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The Long Island Association for AIDS Care celebrates National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

May 19, 2015 is National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, an annual observance with the purpose of educating Asian and Pacific Islander communities about the threat HIV/AIDS poses to them and its devastating effects on their communities. It also serves as an opportunity to end HIV stigma through learning, sharing stories and ending the silence.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, despite growth of the Asian population in the United States, the number of HIV diagnoses among Asians has remained stable and the rate of new infections has decreased. New York State Department of Health data shows that there were only 2 new HIV infections in 2012 from the Asian and Pacific Islander population on Long Island. Although the rate of infection is lower than other racial/ethnic communities, the U.S. Asian population should still get regularly tested for HIV. Currently, only about four out of ten Asians have ever been tested for HIV. The fact that more than one-third of Asians develop AIDS within a relatively short time after being diagnosed indicates that Asians may not be receiving adequate care and treatment in time to prevent them from developing AIDS.

In recognition of National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the Long Island Association for AIDS Care will provide testing and education services across Long Island. Check LIAAC's official Facebook events page for more details. For more information on National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and for a comprehensive list of testing locations, visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/LIAAC.inc>, our website at www.liaac.org or call our toll free hotline at 1-877-TO-LIAAC.

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