

ALPHA Public Education
December is HIV and AIDS Awareness Month

December 1st is World AIDS Day.

Begun in 1998, World AIDS Day draws attention to the current status of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5747a1.htm>)

It's estimated that 33 million people worldwide are living with HIV.

The US estimate is 1.1 million people, and 56,300 are newly infected.

As of December 2007 there are 1,206 people in Alaska living with HIV; 37 of those were newly diagnoses in 2007.

The largest growing population newly diagnosed with infection in the US is African American men.

In Alaska, of the 190 new diagnoses between 2003 and 2007, almost 30% of these were among Alaska Native/American Indians. African Americans accounted for almost 10% of newly diagnosed.

Fear, stigma and misconception about the HIV virus and how it is transmitted prove to be the biggest barrier to getting the word out to those who are most at risk: men who have sex with men, and heterosexual sexual contacts.

KNOW your HIV status and seek information on how to protect yourself and the ones you care about.

For more information and resources:

Alaska AIDS Assistance Association

<http://www.alaskanids.org/>

Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

<http://community.pflag.org/>

African American Coalition Against AIDS

<http://www.stophivaids.org/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/>