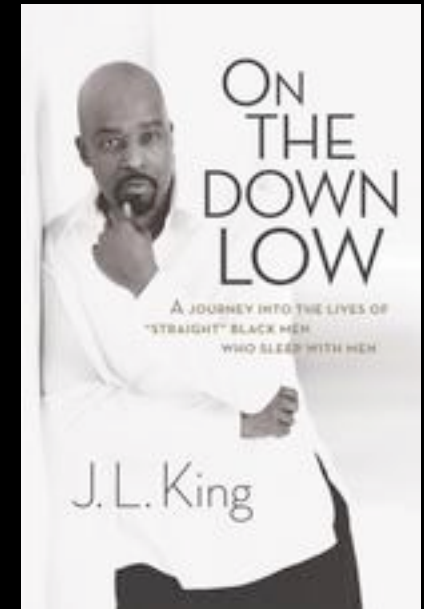


# Men on the DL



...and the effects it may perhaps have on HIV rates

# Who are DL men?

- A term used in the African American community
  - referring to men that have sex with men—but don't identify as gay or bisexual.
  - This is a problem because these men do not believe they are gay
    - Because it is seen to be the stereotypical flamboyant and effeminate men
  - Law and Order : SVU snippet

*Law and Order: SUV Season 5, episode 20*

*April 4, 2004*

## Effects on HIV RATES (among african-americans)

- In 2002, African American PEOPLE accounted for more than half of all new HIV cases in the U.S, though only being 13% of the population.
  - In 2004, The primary mode of HIV transmission among African American men was sexual contact with other men and women is heterosexual contact
  - Black women account for 72% of all the new HIV cases in women.
  - African American women are 23 times more likely to be infected with AIDS than white women and African American men are 9 times more likely.
  - In a recent study of HIV-infected people (5,156 men and 3,139 women), 34% of African American men who have sex with men reported having had sex with women as well.
    - However, their female partners may not know of their bisexual activity: only 6% of African American and Hispanic women and 14% for white women in this study acknowledged having a bisexual partner

## Continued...

- As of June 2005, the CDC officially acknowledged men “on the down low”
  - But was unable to corroborate or contest the allegations of rising HIV rates among women
    - CDC (June 21, 2005) : “The phenomenon of men on the down low has gained much attention in recent years; however, there are no data to confirm or refute publicized accounts of HIV risk behaviors associated with these men. What is clear is that women, men, and children of minority races and ethnicities are disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS and that all persons need to protect themselves and other from getting or transmitting HIV.”

