



NATIONAL HIV AWARENESS MONTH

THE SOLUTION IS ALL OF U.S.

July 2012 has been established as National HIV Awareness Month (NHAM) to elevate the national discourse on the domestic HIV epidemic. NHAM will create broad-scale public awareness of the domestic impact of HIV, work to combat HIV stigma and discrimination, and engage new stakeholders in the fight against the disease—with the ultimate vision of ending the epidemic.

Since the explosion of the global AIDS pandemic, Americans have come to view HIV as a problem that primarily affects the developing world. NHAM will serve as a platform to re-engage civil society, the private sector, federal agencies, and community organizations here in the United States around our own HIV epidemic. Together, these organizations have the potential to reach a broad swath of Americans who remain untouched by current HIV education efforts.

July 2012 marks the first time the International AIDS Conference will take place in the United States in more than 20 years. It will also be the second anniversary of the release by President Obama of the United States' first National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS). The NHAS provides a framework upon which the nation can realize the bold vision that *"the United States will become a place where new HIV infections are rare and when they do occur, every person, regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic circumstance, will have unfettered access to high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination."*

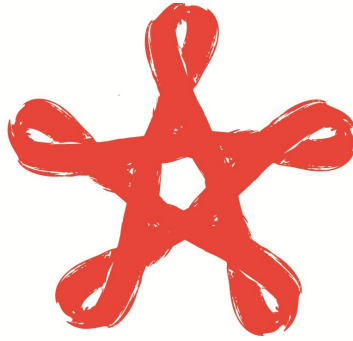
NHAM Participants

Organizations participating in NHAM represent varied constituencies, demonstrating that everyone has a role to play in the fight against HIV.

Current participants include:

- AIDS United
- amfAR (The Foundation for AIDS Research)
- Black AIDS Institute
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Discovery Chicago
- HealthHIV
- Kaiser Permanente
- Kenneth Cole
- Latino Commission on AIDS
- Magic Johnson Foundation
- National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA)
- National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC)
- The Newark Bears
- Orasure
- POZ
- The U.S. Positive Women's Network
- The Well Project

...among many others.



Every year, approximately 50,000 Americans are newly infected with HIV; this rate of infection has remained largely unchanged, despite the numerous prevention and education efforts that have taken place in the 30 years since AIDS first emerged as a public health crisis. HIV is an almost entirely preventable disease that needlessly devastates families and communities because so many Americans are unaware of their HIV status, or are unable to access appropriate treatment and care due to a wide range of societal and structural barriers, including poverty and stigma.

Organizations participating in National HIV Awareness Month are issuing a challenge to civil society and the private sector to create and invest in new and innovative awareness, testing, and public engagement initiatives focused on addressing the domestic HIV crisis and fostering a compassionate response over the course of the month.

To learn more about NHAM and its current members—or to join these groups in supporting NHAM—please visit www.nationalhivawarenessmonth.org.

About HIV in the United States

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are more than 1.2 million people living with HIV in the United States and every year approximately 50,000 people are newly infected. African Americans remain disproportionately affected by HIV – while they represent approximately 14 percent of the total U.S. population, they account for approximately 44 percent of new HIV infections.

While there have been significant treatment advances in the 30 years since the first cases emerged, HIV is still a significant cause of death in some U.S. populations. In fact, HIV is the third leading cause of death for African Americans aged 35-44 years and the fourth leading cause of death for Latina women in this same age group, according to the most recent statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.