

Black AIDS Awareness Campaign (BAAC) - 2010 Talking Points

What has been the past impact of BAAC?

Last year, BAAC reached well over 1500 individuals. Events and activities included: state and city proclamations, art competitions, HIV/STD screening/testing, media campaigns, and distribution of education and risk reduction materials.

517 HIV tests were performed in conjunction with sponsored events. 90% of those tested received their results. 294 calls were made to the HIV/AIDS Hotline, with 103 of the callers being African American.

BAAC continues to offer Michigan the opportunity to increase awareness of the grave impact HIV/AIDS has on the African American community.

Why is BAAC important?

Because Black life is worth saving. Even though blacks (including African Americans) account for about 13% of the US population, they account for about half (49%) of the people who get HIV and AIDS (<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/aa/index.htm>).

In Michigan, Blacks account for 14% of the populations but 59% of all HIV/AIDS cases. The rate of HIV infection among Black persons is nine times higher than the rate of white persons (http://michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Oct_2009_298165_7.pdf, p. 4).

The reasons are not directly related to race or ethnicity, but rather to some of the barriers faced by many Black Americans. These barriers can include poverty (being poor), sexually transmitted diseases, internalized homophobia, and stigma.

How is HIV impacting Southeastern Michigan, especially Detroit?

HIV is distributed disproportionately in Michigan, the Detroit metro area has 65% of those living with HIV (9,219 of the 14,187 cases reported statewide), but only 44% of the states population. The rest of the state has fewer cases compared with the general population distribution (http://michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Oct_2009_298165_7.pdf, p. 9).

Which groups are hardest hit in Michigan?

It isn't so much a matter of groups as it is behaviors. With that said, men who have sex with men (MSM), including MSM who inject drugs, make up 52% of all reported cases of HIV/AIDS (http://michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Oct_2009_298165_7.pdf, page 3). Black males account for 46% of MSM cases (http://michigan.gov/documents/mdch/2008_HIV_Epi_Profile_251292_7.pdf, p. 3-36). Black males make up the largest number of estimated cases at 7,330 and have the highest rate per 100,000 (866) (ibid., p. 3-17). The fastest growing population of HIV-infected persons are young black males (ibid., p. 3-49).

From 2003 to 2007 there has been an increase in new cases among youth aged 13-24 (http://michigan.gov/documents/mdch/MIRreport09_Final_286966_7.pdf, p. 2). Those in this age group are much more likely to be Black men who have sex with men, compared to adults 25 years and older (ibid., p. 3).

Black females have the second highest rate (314 per 100,000) and the third highest estimated number of cases (2,960) (ibid., p. 3-17).

Heterosexuals cases make up 17% of the total number of reported cases (2,444 out of 14,341 cases) (http://michigan.gov/documents/mdch/2008_HIV_Epi_Profile_251292_7.pdf, p. 3-14). Most heterosexual cases of HIV/AIDS are among Black persons, 70% of both females and male (ibid., p. 3-40).

There was no increase from 2002-2006 in Michigan in those 50+ in age. However, nationally, there has been an increase in recent years (<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/over50/resources/factsheets/over50.htm>).

At the same time, in the Detroit Metro area, those 60+ in age were among the populations in which the rate of new HIV diagnoses increased (http://michigan.gov/documents/mdch/2008_HIV_Epi_Profile_251292_7.pdf, p. 4-31).