



Tips to Help Churches Observe World AIDS Day

Globally, there are 37.2 million adults and 2.3 million children under 15 living with HIV. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 24.7 million adults and children are living with HIV.¹ The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization state that from 2004 to 2006, the number of people living with HIV increased in every region of the world. They noted the highest increases occurred in East Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.² According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, AIDS is the leading cause of death for Black Women, including (African American) aged 25-34 years.³

World AIDS Day is one of the most successful observances to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, and is now recognized by a diverse range of constituents every year. This campaign can be used as a model in the faith community to strengthen the network of church outreach. Following is a list of activities your church should consider to help educate your congregation and slow the spread of HIV/AIDS in Black communities across this great nation.

1. Prepare a compassionate sermon about HIV/AIDS or choose one from the *Healing Begins Here: A Pastor's Guidebook for HIV/AIDS Ministry Through the Church*. (<http://healingbeginshere.org>)
2. Print this or a similar message in your church's bulletin: *The CME College of Bishops and the President of the Women's Missionary Council are challenging members to be "1 in a Million" to test for HIV. There are hundreds of free and low cost HIV testing facilities across the country. Visit www.hivtest.org and type in your zip code for a confidential center near you. You may also call 1-800-458-5231 to speak with a Health Information Specialist about HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD or TB prevention. Have the message come from your Episcopal Health Coordinator or regional missionary president.*
3. Collaborate with other denominations and the local health department in your area to host an HIV testing fair on or near World AIDS Day, December 1. Be sure to schedule with your local health department weeks in advance.
4. Have the youth and young adults make red ribbons to hand out on the Sunday before or after World AIDS Day. While making the ribbons, have a discussion about how the consequences of risky behavior can lead to HIV infection. Invite a local health counselor that you have screened in advance to facilitate in the discussion.
5. Plan a gospel concert and set-up health resource tables with materials to handout that you have had a chance to review in advance. Deliver HIV/AIDS awareness messages throughout the concert.
6. Hold prayer vigils and healing services for those infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS.
7. Distribute copies of the Christian Index showing the College of Bishops and the Missionary Council President taking a public HIV test during the convocation.

¹ http://www.unaids.org/wad2007/EPIupdate2006.htm_en/epi06, pages 1-2

² AIDS Epidemic Update, UNAIDS/06.29E (English Original, Dec 2006) page 3

³ CDC HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet, A Glance at the HIV/AIDS Epidemic, June 2007

CME World AIDS Day Results – December 1, 2007

<p>7. How would local churches improve the Church Tip Sheet?</p>			
<p>8. If we were to institute a National Health Fair Month among all CME Churches to help bring awareness to HIV/AIDS, Cancer, Diabetes, Hepatitis, Mental Illness, etc. – in what month do you think that would be a good idea?</p>			
<p>9. How would you prefer to get Health information for your church? – <i>circle all that apply</i> →</p>	<p>Email Text Message Fax Telephone call</p>		<p>Website Podcast US Mail</p>

There are four HIV/AIDS Observances that we are asking for participation from District CME Churches. If possible, please note these dates on your annual church calendars.

December 1	World AIDS Day
February 7	National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
1st Week in March	Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS
June 27	National HIV Testing Day

On the next page is a form to capture information about local church activity in your district.

HIV Testing

If a church in your district conducted, made available or participated in HIV testing from November 23 – December 9 please provide the following information. If the church is involved in HIV testing regularly provide testing information on a monthly bases.

Date (or month)	Church Name	Program/Activity <i>(such as a sermon, distributed handouts, concert, HIV Testing)</i>	City, State	Contact Person <i>(Name & Phone)</i>	Total Participants	Total Tested	Total Returned for Test Result	Total Testing Positive	Total Referred to Care

Thank you for taking the time to document your World AIDS Day activities. We hope to improve the dissemination of information with each Health outreach effort.



1-800-458-5231, M-F 9am-8pm(ET) [Contact Us](#) [Live Help M-F 9am-8pm\(ET\)](#)

THE ELDERLY

Older people are at increasing risk for HIV/AIDS and other STDs. A growing number of older people now have HIV/AIDS. About 19 percent of all people with HIV/AIDS in this country are age 50 and older. ¹ Because older people don't get tested for HIV/AIDS on a regular basis, there may be even more cases than currently known.

Many factors contribute to the increasing risk of infection in older people. In general, older Americans know less about HIV/AIDS and STDs than younger age groups because the elderly have been neglected by those responsible for education and prevention messages. In addition, older people are less likely than younger people to talk about their sex lives or drug use with their doctors, and doctors don't tend to ask their older patients about sex or drug use. Finally, older people often mistake the symptoms of HIV/AIDS for the aches and pains of normal aging, so they are less likely to get tested. ²

FEATURED LINKS

HIV Disease in Individuals Ages Fifty and Above

Publication from the HIV/AIDS Bureau of the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
<ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/hab/hrsa2-01.pdf>

Special Needs of Elderly HIV Positive African Americans

Abstract from the 2003 National HIV Prevention Conference
http://gateway.nlm.nih.gov/robot_pages/MeetingAbstracts/102261991.html

HIV, AIDS, and Older People

Fact sheet from the National Institute on Aging
<http://www.niapublications.org/agepages/aids.asp>
En Español

What are HIV Prevention Needs of Adults Over 50?

From Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, University of California at San Francisco
<http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/pubs/FS/over50.php>
En Español

Tip Sheet - HIV/AIDS and Older Adults

Fact sheet from the National Association on HIV Over Fifty (NAHOF)
<http://www.hivoverfifty.org/tip.html>

HIV in Elderly Presents Unique Challenges

News article from UPI, provided by the AIDS Education Global Information System (AEGIS)
<http://www.aegis.com/news/upi/2002/UP020305.html>

The Elderly, HIV/AIDS and Sustainable Rural Development

Paper presented at a seminar on Aging and Rural Development sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), provided by the Sustainable Development Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
http://www.fao.org/sd/2002/PE0101_en.htm

HIV Over 50

From AARP The Magazine
http://www.aarpmagazine.org/lifestyle/relationships/hiv_over_50.html
En Español

HIV/AIDS and Older People

Information from the Global Action on Aging presented at the Second World Assembly on Aging, September 2002

<http://www.globalaging.org/waa2/articles/hivolder.htm>

Older People and HIV/AIDS

Resources from The Body: An AIDS and HIV Information Resource

<http://www.thebody.com/whatis/older.html>

Older People and HIV

From AIDS InfoNet

http://www.aidsinfonet.org/factsheet_detail.php?fsnumber=616&newLang=en
En Español

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¹ HIV/AIDS and Older People. National Institute on Aging

² HIV/AIDS and Older People. National Institute on Aging