

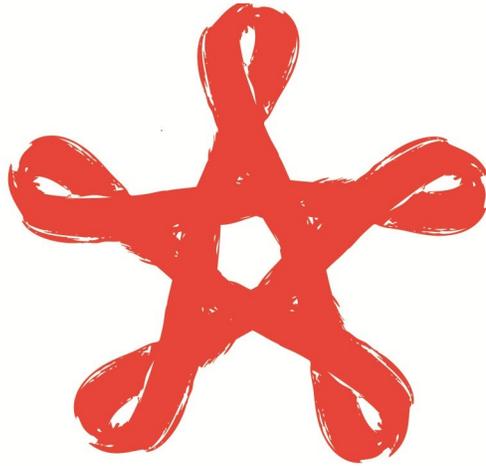


# NATIONAL HIV AWARENESS MONTH

THE SOLUTION IS ALL OF U.S.

## National HIV Awareness Month Talking Points

- The first National HIV Awareness Month promises to re-ignite focus on the domestic HIV epidemic.
- HIV is an almost entirely preventable disease that needlessly devastates families and communities in every corner of the United States. There are more than 1.2 million people living with HIV in the U.S. and every year approximately 50,000 people are newly infected.
- Since the explosion of the global AIDS pandemic, Americans have come to view HIV as a problem that primarily affects the developing world and most are completely unaware of the devastating impact of HIV here at home.
- While there have been significant advances in treatment in the 30 years since the first cases emerged, HIV is still a significant cause of death in some U.S. populations.
- African Americans remain disproportionately affected by HIV. They represent 14 percent of the total U.S. population, but account for 44 percent of new HIV infections.
- HIV infection 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.
- Men who have sex with men (MSM), particularly young, African-American MSM, are most severely affected by HIV. MSM make up only 2 percent of the total U.S. population, but account for 61 percent of all new HIV infections, according to statistics from the CDC.
- Even though HIV is almost entirely preventable, it continues to spread because too many Americans are simply 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.



- Ultimately, we need to invest in new and innovative education testing and treatment programs to combat HIV stigma and discrimination with the ultimate vision of ending the epidemic.
- We share the vision of the federal government’s first National HIV/AIDS Strategy: 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.”

### **Pre-approved Boilerplate: (for media releases)**

#### About National HIV Awareness Month

July 2012 has been established as National HIV Awareness Month (NHAM) to elevate the national discourse on the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic. NHAM will create broad-scale public awareness of the domestic impact of HIV/AIDS, work to combat HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination, and engage new stakeholders in the fight against the disease—with the ultimate vision of ending the epidemic. To learn more about NHAM and its current members—or to join these groups in supporting NHAM—please visit [www.nationalhivawarenessmonth.org](http://www.nationalhivawarenessmonth.org).

All data retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/basic.htm>