

NATIONAL NATIVE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

AMERICAN INDIANS, ALASKA NATIVES, NATIVE HAWAIIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOBILIZING NATIVE COMMUNITIES TO FIGHT HIV AND AIDS

Prevention through Education and Awareness

January 5, 2010 - Fort Collins, Colorado - The National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day committee is honored to announce the launch of the 2010 National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day campaign, March 20th, 2010.

National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a national mobilization effort designed to inform Native communities about the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Native populations (American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians). It was established to encourage our people to become educated, get tested and get involved in HIV prevention at both a local and national level.

History of HIV and AIDS in Native Communities

Historically, Native communities have suffered higher rates of health disparities, including HIV/AIDS. For example, though American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) represent only 1.8 percent of the United States population, in 2007 they ranked as the 3rd highest rate of new HIV infections (14.6 per 100,000 persons).

Recent surveillance data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that Native Hawaiians have climbed the charts in estimated rates of AIDS at a rate of 18.3 per 100,000 in 2007, making this population 3rd, following only African Americans and Hispanics.

It is always important to note that accurate data is often difficult to obtain for all Native populations. Reporting sources are varied due to sovereignty issues as well as misclassification, resulting in no reporting or at best, underreporting, therefore it's likely that the actual numbers are higher than current estimations.

Resources for Communities

To address the impact of HIV/AIDS in Native communities, a collaborative effort has been made by CDC funded CBA agencies across the nation, in which capacity building services are provided free to requesting Native communities and organizations serving Native populations. CA7AE: HIV/AIDS Prevention Project, Colorado State University, focuses on strengthening community access to and utilization of HIV prevention services through support of local mobilization efforts.

For more information about our services or to request awareness day products such as posters, buttons, and "save the date" cards, please visit the following web site, www.happ.colostate.edu.

National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is funded and supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration through the Minority AIDS Initiative.

To find an HIV testing site near you visit www.hivtest.org or to learn more about other HIV/AIDS awareness days, please visit www.AIDS.gov.

*Statistics are based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2007. Vol. 19. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2009: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/>.

** Statistics are based on United States Census Bureau New, Fact for Features, November 2009'

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