



Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, Infectious Disease Bureau World AIDS Day - Interactive E-Newsletter- 2014

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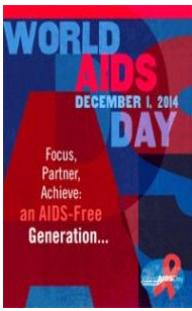
Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, Infectious Disease Bureau recognizes **World AIDS Day** on December 1, 2014. The event was established by the World Health Organization in 1988. Organizations including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have worked tirelessly to prevent the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) by providing evidence-based HIV prevention interventions, and **HIV/AIDS educational messages**.



The 2014 World AIDS Day theme encourages Marylanders and people worldwide to "Focus, Partner, Achieve: An AIDS-free Generation." We encourage people to FOCUS on getting tested for HIV and knowing their status; to PARTNER with local health departments and other community-based agencies to become linked to treatment and care; and to ACHIEVE viral load suppression wherever clinically possible for person's testing positive in Maryland. World AIDS Day provides an opportunity for all people to reflect on HIV and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), allow us to remember those we have lost to the HIV epidemic, and provides an astounding look at scientific achievements made through the years. **E-HIV/AIDS Timeline**



An estimated 1.1 million Americans are living with HIV that can cause AIDS. In 2012, Maryland was third among U.S. states and territories in estimated HIV diagnosis rates at 30.8 per 100,000. As of December 31, 2012, 30,061 Marylanders were diagnosed and living with HIV or AIDS. Of the **29,533 Marylanders diagnosed as adults/adolescents living with HIV or AIDS**, 76% were African American, 16% were Caucasian, and 5% were Hispanic.



The 2014 theme for World AIDS Day is "*Focus, Partner, Achieve: An AIDS-free Generation.*" This aligns with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Prevention and Health Promotion Administration's mission: "To protect, promote and improve the health and well-being of all Marylanders and their families through provision of public health leadership and through community-based public health efforts in partnership with local health departments, providers, community based organizations, and public and private sector agencies, giving special attention to at-risk and vulnerable populations." Stakeholders have planned local 2014 World AIDS Day events.



The loss of lives attributed to HIV/AIDS lead Marylanders and people across the nation and the globe to educate others about HIV/AIDS. The Infectious Disease Bureau is home to the Maryland AIDS Quilt and has five quilt panels created by infected and affected Maryland residents. These quilt panels are featured at various World AIDS Day events throughout the State. We encourage people to continue the quilting experience locally as a way to facilitate the conversation about HIV testing, treatment, and care.

Scientific advances, HIV testing, education and the use of **antiretroviral treatments** are allowing people with HIV to live longer with HIV and are preventing the spread of the virus. From 1997 to 2011 Maryland experienced a 20% decrease in the number of new adult/adolescent HIV cases and reported a 37% decrease in the number of deaths among adult/adolescent AIDS cases.

LOCAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND THEIR PARTNERS ACT ON HIV/AIDS



In recent years Maryland's historically black colleges and universities have become actively engaged in addressing HIV prevention within their local communities.



Coppin State University made an attempt to win the Guinness World Record for the number of individuals forming a Living Red Ribbon. HIV prevention and education activities are continued through Coppin State University's nursing program www.coppin.edu/nursing.



The B'More Aware of HIV: Living Red Ribbon Event at **Morgan State University** on Monday, December 1, 2014 will feature a Guinness World Record attempt to gather more than 3,800 individuals standing in solidarity in recognition of HIV/AIDS to create the World's Largest Living Red Ribbon formation. People will gather between the hours of 10:00 a.m.

and 1:00 p.m. in the Hughes Memorial Stadium to participate in the formation of the Living Red Ribbon. To register or obtain additional information, please go to Facebook.com/BmoreAwareHIV; call 410.327.3420, ext. 11; or visit http://www.morgan.edu/school_of_community_health_and_policy/bmore_aware_of_hiv.html



Institutions including **Bowie State University** have utilized innovative programs including step shows to draw attention to HIV in Maryland.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QniOqjIzUag>.



University of Maryland, Baltimore, will host a month of World AIDS Day activities, starting in November 2014. Activities include a HIV Forum, a Facing AIDS Campaign, TrHIVia Night, Chili Cook-Offs to Benefit STAR TRACK, the formation of a Living Red Ribbon, a Resource & Involvement Fair, and the provision of confidential HIV Testing & Care Services. To view the schedule of activities go to:

<http://www.umaryland.edu/worldaidsday/index.html>.

RESOURCES

WORLD AIDS DAY

- About World AIDS DAY <http://aids.gov/news-and-events/awareness-days/world-aids-day/>

HIV TESTING RESOURCES

- HIV prevention, testing, treatment and support services
<http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/OIDPCS/CHP/SitePages/counseling-testing-and-referral.aspx> or call 410.767.5132
- Find a test site near you <https://gettested.cdc.gov/>
- Locate free HIV testing sites in Maryland, text your local ZIP code to KNOWIT (566948);
- Testing Makes Us Stronger encourages black gay and bisexual men to get tested for HIV
<http://hivtest.cdc.gov/stronger/index.html>

HIV PREVENTION RESOURCES

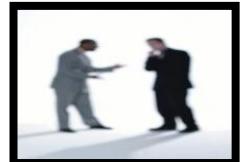
- About HIV/AIDS 101
<http://www.aids.gov/hiv-aids-basics/hiv-aids-101/what-is-hiv-aids/>
- HIV/AIDS among older adults
http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library_factsheet_HIV_%20AmongOlderAmericans.pdf
- Washington AIDS International Teens (WAIT) Program
<http://www.waitteam.org/video/skit.html>
- Let's Stop HIV Together reducing stigma and raising awareness
<http://www.cdc.gov/actagainstaids/campaigns/lsh/index.html>
- Stigma, homophobia, racism, and other forms of discrimination associated with HIV and AIDS <http://www.cdc.gov/msmhealth/stigma-and-discrimination.htm>
- Latino gay and bisexual men sharing their reasons for getting an HIV test
<http://hivtest.cdc.gov/reasons/>
- HIV Treatment and Clinical Trials, [AIDS Info](#) or 1.800.448.0440
- Maryland-based agencies seeking free educational materials should call the Materials Distribution Center at 410.799.1940 or call the Infectious Disease Bureau at 1.800.358.9001.

HIV IS PREVENTABLE

- People should avoid all of these behaviors and/or activities: unprotected sex; alcohol and drug use; sharing IV drug needles, multiple sex partners; and engaging in sex for drugs, money, and shelter.
- People should use condoms consistently and correctly every time they engage in anal, vaginal or oral sex.



- People who test positive for HIV should be linked to medical care.



- People who are not HIV positive but have a partner who is positive should ask their health care providers about Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), medication that is now available to prevent HIV infection among those without HIV who are at risk of HIV infection. For information about PrEP go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/prevention/research/prep/>

LOCAL WORLD AIDS DAY ACTIVITIES 2014



This is a 2014 interactive World AIDS DAY E-Newsletter for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, Infectious Disease Bureau, Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships.

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Website: http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/infectious_disease.aspx