Reports suggest that sex hormones might contribute to the higher risk of PTSD in women compared to men. HIV-infected and at-risk seronegative women have high rates of PTSD and PTSD symptoms. We evaluated the relationship between menopausal stage and PTSD symptoms in HIV-infected and HIV-uninfected women. We hypothesized that PTSD symptom burden would be greatest during the perimenopausal stage. Participants were 765 HIV-infected and 354 HIV-uninfected women (age 30-65 years; 64% African American) from the Women's Interagency HIV Study, a prospective U.S. study of women with and at risk for HIV. Multivariable regression analyses were used to examine the effects of menopausal stage (premenopausal, early and late perimenopausal, and postmenopausal) on a probable PTSD diagnosis using the PTSD Checklist-Civilian. In adjusted multivariable analyses, with premenopausal women as the reference group, women in the early perimenopause, but not late perimenopause or postmenopause were more likely to have elevated PTSD symptoms. Serostatus did not influence the relationship between menopausal stage and elevated PTSD symptoms. Overall, regardless of HIV serostatus, among a sample of low income, minority women in the U.S., PTSD symptoms are more common during the early perimenopausal stage when women begin to experience changes in menstrual cycles.