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The Long Island Association for AIDS Care celebrates National Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

June 8, 2015 is Caribbean-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, an annual observance that was created to provide Caribbean-Americans with resources, HIV/AIDS health education, evaluation, and opportunities for involvement. The goal is to beat the odds and to ensure that we cultivate a health conscious atmosphere within our communities. This day is a part of a national effort to get Caribbean-Americans to get educated, get evaluated, get treated and get involved with their health decisions, as HIV/AIDS, diabetes, cancer, high blood pressure and cardiovascular diseases continues to negatively affect the Caribbean communities resulting in premature deaths.

In the U.S., Caribbean-Americans and Caribbean immigrants are often included under the umbrella group of African-Americans, which are the most disproportionately impacted racial/ethnic group in the country according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The New York State HIV/AIDS Surveillance Annual Report for 2014 shows that health disparities related to race continue to exist in New York. The rates of new HIV diagnoses among Blacks are 7.4 times higher than the rate for Whites, with the prevalence rate being 8.2 times higher. These higher numbers can be linked to prevention challenges, which include: the lack of awareness of HIV status, socioeconomic issues associated with poverty and negative perceptions about HIV testing.

In recognition of Caribbean American 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 Caribbean American 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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