



National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network
Statement on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's
Estimated HIV Incidence in the United States, 2006-2009

August 5, 2011: On August 3, 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new HIV surveillance data which shows that while the overall number of new HIV infections has remained fairly stable from 2006–2009, there continues to be an increase of new infections among Black gay men, followed closely by Black women. Particularly alarming are the new infections among Black gay men ages 13-29 which increased 48 percent between 2006 and 2009.

“These numbers represent all of us: our sisters and brothers, sons and daughters, aunts and uncles, nephews and nieces, mothers and fathers and our elders. Unless we begin to fully embrace the magnitude this disease has on our community we will surely lose this fight”, said Barbara Joseph, Chair of the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network.

The AIDS epidemic today presents a much different challenge than the one faced at its initial appearance 30 years ago, in 1981. According to the CDC, 44 percent of all HIV infections occurred among African-Americans in 2009. In addition, the number of new infections among Black gay men was (10,800) and the number of new infections among Black women was (5,400). This data continues to tell the sad tale of a public health response that is faltering in its ability to significantly reduce the incidence of HIV infection among all segments of the Black population.

In light of the recently released CDC data, the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network stands in solidarity with our brothers of the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition and joins them in their call for:

- The CDC to immediately increase the funding that it anticipates awarding in the next month to organizations providing services to young MSM and transgender of color from \$9 million to \$14 million.
- The CDC and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to jointly create an investment fund to strengthen the capacity of indigenous black gay organizations to provide HIV testing, prevention and treatment education and linkage to care services.
- The HRSA and the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services to require all physicians at publicly funded institutions or receiving public reimbursement for the delivery of health care services in high prevalence areas to undergo continuing medical education and certification in HIV testing and treatment.

- The White House Office of National AIDS Policy to convene a high-level consultation on young black gay men and HIV with the full participation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) coordinating agencies.
- The White House to reconvene it's meeting on HIV and Black Men, to include Black Women, and to develop a specific strategy on ending the health disparity of HIV among African Americans.

In addition, the NBWHAN calls on the NHAS coordinating agencies and state health departments to include within their NHAS implementation plans the inclusion of community driven strategies that addresses each segment of the Black population disproportionately impacted by this disease. "No one can be left out of the development of these plans, not even Black people living with HIV/AIDS. The disproportionate impact of this epidemic on the Black community is jeopardizing the overall health and longevity of millions of Black Americans", said Vanessa Johnson, NBWHAN Board member.

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: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0017502>
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