

NATIONAL NATIVE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

Activity sheet about HIV/AIDS among American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians

March 20, 2008 ...A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

In Native cultures, the cycle and celebration of life are defined by the change in the seasons, and ceremonies are held to recognize the passing of one season and the beginning of another. Each of the four seasons has special meaning, yet spring in particular represents a time for new beginnings. As March 20th marks the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, Native community stakeholders from around the nation have selected this day to commemorate the annual National Native (American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian) HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

What can you do to recognize the National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day?

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- Hold an education session in a local community center or school. Talk as openly and honestly as possible about HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, but be sensitive to the people who are present.
- Hold a town hall meeting to discuss what the community needs to know about its own HIV risks.
- Have a luncheon to talk with elders about HIV and other issues affecting the health and well-being of your community - asking for their guidance, ideas, and support.

EDUCATE YOURSELF

- Get tested for HIV! It's important to know your status to protect yourself and others. To locate a testing site near you go to: www.hivtest.org or talk with your health care provider.
- Learn more about HIV/AIDS and its impact on your community. Talk privately with your doctor about HIV.
- Protect yourself against HIV infection. Know the risks associated with sex and drug use. Contact your local AIDS service organization, state and/or local health department and tribal health department for safer sex materials.



- HIV continues to increase among Native people as it has over the past decade, in fact, American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have the **third highest** rate per 100,000 (above Whites) of **AIDS** diagnoses, despite having the smallest population.
- The **HIV/AIDS** Awareness Day will challenge Native people to create a greater awareness of the risk of **HIV/AIDS** to our communities; to reflect on those who have passed, and those who are infected and affected by **HIV/AIDS**; to call for increased resources for testing and early detection; and to seek support for increasing our treatment and care options.

NATIONAL NATIVE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

Activity sheet about HIV/AIDS among American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians

IN YOUR TRIBE OR URBAN NATIVE COMMUNITY

- Call for a Tribal proclamation to commemorate National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Acknowledge "Resolution # SAC-06-002" that passed through the National Congress of American Indians 2006 Annual Session in Sacramento, California.
- Call for Tribal recognition that prevention and care of HIV/STIs/HCV are a priority in the community.
- Meet with local AIDS service organizations to learn more about how HIV affects your community; partner with these organizations to hold an awareness raising event that is Native specific.



HELP AND TEACH OTHERS

- Organize a meeting with friends, neighbors, or other concerned community members to discuss health issues related to HIV/AIDS in your community - together, people can make things happen!
- Volunteer at a local HIV/AIDS organization.
- Post fact sheets about HIV/AIDS on bulletin boards and in local newsletters.

BE A FRIEND AND LEADER

- Help someone living with HIV/AIDS by being a friend.
- Talk to your spiritual leaders to gain their support for HIV/AIDS prevention and get them to consider talking about HIV to the community in order to stop the stigma associated with this disease.



How can you get help to organize an Awareness Day activity?

Contact any of the three partners listed below for help with brainstorming and organizing events for the second annual Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on March 20, 2008. Materials can either be downloaded from the websites listed or provided to you by calling the phone numbers.

1. Colorado State University's **Center for Applied Studies in American Ethnicity (CASAE)**: Call (800) 642 - 0273 or visit our website at www.happ.colostate.edu
2. The **Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA)**: Call (602) 258 - ITCA or visit our website at www.itcaonline.com
3. The **National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC)**: Call (720) 382 - 2244 or visit our website at www.nnaapc.org

Created by CASAE, ITCA, and NNAAPC, with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.