



PRESS RELEASE

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Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc.

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NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY OBSERVED JUNE 27, 2008

Long Island Association for AIDS Care (LIAAC) launches week-long education and HIV testing initiative

June 27, 2008 marks the 13th annual observance of **National HIV Testing Day**. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 1.1 million people in the United States are living with HIV/AIDS- and **25% of them are unaware of their status** (National Association for People With AIDS 2008). National HIV Testing Day focuses on raising HIV/AIDS awareness in at-risk communities and promoting early diagnosis and HIV testing.

Did You Know? (CDC 2008)

- Three quarters of the 2006 HIV/AIDS diagnosis among adolescents and adults were males.
- Data from the 2005 census show that together, black and Hispanic women represent 24% of all US women. However, women in these two groups accounted for 82% of the estimated total of AIDS diagnoses for women in 2005.
- Women with AIDS made up an increasing part of the epidemic. In 1992, women accounted for an estimated 14% of adults and adolescents living with AIDS in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. By the end of 2005, this proportion had grown to 23%.
- In 2006, the largest estimated proportion of HIV/AIDS diagnoses among adults and adolescents was for men who have sex with men (MSM), followed by persons infected through high-risk heterosexual contact.
- Although blacks made up only 13% of the population, they accounted for almost half of the estimated number of HIV/AIDS diagnosis in 2006.
- In 2006, persons aged 25-44 accounted for the largest proportions of newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases.
- Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk Counties) has the highest suburban HIV/AIDS infection in the country and more AIDS cases than 26 states. (Suffolk County Government-HIV Commission 2007)

In recognition of National HIV Testing Day, the **Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. (LIAAC)** will be launching a week-long HIV/AIDS education and testing initiative. Starting **Sunday, June 22 through Saturday, June 28**, our professional staff will be conducting **education interventions and offering free and confidential HIV rapid testing in communities all across Long Island-from Elmont to Riverhead.**

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

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