



HIV/AIDS

AMONG

## AMERICAN INDIANS & ALASKA NATIVES



Today there are an estimated 1.185 million HIV-positive individuals living in the United States—the largest number ever. Of these, nearly 300,000 people do not know they are infected, and may be unknowingly spreading the virus. These numbers will continue to grow unless everyone takes decisive action against the disease.

### Project Red Talon: Preventing Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Native Communities!

**HIV/AIDS is taking a devastating and disproportionate toll on American Indians and Alaska Natives. Community leaders and tribal health programs can play a critical role in fighting the disease, and Project Red Talon is dedicated to helping them do it.**

Know the Facts and  
Educate,  
Motivate, and  
Mobilize against  
HIV/AIDS!

## Did you know?

- AIDS rates have steadily increased in recent years, becoming the **ninth leading killer** of Native people between the ages of 15 and 44.
- AIDS diagnoses among women, especially among women of color, have **increased** significantly since the beginning of the epidemic.
- Women of color account for **80 percent** of all women estimated to be living with AIDS.
- Among American Indian and Alaska Native females, the HIV/AIDS case rate increased almost **5%** from 2001 to 2004.
- The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives diagnosed with AIDS has grown more rapidly than in any other ethnic group, **increasing almost 800%** from 1990 to 1999.
- Women most commonly report **heterosexual contact** or **injection drug use** as their primary cause of exposure to HIV.





- An estimated 944,306 Americans have been diagnosed with AIDS from the beginning of the epidemic through 2004. Of the 42,514 estimated new diagnoses in 2004, 73 percent were male and 27 percent were female. Less than one percent were children under 13.
- In 2004, the rate of HIV/AIDS diagnosis for American Indian and Alaska Natives women was **2.4 times higher** than that for whites.
- When compared by ethnicity, AI/AN women had the **third highest HIV/AIDS rate** in 2004.
- In 2004, an estimated **206** American Indians and Alaska Natives were newly diagnosed with HIV.
- Approximately **3,084 AI/ANs** have been diagnosed with AIDS since 1980.

*Provided by Project Red Talon, a project of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board  
For more information, call toll free 877-955-5519 or visit us on the web: [www.npaihb.org](http://www.npaihb.org)*

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# What Can You Do?

- Learn more about HIV/AIDS and its impact on your community.
- Protect yourself against HIV infection. Know the risks associated with sex and drug use.
- Get tested. It's important to know your HIV status to protect yourself and others.
- Get medical care and support if you're living with HIV. Effective treatments exist.
- Educate others about HIV/AIDS.
- Volunteer at a tribal HIV/AIDS program.
- Help someone living with HIV/AIDS by being a friend.
- Help end the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.
- Implement an activity to support HIV/AIDS observances such as World AIDS Day on December 1 or National HIV Testing Day on June 27.

## To Learn More

- Visit the CDC National Prevention Information Network at [www.cdcnpin.org](http://www.cdcnpin.org) or call 1-800-458-5231
- Visit the HIV/AIDS Observance Days Website at [www.omhrc.gov/hivaidsobservances](http://www.omhrc.gov/hivaidsobservances)
- Call the CDC National AIDS Hotline at 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
  - Visit Project Red Talon at [www.npaihb.org/std-aids/prt](http://www.npaihb.org/std-aids/prt)
- Call your doctor or other healthcare provider.
  - Contact your tribal health department.