



FAITH COMMUNITIES

OF COLOR

RESPOND TO HIV/AIDS

People of color are acquiring HIV and AIDS at an ever-increasing and alarming rate in the U.S.

- More African Americans are reported to have AIDS than any other racial or ethnic group.
- Hispanics represent 13% of the U.S. population, but account for 18% of the total number of new U.S. AIDS cases reported.
- AIDS incidence among Asian/Pacific Islanders and American Indian/Alaska Natives has been increasing.¹

Faith organizations within communities of color can play an important role in providing a foundation of hope, strength and unity in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Ways YOU can help ...

- Preach abstinence, teach prevention. HIV transmission is 100% preventable through abstinence. For sexually active people, the risk of acquiring HIV can be greatly diminished through proper prevention methods.
- Promote self-esteem and self-love to help prevent self-destructive behaviors that put people in risky situations for contracting HIV.
- Provide social and spiritual support to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Direct members of your church or faith community to places where they can be tested for HIV infection and get yourself tested to lead by example.
- Plan a faith conference, town hall meeting or workshop about the impact of HIV/AIDS in your community.
- Plan a prayer vigil to remember those who have died from AIDS and for those still fighting HIV.
- Visit people with HIV/AIDS in the hospital, in nursing homes, or at home.
- Organize a local rally or community event for annual national HIV/AIDS observances such as National HIV Testing Day on June 27th or World AIDS Day on December 1st.
- Educate to fight stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS. HIV is not transmitted through casual day-to-day contact in the workplace, schools, or social settings. HIV is not transmitted through shaking hands, hugging, or a casual kiss. You cannot become infected from a toilet seat, a drinking fountain, a door knob, dishes, drinking glasses, food, or pets.

To learn more, contact
**CDC National STD and AIDS
 Hotline: 1-800-342-AIDS (2437);
 In Spanish 1-800-344-SIDA (7432);
 TTY- 1-800-243-7889;
 Web site: www.cdc.gov/hiv
 and The Department of
 Health and Human Services'
 Center for Faith-Based and
 Community Initiatives Web
 site: www.hhs.gov/fbci**



¹ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report 2001*, Vol. 13 (No. 2).