

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN AIDS PREVENTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NNAAPC Recognizes 4th Annual National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

May 19, 2008 - Denver, CO - The National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC) recognizes today as the 4th Annual National Asian & Pacific Islander (A&PI) HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

This day is to raise awareness of the impact that HIV/AIDS has on the Asian & Pacific Islander communities. According to the CDC, the number of A&PIs living with AIDS has climbed by more than 10 percent in each of the last 5 years. Eighty percent of A&PI women living with HIV/AIDS in 2005 were infected through heterosexual contact and sixty-seven percent of A&PI men living with HIV/AIDS in 2005 are men who have had sex with other men. These alarming statistics illustrate the need to build greater awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS on A&PI communities, to support those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, and to advocate for increased HIV testing, culturally relevant HIV prevention interventions, and access to treatment and care.

“With HIV/AIDS on the rise in many of our communities, it is my hope that all of our communities and our allies will come together to support each other in continuing the fight against HIV/AIDS,” said Warren Jimenez (Chumash, Coastal Band), Executive Director of NNAAPC.

For more information and resources visit:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HIV/AIDS Awareness Days
<http://www.hhs.gov/aidsawarenessdays/days/asian/index.html>

The Banyan Tree Project
http://www.banyantreeproject.org/hivaids_awareness.html

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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