

NAIRHHA DAY FACT SHEET

The purpose of **National African Immigrant and Refugee HIV and Hepatitis Awareness (NAIRHHA) Day** on September 9th is to bring national and local attention to the HIV and viral Hepatitis needs of African immigrants living in the U.S. in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. The creation of a national awareness day will also support the eradication of other epidemics fueling or related to HIV disparities among African immigrants, including Tuberculosis, Substance Use and Mental Health. On September 9th for NAIRHHA Day, organizations, communities, families and individuals will:

- raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and viral Hepatitis to eliminate stigma
- learn about ways to protect against HIV, viral Hepatitis and other related diseases
- take control by encouraging screenings and treatment, including Hepatitis B vaccination
- get involved by advocating for policies and practices that promote healthy African immigrant families, communities and individuals.

Did you know?

40-70% of people living in the U.S. with Hep B are foreign born and African immigrants face the highest average chronic Hepatitis B rates in the U.S.

HIV diagnosis rates among African-born population in the U.S. are 6 times higher than the general population.

WHY IS ANOTHER HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY NEEDED?

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was started in 1999 to address the increasing epidemic among Black/African-American communities. In addition, June 8th was established as the Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in an effort to encourage Caribbean-American and Caribbean-born individuals in the U.S. to address HIV and show compassion for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. However, neither awareness day specifically responds to the unique challenges experienced by African-born individuals. These communities have ethnic and cultural diversity as well as divergent histories in the U.S.



Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/NAIRHHA>

Twitter: @NAIRHHADay

Led by the Africans For Improved Access (AFIA) program at the Multicultural AIDS Coalition (MAC), Hepatitis B Foundation and Coalition Against Hepatitis for People of African Origin (CHIPO).

HIV and HepB among African immigrants in the U.S. is a "hidden epidemic".

*Join us! Educate others.
Take action.*