HIV/AIDS in U.S. Communities of Color
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Preface

From the onset of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, communities of color have been disproportionately affected. Yet with the passage of time, the face of HIV/AIDS in the U.S. has increasingly become that of a racial/ethnic minority. While most chronic diseases disproportionately impact racial/ethnic minorities in the U.S., HIV/AIDS leads the way. The disparities in incidence, prevalence, and death rates in blacks and Latinos are 3–10 times higher than those seen in the U.S. majority population, dwarfing the substantial disparities seen in cancer, cardiac disease, and even diabetes mellitus. Indeed, minorities now contribute to the majority of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the U.S. in terms of numbers of persons living with HIV/AIDS, new diagnoses, and deaths due to HIV/AIDS.

Much has been written about HIV/AIDS, but what has been written about this disease in U.S. minorities has either been focused on only one area such as epidemiology or research challenges, or has been comprehensive but brief. The goal of this book is to provide a comprehensive guide to the HIV/AIDS epidemic among U.S. racial/minorities, including prevention strategies and clinical management of those living with HIV/AIDS. We hope to provide expert perspectives on how to approach the care of diverse minority populations with HIV/AIDS, many of whom may have other life challenges and often several other clinical conditions – ranging from Hepatitis C to depression or pregnancy. The intended audience for this text is broad, including clinical providers of all types, medical trainees, and mental health providers. In addition, we expect that many chapters will be useful to public health professionals and community health leaders and advocates. We hope that this resource will lead to better understanding of the needs of racial/ethnic minorities with HIV/AIDS and ultimately improved HIV care and outcomes in U.S. communities of color.

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