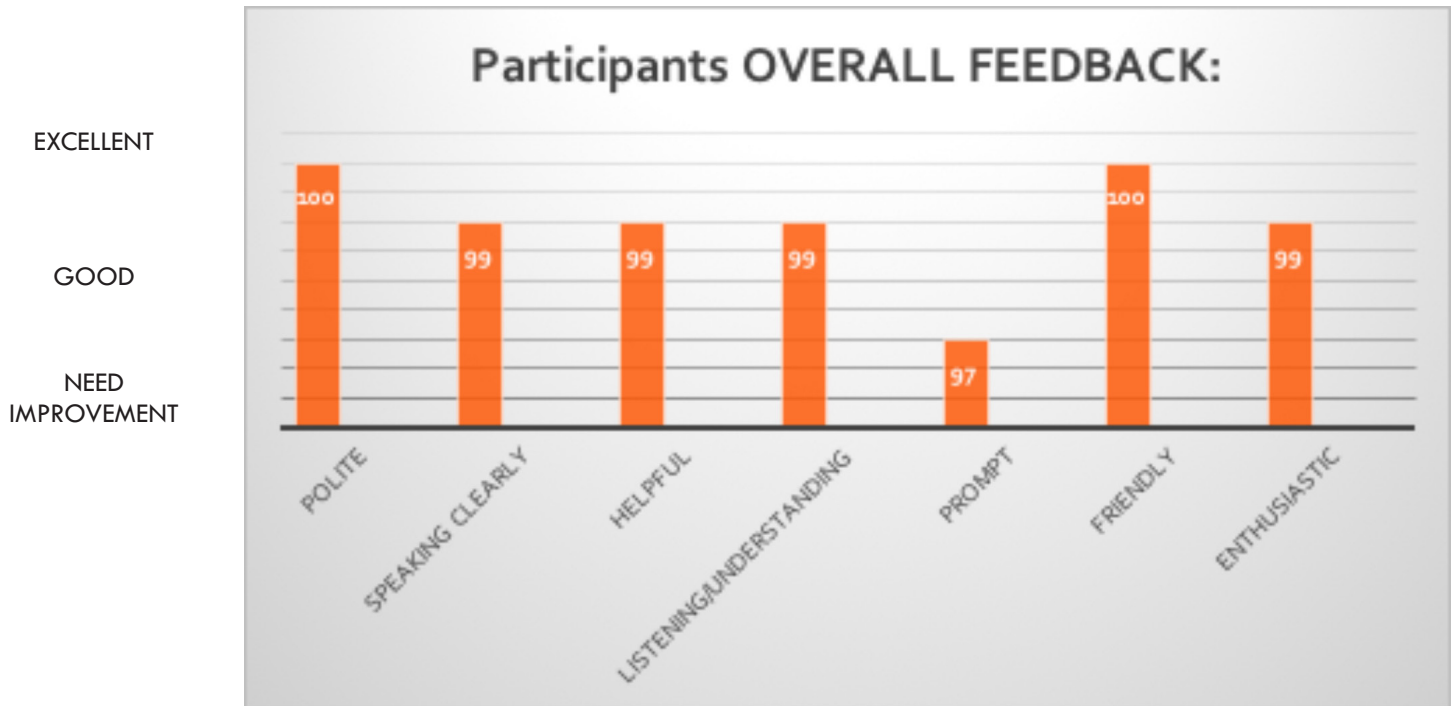
*"Fewer than 5 percent of the Africans who reached the New World" or about 427,000, ended up in North America. Slavery was legally abolished in the United States in 1808, which coincided with the "cotton boom" which led Old South planters to increase their labor force by the reproduction of slaves rather than by their importation. **In the Deep South the only way to keep reproducing and replenishing ones stock of slaves was to breed the slave women.** At the time of emancipation in 1865, the United States contained 30% of the Western Hemisphere's population of African descent, the 427,000 imported Africans had become 4,500,000 because black women were used as breeders. In sixty years enslaved black women had increased the supply of slaves by 4 million in the Deep South.*

³ (McPherson, James M. "Involuntary Immigrants." Review of The Black Diaspora by Ronald Segal (New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux). New York Times Book Review, 27 Aug. 1995. Rpt. "The New York Times on the Web," [Subscription Database.] The New York Times Company, 1997.)

Are we still living out of our oppressive past as a group?
Are we still sharing and living this history?

— JSwinton

THANKS FOR "Coming"!



The overall experience of the participants was that WIHS staff were friendly. The treatment coupled with the caring attitudes of the staff was amazing. The UMMC WIHS's participants come to study for not only the services but because of the support. They have made known about the kindness as well as the professionalism they have been shown at every visit.

Retention Report

As of September 30, 2017			
Status	Positive	Negative	Total
Total Enrolled in WIHS From the Beginning	86	29	115
DENR (dis-enrolled from the study due to death or relocation only)	4	3	7
MVIS (missed a study visit between April 2017-September 2017)	5	1	6
Total Women Currently Active in the Study <i>(includes women who missed a study visit between April 2017-September 2017)</i>	82	26	108

YOU HELP MAKE THE STUDY A BIG SUCCESS! Your participation is so valuable in our efforts to learn more about women's health. Every time you attend a study appointment, our scientists are able to look at the data and investigate ways to help women live longer healthier lives. The table shows that a total of 115 women were enrolled in the study. As of September 30, 2017, 108 women are still enrolled in the study. This includes 6 women that didn't attend a study visit between April 01, 2017- September 30, 2017. It is our hope that these women come to future study appointments. 7 women are no longer in the study because they may have moved out of the study area or are deceased.

Please keep coming to your appointments! If you have trouble getting to an appointment or for any reason can't attend, please call Janice at 601.815.5188 or Venetra at 601.815.5187.

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Lifestyle Corner

These are free events to get a Healthier life style thorough line dancing. These activities are thru Facebook name: Community Health Initiative: Link: <https://www.facebook.com/CHIOF2012> Community Health Initiative; time is 6 pm. Donations are welcomed

Monday

Grove Park
4126 Parkway Ave
Jackson, MS 39213
601-960-1807

Wednesday

Quest Fitness on Hwy 18
5225 MS 18
Jackson, MS 39209
601-983-3337

Tuesday

Anderson United Methodist Church
6205 Hanging Moss Rd
Jackson, MS 39206
601-982-3997

Thursday

VFW Sunset
4610 Sunray Drive
Jackson, MS 39213
601-362-1646

Express YOURSELF

Tell us what you want in this newsletter.
Please call Janice at 601.815.5188

"I'm Still Me"

Dorothy Keys

What if I go to the doctor and he tells me I'm ill...

"I'm still me"

If I start to lose weight, your touch me and my
bones you feel,

"I'm still me"

If my hair falls out or my skin cracks and peels
I'm still me"

Whether it's psoriasis, cancer or HIV, you see,
I'm a survivor and
I'm still me"

I may not look the way you look or be the way
I use to be, but I'm fearfully and
wonderfully made, and,
I'm still me"

Don't judge me or pity me
because that's not what I need.
Love me for who I am and not what you see.

Because under all this flesh and
through any disease
I'm still me"

You see, God is no respecter of persons and I'm
just going through, so treat me the way
you would want to be treated, as if this were you

For if the situation were turned around
and you were the one I see,

I would love you unconditionally because
I'm still me"