

AFC in the News

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Conspiracy Views

By: Rev. Doris Green, Director of Community Affairs, AIDS Foundation of Chicago

While remarks about the origins of HIV by Rev. Jeremiah Wright may seem incendiary to many ("Wright stands by his mouthful," Commentary, May 1), they are common in inner-city communities severely affected by the AIDS epidemic.

According to a 2005 study by the RAND Corporation and Oregon State University, nearly half of the 500 African-Americans surveyed said they believe HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is man-made. Approximately 12 percent said they believe the U.S. government created and intentionally spread HIV and 16 percent said they believe HIV was created to "control" the black population.

These beliefs hinder efforts to expand evidence-based HIV prevention and care services among African-Americans and contribute toward low enrollment rates among African-Americans in clinical trials.

Whether one ascribes to these theories or not, the fact remains that African-Americans are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS and in desperate need of robust HIV prevention, care and treatment services.

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