

## **The Correlation Between Lower Socio-Economic Areas and High Rates Of HIV/AIDs**

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## **Proposal**

The topic that is being researched is the relationship between communities of lower socioeconomic standing and the rates of HIV/AIDS in many of those communities. Lower socioeconomic communities are communities with low overall household incomes and individual education levels, which are found throughout the US and are known commonly as “the hood” or “the ghetto”. This is a profound topic as HIV/AIDS is mostly found in communities filled with poverty, which includes settings ranging from urban ghettos to various rural communities. Finding out what causes HIV to be prevalent in communities with lower socio-economic status (SES) can help find solutions that can benefit any group that suffers from HIV and AIDs. A common viewpoint is that HIV and AIDS have high rates in impoverished communities simply due to lack of education, which may not be true as many other environmental and social factors play a role in the spreading of HIV. These factors may affect the lives of residents of lower socio-economic areas by causing unsafe activities or habits. Education may be part of the reason why lower socioeconomic areas commonly have high rates of HIV and AIDS, but this is only one factor in a very complex problem that has many others causes. Through my research, I hope to find other links as to why HIV and AIDS has historically been found in mostly lower socioeconomic areas. I also hope to find other factors and attributes that are linked to HIV in lower socioeconomic communities even though they may not be the cause. These factors may include race, gender, religion, and other factors which all may intertwine with socioeconomic status. In my research, I will use multiple peer-reviewed sources to contribute much needed knowledge and facts and two other credible sources that will add more value and perspective to the topic at hand.

## Annotated Bibliography

*American Psychological Association.* (2022, April 20). HIV/AIDS and socioeconomic status.

<https://www.apa.org>. Retrieved September 25, 2023, from

<https://www.apa.org/pi/ses/resources/publications/hiv-aids#:~:text=SES%20Affects%20HIV%20Infection,et%20al.%2C%202013>).

This article/website informs people about how lower socioeconomic status truly affects the lives of those in impoverished communities and in what exact ways one in a lower SES community may be predisposed to get HIV. The examples presented in this article overcome the simple view that lack of education begets poor decision-making and presents real-world reasons for a high rate of HIV in lower income communities. In my paper, I can use this article's elaborations for high HIV rates in impoverished communities to provide an insight into the communities and how HIV is spread directly. This source comes from the American Psychological Association and was released last year in April giving the source credibility and reliability as a recent publication.

An, Q., Prejean, J., McDavid Harrison, K., & Fang, X. (2013). Association between community socioeconomic position and HIV diagnosis rate among adults and adolescents in the United States, 2005 to 2009. *American Journal of Public Health, 103*(1), 120–126.  
<https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2012.300853>

This source further evaluates the relationship between socioeconomic status and HIV diagnosis rate. The article includes a report on the diagnoses of HIV from 2005 to 2009 that the CDC reported from 37 states. This report is supplemented by county and state residence data, and 2000 US Census Bureau info that are matched to

each individual that received an HIV diagnosis within the 2007-2009 timeframe. In the evaluation of the correlation between HIV and socioeconomic status it showed presented the idea that gender and race/ethnicity are also intertwined in socioeconomic status. The comparison of different race's HIV rates provides a different perspective on the ideal of high HIV rates. This source provides immense quality as it is another peer-reviewed source published by the American Public Health Association.

Cawthorne Gaines, A. (2010, July 21). Poverty is driving an HIV epidemic. *Center for American Progress*. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/poverty-is-driving-an-hiv-epidemic/>

This source once again provides insight into the correlation between HIV and socioeconomic status. It brings up facts like the high cost of anti-retroviral drugs, and the ideal that most inner-city slums have high HIV rates. It also is similar to the source by Dr. Prejean by presenting the idea that socioeconomic status transcends just income by also is intertwined with other parts of identity like race and gender. This idea was supported in this article by the fact that Black men and women have historically had the highest rate of HIV, but this could be partially explained by the fact that Black men and women have also historically been at the bottom of the socioeconomic status ladder.

Menza, T. W., Lipira, L., Bhattarai, A., Leon, V. C., & Orellana, E. R. (2020). Prevalence and correlates of transactional sex among women of low socioeconomic status in Portland, OR. *BMC Women's Health*, 20(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12905-020-01088-1>

This article provides deep insight into a some of the possible indirect and direct causes of

high HIV rates in lower socioeconomic areas. The source is a peer-reviewed journal article that is based on a questionnaire of various women in the Portland, Oregon. The survey included questions and info on if women had performed transactional sex in the past, if they had adverse sexual childhood experiences, if they had various forms of abuse occur to them, if they used drugs in the past 12 months, etc. Lots of these questions relate to each other as certain populations (like those who had adverse childhood experiences) have higher percentages of individuals that performed transactional sex. The study was done at Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) providing credibility as the results come from an academic institution. This study would provide a lot of perspective and data that could help answer the questions sought for in this annotated bibliography.

Pellowski, J. A., Kalichman, S. C., Matthews, K. A., & Adler, N. (2013). A pandemic of the poor: Social disadvantage and the U.S. HIV epidemic. *American Psychologist*, 68(4), 197–209. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0032694>

This article proved and described that people with lower socioeconomic status are often affected by HIV to a higher extent than others. It mentioned facts related to why HIV has such a high rate in lower SES communities. Some examples are because people engage in activities that are commonly associated with general chronic and acute disease that can also increase the risk for HIV. An example is that substance abuse (commonly found in poverty-stricken communities due to high levels of stress, and drugs) can lead to individual less likely to use condoms and more likely to get HIV through needle sticks due to sharing of needles. The article also

provided more insight into the demographics of HIV rates as it also compares the rates in lower socioeconomic areas to areas with higher socioeconomic status. A comparison of rates of chronic disease is made to rates of HIV across socioeconomic boundaries, which provides an alarming perspective on how HIV specifically affects impoverished communities.

Wright, I. A., PhD., Reid, R., M.S., Shahid, N., B.A., Ponce, A., M.P.H., Nelson, C. M., Sanders, J., M.S., Gardner, N., B.S., Liu, J., M.P.H., Simmons, E., B.A., Phillips, A., C.A.C., Pan, Y., PhD., Alcaide, M. L., M.D., Rodriguez, A., M.D., Ironson, Gail, M.D., PhD., Feaster, D. J., PhD., Safren, S. A., PhD., & Dale, S. K., PhD. (2022). Neighborhood Characteristics, Intersectional Discrimination, Mental Health, and HIV Outcomes Among Black Women Living With HIV, Southeastern United States, 2019–2020. *American Journal of Public Health, Supplement 4, 112, S433-S443*.

<https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2021.306675>

The intent of this article is to describe the discrimination that Black woman with HIV have to face and how it burdens them as community. The study presented in this article involved tallying the experiences (microaggressions, discrimination, and HIV-related test results) of 151 Black woman with HIV in a southeastern city. Through these results, we can see how discrimination and activities frequently found in lower socioeconomic areas affect the care and prevention of HIV and associated AIDS (as HIV turns into AIDs once the disease progresses to a high enough extent). This credible source is a peer-reviewed article published by the American Public Health Association and authored by Dr. Ian Wright.

