

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN AIDS PREVENTION CENTER

720 S. Colorado Blvd, Suite 650-S
Denver, CO 80246



Phone (720) 382-2244
Fax (720) 382-2248

www.nnaapc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Warren Jimenez, (720) 382-2244

Revised HIV/AIDS Statistics Support the Need for Increased Prevention Efforts in the Native Community

Report highlights the need for immediate action against HIV/AIDS in the Native Community

August 6, 2008 - Denver, CO - American Indians and Alaska Natives are among those most affected by HIV/AIDS, according to updated statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC's latest estimates put American Indians and Alaska Natives third in HIV/AIDS rates after Blacks and Hispanics.

The new estimates also note that the total number of HIV/AIDS infections in the United States is higher than previously believed, with an estimated 56,300 infections occurring in 2006 as opposed to the previous estimate of 40,000 infections.

Though the overall numbers likely reflect a previous error in HIV/AIDS estimates rather than an actual increase in cases, the news continues to reflect an urgent need for prevention efforts among the Native population.

According to the CDC's statistics, the rate of HIV/AIDS for American Indians and Alaska Natives was 10.4 for every 100,000 people, compared to 71.3 for blacks, 27.8 for Hispanics, 8.8 for whites and 7.4 for Asians and Pacific Islanders.

In addition, the new statistics show that Natives survive for a shorter amount of time after an AIDS diagnosis than Whites, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

"The CDC's new HIV/AIDS statistics should serve to remind us of the importance of prevention efforts in the Native community," said Warren Jimenez, Executive Director of the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center. "Now is the time to act to help reduce the impact of this disease in our community and help keep it from reaching the epidemic levels seen in some other ethnic groups."

NNAAPC has a variety of resources available to help support prevention efforts among Natives. For more information on these programs, visit www.nnaapc.org or call 720.382.2244.

More information on HIV/AIDS in Natives can be found at the NNAAPC website, <http://www.nnaapc.org/resources/fact-sheets.htm>.

About NNAAPC

The National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC), located in Denver, CO, is a non-profit organization founded in 1987 to address the impact of HIV/AIDS on American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians through culturally appropriate advocacy, research, education, and policy development in support of healthy Indigenous people. NNAAPC provides capacity building assistance to tribal and urban health organizations and communities, community-based organizations serving Native people, and agencies that administer federal HIV/AIDS policy. Over the last 20

years, NNAAPC has conducted work in community mobilization, training and technical assistance in HIV/AIDS prevention, intervention and case management, communications and media development, outreach and recruitment, developing technologies with HIV applications, and forging a policy agenda that ensures the inclusion of Native people. NNAAPC is the only national HIV/AIDS-specific Native organization in the United States.

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