

African American Prevention Intervention Network
SANKOFA FACT SHEET

May 2007

No. 14

Heightened National Response to HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the African-American Community

Although HIV prevention efforts have grown substantially over time and have made important progress, major unmet needs remain. Further reducing the toll of HIV among African-Americans will require a heightened, intensified national response from all sectors. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have consulted extensively with African-American leaders over the past two years to identify the most urgent needs. CDC, its public health partners, and African-American leaders can reduce the burden of HIV in African-American communities by focusing on four critical pathways to success:



Expanding the reach of HIV prevention services - Including providing greater access to proven interventions for African-American MSM and women; supporting prevention efforts in additional venues such as workplaces and mental health facilities; and increasing training for communities implementing prevention programs.

Increasing opportunities for HIV diagnosis and treatment - Ensuring that more health care providers receive training to implement routine HIV screening among African-American patients; implementing new efforts to motivate African-American men and women at risk to be tested and to reduce the stigma associated with testing; and providing rapid HIV testing in additional venues in African-American communities, such as churches, clubs, and mobile vans.

Developing new, effective interventions - Collaborating on research to address the urgent need for additional interventions designed and tailored to the specific needs of African-Americans now at greatest risk, including African-American MSM, high-risk men and women in correctional facilities, and youth; increasing the involvement of African-American researchers in HIV prevention; and more quickly translating research into practice.

Mobilizing broader community action - There have been many bold examples of sustained and new leadership in the fight against HIV - from African-American entertainers, civic organizations, HIV prevention organizations, faith leaders, and others. But even more is needed. National and local public health organizations and African-American community leaders must deepen their partnerships in order to expand the reach of prevention efforts and reduce the stigma of HIV.

Source: http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/aa/resources/factsheets/pdf/AA_response_media_fact.pdf

