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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Events on Feb. 7

Of the 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S., more than 500,000 are African American. For more than a decade, **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day** has been an opportunity for people to *get educated, tested, involved and treated*.

The Pinellas County Health Department is working with several community partners—Youth Education Services, AIDS Service Association of Pinellas, Metro Wellness & Community Centers and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.—to protect the community from HIV/AIDS.

Education and prevention workshops (*Let's Talk About Sex, Love and HIV*) for youth 13 and older and for adults and parents will be presented from 6-8 PM on Monday, Feb. 7 at All Children's Education & Conference Center, 701 4<sup>th</sup> St. S., St. Petersburg. To register, go to <http://letstalkabout.eventbrite.com>.

The program will include free HIV testing, raffles, free food, gifts and prizes. A combined forum with health-care providers who will answer questions about HIV and its impact on the black community will follow. For information about National Black HIV/AIDS Day, go to <http://blackaidsday.org>.

From 9 AM-3 PM on Feb. 7, the Pinellas County Health Department will offer free HIV testing at its five centers:

- St. Petersburg: 205 Dr. ML King Jr. St. N. (727) 824-6900
- Largo: 12420 130<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. (727) 588-4040
- Pinellas Park: 6350 76<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. (727) 547-7780
- Clearwater: 310 Myrtle Ave. (727) 469-5800
- Tarpon Springs: 301 S. Disston Ave. (727) 942-5457

For information about the Pinellas County Health Department, go to [www.pinellashealth.com](http://www.pinellashealth.com) or call (727) 824-6900.

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(Fact sheet follows)



## National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day FACT SHEET

### It takes a village to fight HIV/AIDS!

#### Did you know? ...

When we look at HIV/AIDS by race and ethnicity, Blacks have **more illness** (*Blacks represent only 12% of the U.S. population, they account for 45% of new HIV infections and 46% of people living with HIV disease in 2006*); and **more deaths** (*Blacks accounted for 57% of deaths due to HIV in 2007 and the survival time after an AIDS diagnosis is lower on average than it is for most other racial/ethnic groups*). Blacks also account for almost half of new AIDS diagnoses (**48%**) in 2008.

The AIDS diagnosis rate per 100,000 among Black adults/adolescents was **9 times** that of whites in 2008. The AIDS diagnosis rate for Black men (**85.5**) was the highest of any group, followed by Black women (**39.9**). By comparison, the rate among white men was 10. The rate of new infections is also highest among Blacks and was **7 times** greater than the rate among whites in 2006.

Among the U.S. population overall, Blacks are more likely than whites to report having been tested for HIV in the last 12 months (*40% compared to 14%*).

Among those who are HIV positive, CDC data indicate that **33%** of Blacks were tested for HIV late in their illness—that is, diagnosed with AIDS within one year of testing positive for HIV (*in those states/areas with HIV name reporting*); by comparison, 30% of whites and 36% of Latinos were tested late.

In 2008, an estimated **18,328** Blacks received an AIDS diagnosis, a number that has remained relatively stable since 2005.

By the end of 2007, an estimated **233,624** Blacks with a diagnosis of AIDS had died in the US and 5 dependent areas.

In 2006, Black men had the highest HIV death rates per 100,000 men ages 25–34 and 35–44; the HIV death rates among Black women in the same age groups were also the highest among women.

HIV was the **4<sup>th</sup>** leading cause of death for Black men and **3<sup>rd</sup>** for Black women, ages 25–44, in 2006, ranking higher than for their respective counterparts in any other racial/ethnic group.

The number of new HIV infections per year among Blacks is down from its peak in the late 1980s, but has exceeded the number of infections among whites since that time; new infections have remained stable in recent years.

A recent analysis of 1999–2006 data from a national household survey found that 2% of Blacks in the U.S. (*among those ages 18–49*) were HIV positive, significantly higher than whites (**0.23%**). Also, the prevalence of HIV was higher among Black men (**2.64%**) than Black women (**1.49%**).

At some point in their lifetimes, **1 in 16** Black men will be diagnosed with HIV infection, as will **1 in 30** Black women.

From 2005–2008, the rate of HIV diagnoses among Blacks increased from 68 per 100,000 persons to 74 per 100,000. This increase reflects the largest increase in rates of HIV diagnoses by race or ethnicity.

Of all Black men living with HIV/AIDS, the primary transmission category was sexual contact with other men, followed by injection drug use and high risk heterosexual contact.

Of all Black women living with HIV/AIDS, the primary transmission category was high risk heterosexual contact, followed by injection drug use.

Of the estimated 141 infants perinatally infected with HIV, 91 (65%) were Black (*CDC, HIV/AIDS Reporting System, unpublished data, December 2006*).

There are approximately 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S, including more than 500,000 who are Black.

**If you didn't know, now you do!**

**National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day:  
Get educated! Get tested! Get involved! Get treated!**

For more information, go to [www.blackaidsday.org](http://www.blackaidsday.org).