



Press Release

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NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY OBSERVED, June 27, 2012

In recognition of National HIV Testing Day, the Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. will be launching a week-long HIV/AIDS education and rapid testing initiative. Starting Monday, June 25 through Friday, June 29, our professional staff will be conducting outreach, education interventions and offering free and confidential HIV rapid testing in communities across Long Island.

June 27, 2012 marks the 17th annual observance of National HIV Testing Day (NHTD). The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) developed NHTD in response to the growing number of HIV infections in communities of color and other heavily impacted communities. With the slogan, "Take the Test and Take Control," National HIV Testing Day's goal is to raise HIV/AIDS awareness in at-risk communities by promoting early diagnosis through HIV testing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that more than 200,000 individuals (one in five Americans living with HIV) are unaware of their HIV infection. Early diagnosis and treatment are keys to helping HIV-infected individuals live longer, healthier lives and preventing HIV transmission to others.

Did you know? (CDC HIV/AIDS Facts June 2012)

- CDC estimates 1.2 million people in the United States (U.S.) are living with HIV infection.
- In 2010, an estimated 47,129 people were diagnosed with HIV infection in the 46 states with confidential name-based HIV reporting. New infections continue to rise with approximately 50,000 Americans being infected with HIV each year.
- One in five Americans (20%) are unaware of their infection.
- Blacks continue to experience the most severe burden of HIV, compared to other races and ethnicities and represent approximately 14% of the U.S. population, but accounted for an estimated 44% of new HIV infections in 2009. Blacks accounted for 46% of people living with HIV infection in 2008.
- The rate of new infection for Black women is nearly 15 times as high as that of white women, and nearly 3 times that of Hispanic women.
- In 2009, Latinos accounted for 20% of new HIV infections in the United States while representing approximately 16% of the total U. S. population.
- The rate of new infections among Hispanic/Latina women is more than four times that of White women (11.8/100,000 vs. 2.6/100,000).
- Among persons initially diagnosed with HIV infection during 2009, one-third (32%) received an AIDS diagnosis within 12 months.

For more information on LIAAC's National HIV Testing Day education and testing initiative and a complete list of testing locations and times, please visit us on Facebook, our website at www.liaac.org or call our **toll free number at 1-866-236-3448**.

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