



Positive Advocate

Spring 2024

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National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Commemorating National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2024: *Prevention and Testing at Every Age. Care and Treatment at Every Stage.*

Written By: Kelly Gluckman

In the United States, HIV/AIDS has long been regarded as a “gay man’s disease.” However, of the 39 million people who live with HIV globally, **53% are women**. HIV is not and has never been a gay man’s disease. As many of us in the field like to point out, the ‘H’ in HIV stands for human, and no group of humans is a monolith. We need to start thinking about HIV/AIDS in a more nuanced way.

Every year on March 10th, National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is observed to shed light on the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls and to raise awareness about prevention, testing, and treatment. This day serves as a reminder of the ongoing efforts needed to address the unique challenges faced by women and girls in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The latest data from the CDC reveals that in 2021, women accounted for 18% of all new HIV diagnoses in the United States. Among newly diagnosed women in 2018, 58% were Black/African American, highlighting racial disparities in HIV/AIDS prevalence. We can’t talk about HIV without talking about social justice. The key factors contributing to the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on black women are the complex interplay of social, economic, and structural factors. Poverty, lack of access to healthcare, gender-based violence, stigma, and discrimination all contribute to increased vulnerability to HIV among women and girls.

Additionally, women often face barriers to accessing HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services, further exacerbating the epidemic among this population. Because women are not seen as an at-risk population, they are often overlooked for regular testing by providers and end up receiving their diagnosis during pregnancy or when they are experiencing symptoms of AIDS. Other prevention barriers are that many women are unaware of their male partner’s risk factors for HIV (such as injection drug use or having sex with men), or that PrEP is an option for them, and the basic fact that as a receptive partner you are more vulnerable to HIV and STI’s. Plus, women who experience intimate partner violence may be more likely to engage in activities that expose them to the virus or be forced to have sex without a condom or medicines to prevent HIV.

Women living with HIV have unique healthcare needs, including additional stigma, reproductive health issues, and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission. There are complexities in treating HIV for people assigned female at birth (AFAB) that don’t exist for their assigned male at birth counterparts. For example, HIV treatments can impact the effectiveness of many hormonal birth control

methods. There may be other complexities not yet known because people assigned female at birth are largely left out of research studies and clinical trials. Ensuring access to comprehensive and culturally competent healthcare services is crucial to effectively addressing the needs of women and girls affected by HIV/AIDS.

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day serves as a call to action for individuals, communities, healthcare providers, policymakers, and organizations to redouble their efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS among women and girls. Increasing access to comprehensive sexual health education, promoting regular HIV testing and screening, expanding access to HIV prevention tools such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), including AFAB participants in research efforts, and addressing underlying social determinants of health are critical steps in reducing the burden of HIV/AIDS among women.

As we commemorate National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to achieving an AIDS-free generation where all women and girls can live healthy, fulfilling lives free from the threat of HIV/AIDS. By working together, we can make meaningful progress towards ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic and ensuring health equity for all.

Awareness Days

March 10th is National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

March 20th is National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

April 10th is National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

April 18th is National Transgender HIV Testing Day

May 18th is HIV Vaccine Awareness Day

May 19th is National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

ACC Community Conversations

The Affected Communities Committee, ACC, a Committee of the HIV Health Services Planning Council, is once again, hosting Community Conversations related to the most current information on HIV. We look forward to seeing you there. All sessions will be held at the LGBT Center from 6 to 7pm with dinner provided. Please reach out to Zachary Basler at 415-299-7027 if you have questions. To register for an event please visit www.sacramento-tga.com

Upcoming Events:

May 29: HIV and Transgender Individuals

June 12: PrEP & PEP

One Community Health offers low cost & confidential walk-in and appointments for HIV, Hepatitis C & STD testing at its Midtown Campus.

Call 916-443-3299 to make an appointment or for more information.

No one will be turned away if they are unable to pay.

Sunburst Clinic: 916-299-6810, SunburstClinic.org

Free confidential walk-in HIV/HCV/STD testing

Monday – Friday, 8 am – 6 pm in Arden Area.

PrEP Starter Pack issued same-day. PrEP-AP and ADAP enrollment or recertification

Free or Low-Cost STD/HIV/HCV Testing;

Contact the agency directly for dates, times and costs of testing

Golden Rule Services 916-427-4653

Harm Reduction Services 916-456-4849

Sacramento Sexual Health Clinic 916-875-1551

Partner Services:

County of Sacramento - 916-875-1100

One Community Health - 916-443-3299

Sunburst Projects - 916-440-0889

Yolo County - 530-666-8670

El Dorado and Placer Counties:

Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation 530-889-2437

The Sacramento TGA's HIV Health Services Planning Council and Committee Meeting Schedules
Committees may be canceled if there is no pressing business to conduct.
Go to www.sacramento-tga.com for the most updated meeting schedule.

1st Monday of Even Months:
February 5th, April 3rd, June 3rd,
August 5th, October 7th, and
December 2nd

Affected Communities Committee: 3:00—4:00 p.m. at
Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA.
Community Room 2020

Note: April meeting will be held on 4/03 due to Cesar Chavez holiday

Quarterly on the 1st Tuesday of:
March 5th, May 7th, June 4th,
Sept. 3rd, and Dec. 3rd

Quality Advisory Committee: 2:00—3:00 p.m. at the
Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA.
Community Room 2020

Note: Will be meeting additionally on the 1st Tuesday of May.

Quarterly on the 1st Tuesday of
March 5th, May 7th, June 4th,
Sept. 3rd, and Dec. 3rd

Needs Assessment Committee: 3:00—4:30 p.m. at the
Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA.
Community Room 2020

Note: Will be meeting additionally on the 1st Tuesday of May.

1st Wednesday of the Months of:
March 6th, May 1st, June 5th, and
Sept. 4th. **Jan 1, 2025 is a holiday**

Priorities and Allocations Committee: 9:00—11:00 a.m. at the
Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA.
Community Room 2020

2nd Thursday of the Months of:
March 14th, May 9th, June 13th,
Sept. 12th, and January 9th

Executive Committee: 3:00—5:00 p.m. at the County of Sacramento
Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA.
Community Room 2020

4th Wednesday of Every Month:
Combined Nov/Dec on 12/11/2024

HIV Health Services Planning Council: 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. at the
Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA.
Community Room 2020



Back Page

The **POSITIVE ADVOCATE** Newsletter is a quarterly information and outreach project. We welcome submissions from the affected community. For additional information about the Affected Communities Committee (ACC), HIV Health Services Planning Council (HHSPC), or this newsletter, contact: Danielle Caravella at 916-875-6021
www.sacramento-tga.com

The **Affected Communities Committee** addresses issues facing the HIV/AIDS community and advises the Planning Council on community affairs. The mission of the committee is to recruit, empower, and involve people living with HIV/AIDS in the strategic planning and advocacy of HIV/AIDS care and services. These goals will be accomplished with the assistance of the Council support staff toward the fulfillment of its mission. The committee encourages an environment of trust and safety in achieving its mission.

The Committee meets the first Monday of the Even Months of the year, 3—4 p.m., at Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Community Room 2020, Sacramento, 95820.
Please note that there is no meeting on April 1, 2024 due to the Cesar Chavez holiday

RYAN WHITE CARE ACT SERVICE PROVIDERS

CommuniCare+OLE

**** Yolo County Residents only ****
916-403-2910 x1077

Golden Rule Services 916-427-4653

Harm Reduction Services 916-456-4849

One Community Health 916-443-3299
Direct HIV Service Line: 916-842-5185

Sacramento Sexual Health Clinic

916-875-1551

Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation

**** El Dorado and Placer Counties only ****
Main number: 530-889-2437

Sunburst Projects 916-440-0889

UC Davis Medical Center Pediatric Infectious Disease 916-734-1873

In the box to the right, is a list of Ryan White Part A and B funded Services.

Services may vary per provider and additional services may be available through other funding sources.

Please contact a provider above for additional information.

- ⇒ Ambulatory Outpatient Care
- ⇒ Medical Case Management
- ⇒ Child Care
- ⇒ Emergency Financial Assistance
- ⇒ Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals
- ⇒ Health Insurance Assistance
- ⇒ Housing
- ⇒ Medical Nutritional Therapy
- ⇒ Medical Transportation
- ⇒ Mental Health
- ⇒ Non-Medical Case Management
- ⇒ Oral Health
- ⇒ Outreach Services
- ⇒ Substance Abuse—Outpatient
- ⇒ Substance Abuse—Residential