

# Act Against AIDS

## Refocusing National Attention on the HIV Crisis in the United States



*Act Against AIDS* is a five-year, \$45 million communications campaign designed to refocus national attention on the HIV crisis in America. Launched in 2009, CDC's *Act Against AIDS* campaign uses TV and radio public service announcements; print, online, airport, and transit ads; physician communications; and partnerships with leading non-profit and private sector organizations to reach the general public and populations most at risk with HIV prevention and testing messages.

After three decades of AIDS, there is still an urgent need to increase awareness of HIV and the importance of prevention and testing. According to the most recent CDC data, approximately 50,000 Americans become newly infected with HIV each year, and nearly 18,000 people with AIDS still die annually. Yet research has shown declining awareness and concern about AIDS among the American public, and many individuals at highest risk of infection either do not recognize their risk or believe that HIV is no longer a serious health threat. Studies indicate that those who are complacent about the threat of HIV are more likely to practice risky behaviors.

*Act Against AIDS* features multiple communication campaigns designed to serve specific at-risk populations. Each targeted campaign, with its own unique objectives and audiences, uses an effective mix of channels and strategies to deliver HIV prevention messages that are compelling, credible, and relevant. These campaigns address basic education and awareness needs, address the specific risk reduction needs of the populations at greatest risk for HIV infection, or focus on educating health care providers about their role in HIV prevention.

To maximize the reach of the *Act Against AIDS* campaign, CDC works closely with a number of public health, media, and other partners who distribute campaign messages and materials, broadcast public service announcements, and donate advertising space.

### Results to Date

- Total impressions (approximate number of times campaign messages have been viewed/heard) to date – 2.1 billion
- Outdoor advertising impressions – 413.4 million
- News media impressions – 797 million
- Donated media value – \$10,326,000
- Web usage – Black MSM testing campaign drove more than 47,000 users to [www.hivtest.cdc.gov](http://www.hivtest.cdc.gov)

## General Awareness Campaign

### *Let's Stop HIV Together* — Taking Aim at the Stigma and Complacency Fueling HIV in the United States

[www.cdc.gov/actagainstaids/together](http://www.cdc.gov/actagainstaids/together)

The *Act Against AIDS* national campaign, *Let's Stop HIV Together*, works to combat the complacency and stigma fueling the HIV epidemic in the United States. The campaign gives voice to people living with HIV and their loved ones, who share their personal stories and call on all Americans to join the fight against the disease. *Let's Stop HIV Together*, launched in July 2012, has reached millions of Americans through print, online and outdoor advertisements and through social media, including Facebook and Twitter.

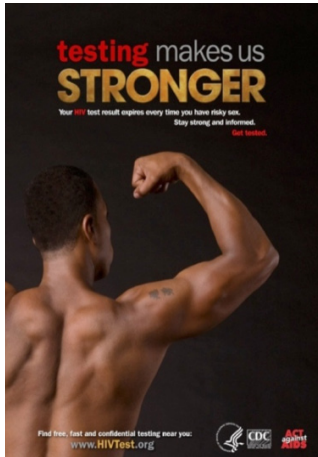
*Let's Stop HIV Together* builds on the success of 9 ½ Minutes, the first national *Act Against AIDS* campaign, which generated an estimated 655 million media impressions.



## Targeted Campaigns

Targeted campaigns under *Act Against AIDS* are designed to reach the populations at greatest risk of HIV infection with life-saving information tailored to their unique needs. Current targeted campaigns focus primarily on African Americans and gay and bisexual men. African Americans, by far, bear the greatest burden of HIV of any racial/ethnic group in the United States. While accounting for just 14 percent of the U.S. population, blacks represent close to half of all new HIV infections and AIDS deaths every year. By risk group, gay and bisexual men continue to be at greatest risk for HIV — accounting for the majority of all new HIV infections.

Targeted *Act Against AIDS* campaigns include:



### **Testing Makes Us Stronger** — Encouraging Black Gay and Bisexual Men to Take a Stand Against HIV

[hivtest.cdc.gov/stronger](http://hivtest.cdc.gov/stronger)

*Testing Makes Us Stronger* is a public awareness and education campaign, designed by black gay men for black gay men, addressing the urgent need to reduce HIV infections in this population. The campaign encourages HIV testing among black gay and bisexual men aged 18 to 44 using positive, empowering messages that emphasize HIV testing as a source of strength.

The campaign, launched in 2011, is designed to reach black gay and bisexual men in their everyday lives through national online and magazine ads; transit and billboard ads; and social media outreach through Facebook, Twitter, and blogs and a dedicated web site.



### **Take Charge. Take the Test.** — Increasing HIV Testing among Black Women

[hivtest.cdc.gov/takecharge](http://hivtest.cdc.gov/takecharge)

*Take Charge. Take the Test.* aims to increase HIV testing and awareness among African American women, by emphasizing the importance of testing as a gateway to peace of mind and better health. Through outdoor and transit

advertising, radio ads, and posters and handouts distributed in salons, stores, and community organizations, the campaign reaches women as they go about their daily lives. The campaign is currently being implemented in several cities where black women are heavily affected by HIV and AIDS. Campaign materials for local communities, organizations, and health departments are available at [hivtest.cdc.gov](http://hivtest.cdc.gov).



### **Greater Than AIDS** — Confronting Stigma and Mobilizing Communities

[www.greatherthan.org](http://www.greatherthan.org)

Led by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Black AIDS Media Partnership, the *Greater Than AIDS* campaign works to confront stigma and engage communities heavily affected by the disease. Initially focusing on African Americans, *Greater Than AIDS* has expanded to also reach gay and bisexual men of all races. The campaign includes targeted public service ads across an array of media platforms, special programming and editorial content, dedicated web sites, including partner web sites, and a mobile component. These channels all work to integrate HIV prevention messages into news and entertainment programming.

## Upcoming

Additional campaigns serving Latino general audiences, Latino gay and bisexual men, and gay and bisexual men of all races are scheduled to launch in the coming year.

## Health Care Provider Campaigns

Several *Act Against AIDS* campaigns focus on health care providers, who play a critical role in HIV testing and helping their patients reduce HIV risk behavior.

Current provider campaigns include:



**HIV Screening.  
Standard Care.™**

### ***HIV Screening. Standard Care.* — Increasing Routine HIV Testing**

[www.cdc.gov/actagainstaids/hssc](http://www.cdc.gov/actagainstaids/hssc)

Today, more than 200,000 people in the United States — nearly 1 in 5 of those infected — are living with HIV and don't know that they are infected. Moreover, the majority of new HIV infections are transmitted by those who are unaware of their infection. Testing is critical to reducing new infections by ensuring that every American knows their HIV status and can take steps to protect themselves and their partners.

CDC recommends that all adolescents and adults get tested for HIV as a routine part of medical care. The *HIV Screening. Standard Care.* campaign delivers guides, posters, and other materials to help health care providers provide HIV testing to all of their patients.



### ***Prevention IS Care* — Reducing Risk Behavior**

[www.cdc.gov/actagainstaids/pic](http://www.cdc.gov/actagainstaids/pic)

Research has shown that one of the best ways to reduce the spread of HIV is by helping HIV-infected persons prevent transmission of the virus to their partners. The *Prevention IS Care* campaign gives providers tools to help individuals who are living with HIV adopt healthy behaviors after their HIV diagnosis.

Campaign materials help providers increase patient knowledge about HIV, facilitate open dialogue and information exchange, and strengthen patients' ability to make healthy choices. In addition, the campaign offers continuing education opportunities for providers to update and add depth to their HIV prevention knowledge and skills.



### ***One Test. Two Lives.* — Preventing Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission**

[www.cdc.gov/actagainstaids/ottl](http://www.cdc.gov/actagainstaids/ottl)

HIV transmission from mother to child during pregnancy or childbirth accounts for 91 percent of all AIDS cases among children in the United States. Antiretroviral therapy during pregnancy can reduce the transmission rate to 2 percent or less — without treatment the transmission rate is 25 percent. The *One Test. Two Lives.* campaign focuses on ensuring that all women are tested for HIV early in their pregnancy. Tools developed by the campaign, including posters, facts sheets, and brochures, help obstetric providers encourage all their patients receive prenatal testing for HIV.

## Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative



One of the most exciting aspects of *Act Against AIDS* is the leadership role prominent national non-profits are taking in reaching their communities with life-saving HIV prevention messages. To foster community leadership and engagement, CDC supports the Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative (AAALI), a six-year partnership of 19 leading national organizations with credibility and influence at national and local levels among the populations most affected by HIV: African Americans, Latinos, and gay and bisexual men.

While many of the partner organizations have longstanding commitments to fighting HIV in their communities, AAALI provides critical funding to allow each group to make HIV prevention a core component of its day-to-day activities. Each



organization uses AAALI funds to support an HIV coordinator who works through the organization's membership networks to disseminate *Act Against AIDS* and other campaign materials and sponsor other HIV prevention activities.

AAALI partners have coordinated more than 1,400 outreach events that have been attended by more than 530,000 people, facilitated testing for almost 14,000 people, and engaged nearly 400 local affiliates across the country in HIV prevention activities. Their efforts have reached millions in at-risk communities with HIV prevention messages.

#### AAALI Partners

[www.cdc.gov/hiv/aaa/leadership\\_initiative.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/aaa/leadership_initiative.htm)

- 100 Black Men of America
- American Urban Radio Network
- Aspira Association
- Black Men's Xchange-National
- Black Women's Health Imperative
- Congressional Black Caucus Foundation
- Farmworker Justice
- International Federation of Black Prides
- National Action Network
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- National Council of Negro Women
- National Hispanic Council on Aging
- National Medical Association
- National Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation
- National Organization of Black County Officials
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- National Urban League
- Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority
- Southern Christian Leadership Foundation

## Campaigns: Part of CDC's High-Impact Prevention Portfolio

The multi-faceted *Act Against AIDS* campaign is a critical component of CDC's comprehensive HIV prevention efforts.

CDC is committed to *High-Impact Prevention*—a flexible approach that prioritizes the prevention interventions with the greatest potential to prevent the most new HIV infections, directed to the populations most affected, and aligned with the geography of the epidemic. *High-Impact Prevention* is essential to achieving the ambitious HIV prevention goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, announced by President Obama in 2010, which calls on the nation to reduce HIV incidence and HIV-related health disparities.

*Act Against AIDS* helps make *High-Impact Prevention* possible by increasing awareness of the HIV epidemic among all Americans, and especially among those at greatest risk. While communication campaigns alone can't change complex risk behaviors, they can help increase awareness and knowledge of HIV/AIDS, and increase the impact of CDC-funded prevention programs nationwide.

At an individual level, *Act Against AIDS* campaigns help people recognize their own risk and take action. At a community level, HIV/AIDS communication works to create and sustain norms that are supportive of successful HIV prevention. And at a national level, *Act Against AIDS* sustains awareness of the costly toll of HIV in our nation and the need for collaborative action.

Each year, CDC devotes more than \$700 million to HIV prevention activities nationwide. These include designing and implementing systems to track the course of the HIV epidemic, conducting research to develop new HIV prevention strategies, working through public health partners and health care providers to expand access to HIV testing, and delivering proven prevention programs through nationwide partnerships with state and local health departments and community-based organizations.

**For more information on Act Against AIDS, please visit [www.cdc.gov/actagainstaids/](http://www.cdc.gov/actagainstaids/).**