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Mass Incarceration & HIV Infection

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Mass Incarceration & HIV Infection

Sociology 3053 Research Methods



Abstract

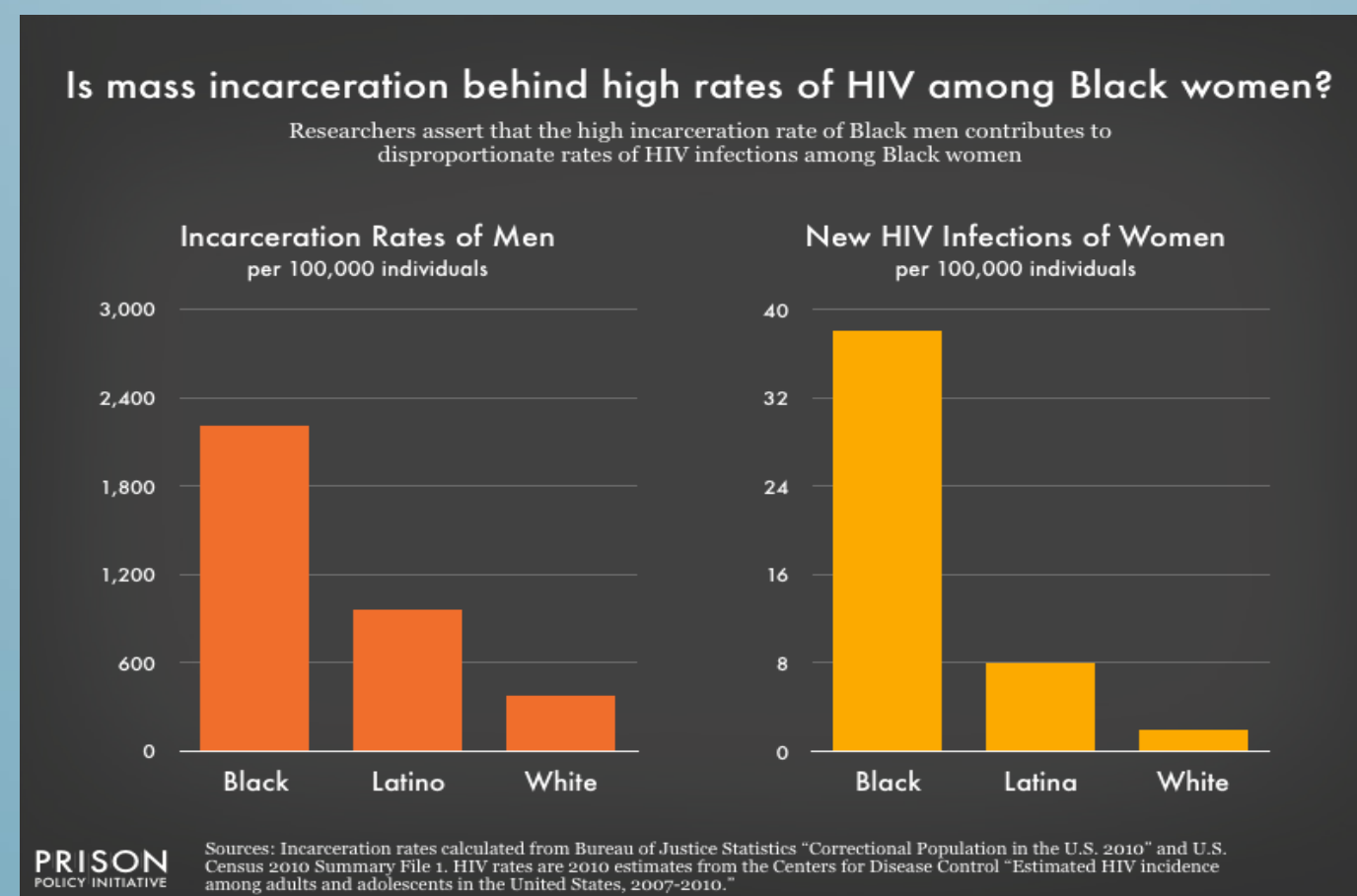
HIV is a critical problem among the incarcerated population. As of 2014, African Americans disproportionately made up 2.3 million of the 6.8 million correctional population. People of the correctional population are more susceptible to a decrease of CD4 cells (cells that kill the HIV virus). African Americans are at an elevated risk of HIV vs. everyone else in the correctional population.

Literature Review

Stressful living conditions along with various characteristics among the correctional population are related to HIV infection. These characteristics range from drug use, mental illness, socioeconomic status, etc. My hypothesis is that when people are placed in institutions such as prison, they will do anything to survive. This includes participating in risky behaviors that makes them susceptible to HIV.

Method

I conducted a literature review for this research project. I viewed various articles that discussed the correlation between mass incarceration and the HIV epidemic. Many of the articles examine the disproportionality between the correctional population and conditions that cause the HIV prevalence rate to skyrocket.

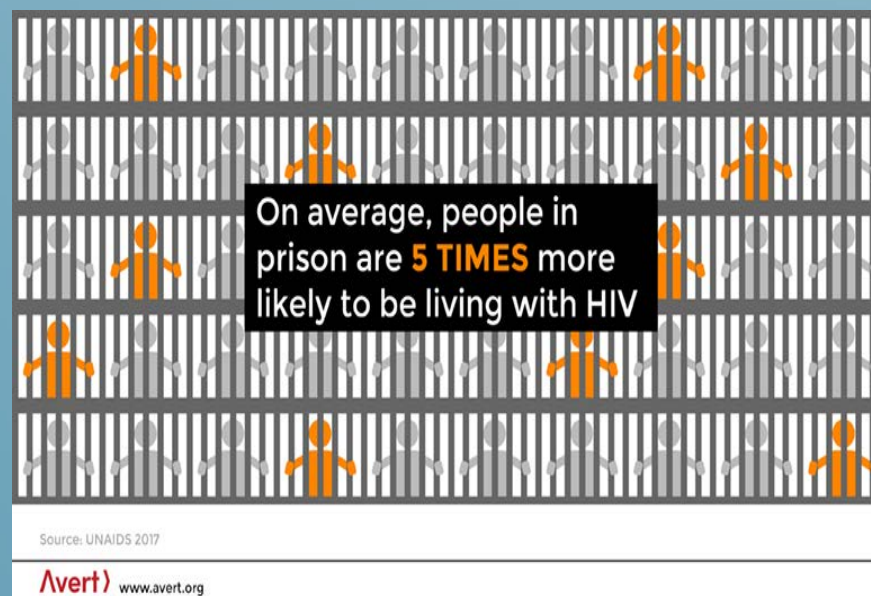


Conclusion

Incarceration increases the risk for poor health. It powers the HIV epidemic. The policies and laws that lead to African Americans being incarcerated have led to the creation and promotion of circumstances that increase the risk of HIV. Receiving medical care doesn't replace the overcrowding and stressful living conditions that prisoners face. This causes the CD4 cells to decrease more than expected compared to an outpatient population. We cannot address the HIV epidemic without addressing incarceration first.

References

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