



National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network  
Celebrates National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

March 10, 2009 : The National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN) urges every Black woman and adolescent girl know your status and get tested. HIV/AIDS among women and girls is not just an international problem - HIV/AIDS is right here at home.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) most recent estimates, close to 280,000 women are living with HIV/AIDS in the United States. Women of color are particularly affected. Black women accounted for two thirds (65% of new AIDS cases among women in 2007; Latinos 17%; White women 17%). Black women also accounted for (61%) of new HIV infections among women in 2006.

“There are many *dis-eases*, like HIV/AIDS and other health disparities that greatly impact our communities” said Reverend Debra Hickman, Treasure of NBWHAN. “To paraphrase an admired poet Nikki Giovanni, we share happiness with those whom we call friend, engage those who are visionary and remove from our lives those who offer us depression, despair, and disrespect. We must remove this *dis-ease* from our communities.”

NBWHAN continues to call upon the new Administration to take immediate action on the policy recommendations submitted by NBWHAN on behalf of Black women, adolescent girls, and their families living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

**About the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN)**

The NBWHAN has been successful in working with many advocacy groups as well as local and national organizations to garner support for women's issues in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Founded in 2007 the NBWHAN has worked to influence the development of research initiatives and resources that will have a positive impact on program development and design for women and produce scientific based evidence of success. The NBWHAN is a community led initiative born out of the urgent need for Black women to set and implement a national HIV/AIDS agenda for Black women and adolescent girls in the areas of prevention, care, treatment, public policy and funding for all Black women and adolescent girls living with or at risk of HIV and AIDS and their families.

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References:

CDC. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report. Vol. 19; 2008  
Calculations based only on cases for which race/ethnicity data were provided  
CDC.MMWR.Vol. 57, No. 36;2008.