

## Respond to HIV/AIDS

### To learn more, visit

United States Conference of  
Catholic Bishops – Secretariat  
for African American Catholics  
[www.usccb.org/saac](http://www.usccb.org/saac)

United States Conference of  
Catholic Bishops – Secretariat  
for Hispanic Affairs  
[www.usccb.org/hispanicaffairs](http://www.usccb.org/hispanicaffairs)

NCAN – National Catholic  
AIDS Network  
[www.ncan.org](http://www.ncan.org)

NBCC – National Black  
Catholic Congress  
[www.nbcccongress.org](http://www.nbcccongress.org)

### For Additional Resources on HIV/AIDS:

Contact the CDC National  
Prevention Information  
Network at 1-800-458-5231  
or visit [www.cdcnpi.org](http://www.cdcnpi.org).

To locate an HIV/AIDS  
testing site near you,  
visit [www.hivtest.org](http://www.hivtest.org).

It is estimated that more than one million Americans are living with HIV/AIDS — and that up to 25 percent of those may not know they have the virus. Each year, approximately 40,000 Americans are newly infected with HIV/AIDS.

- Hispanics account for an estimated 19 percent of total AIDS diagnoses since the beginning of the epidemic through 2004<sup>1</sup>, though they make up only 14.2 percent of the population.<sup>2</sup>
- AIDS rate for Hispanic adults and adolescents was 25 per 100,000 compared to 7.1 for whites and 72 for blacks.<sup>1</sup>
- African Americans account for 40 percent of estimated total AIDS deaths and 43 percent of all persons estimated to be living with AIDS.<sup>1</sup>
- African Americans accounted for 40 percent of estimated total AIDS cases diagnosed since the beginning of the epidemic through 2004,<sup>1</sup> though they make up only 12.2 percent of the population.<sup>2</sup>
- Black and Hispanic women accounted for 81 percent of new AIDS diagnoses in 2004 among women.<sup>1</sup>
- HIV/AIDS was the leading cause of death among African American women ages 25–34 and the third leading cause for ages 35–44 in 2002. HIV/AIDS was also the fourth leading cause of death for Hispanic women ages 35–44.<sup>3</sup>

**Faith organizations within communities of color can play an important role in providing a foundation of hope, strength and unity in the fight against HIV/AIDS.**

### Ways You Can Help ...

- Preach abstinence, teach prevention. HIV transmission is 100 percent preventable through abstinence.
- Start an HIV/AIDS ministry in your parish to provide social and spiritual support
- Encourage your pastor to include HIV/AIDS in a homily
- Ask your parish school, religious education program and youth ministry to include HIV/AIDS education as part of the curriculum
- Promote self-esteem and self-love to help prevent self-destructive behaviors that put people in risky situations for contracting HIV
- Provide social and spiritual support to people living with HIV/AIDS
- Direct members of your church or faith community to places where they can be tested for HIV infection and get yourself tested to lead by example
- Plan an interfaith conference, town hall meeting or workshop about the impact of HIV/AIDS in your community
- Plan a prayer vigil to remember those who have died from AIDS and for those still fighting HIV
- Visit people with HIV/AIDS in the hospital, in nursing homes, or at home
- Organize a local rally or community event for annual national HIV/AIDS observances such as World AIDS Day on December 1st or National HIV Testing Day on June 27th
- Educate to fight stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS. HIV is not transmitted through casual day-to-day contact in the workplace, schools, or social settings. HIV is not transmitted through shaking hands, hugging, or a casual kiss. You cannot become infected from a toilet seat, a drinking fountain, a door knob, dishes, drinking glasses, food, or pets

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report 2004, Vol. 16. Available at : [www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats/2004surveillancereport.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats/2004surveillancereport.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2004. Available at <http://factfinder.census.gov>, Accessed Nov. 2005.

<sup>3</sup> National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 53, No. 17, March 2005.

