



Celebrating Black Gay Pride



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**B. J. Walker, Commissioner**

Georgia Department of Human Resources • Office of Communications • Dena J. Smith, Press Secretary

Two Peachtree Street, NW • Suite 29.426 • Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142  
Phone: 404-656-4937 • Fax: 404-651-6815

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 5, 2008  
For information, contact:  
Taka Wiley; 404-657-1385  
tlwiley@dhr.state.ga.us

**GEORGIA PARTICIPATES IN NEW HIV INCIDENCE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM**

ATLANTA (GA) – Georgia is one of 22 states that participated in the first collection of HIV incidence data as part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) new national HIV incidence surveillance system. The new system estimates that 56,300 individuals nationwide became newly infected with HIV in 2006 - a 40-percent increase from the previous annual estimate of 40,000 used for more than a decade.

Using the national HIV incidence data as its basis, the CDC estimates 2,100 people were newly infected with HIV in Georgia in 2006. The state's estimated HIV incidence rate in 2006 was 27.8 cases per 100,000 population and is higher than the estimated national HIV incidence rate of 22.8 cases per 100,000 population. This is consistent with previous data that have shown Georgia has a higher HIV/AIDS morbidity than the national average.

"This surveillance system used new technology to paint a clearer picture of HIV infections across the country," said Dr. Sandra Elizabeth Ford, acting director of the Georgia Division of Public Health. "With this study, we have a better understanding of where HIV is spreading, which allows us to focus our prevention efforts on those who are most at risk. These estimates remind us all that HIV continues to pose a very serious health threat across the nation and in our own state."

Among those diagnosed with HIV in Georgia in 2006, 79 percent were African-American. Fifty-two percent of those diagnosed with HIV in 2006 were reported without risk information. Of those with known risk information, 68 percent were among men who have sex with men (MSM). A third of those diagnosed were between the ages of 20 and 29 years old, indicating the significant toll HIV is having on young adults in Georgia. Nationally, recent reports have shown an increase in HIV diagnoses among young, African-American men who have sex with men (MSM).

## Pride Outreach Team



### S1C August Calendar

August 4, 11, 18, 25 – Evening Chat (MSM PLWA support group) - Mondays at 6:30pm

August - Club, street, park outreach done on weekends

August – Daily HIV testing 9am – 6pm

August 1 – HIV Testing at Atlanta City Department of Correction

August 7 – GSK dinner 6pm

August 7 – AID Atlanta's Fundraiser / Fox Theater

August 12 – Cobb County Community Resource Coalition Meeting 2pm

August 15 – NAPWA regional meeting 9am-6pm

August 15 – Atlanta City Department of Corrections Coalition meeting 2pm

August 19 – African American MSM Health Summit Planning Council meeting 10am

August 17 – HIV Testing Tabernacle Church

August 25 – GA Community Planning Group 9:30am – 5pm

August 27 – Cobb County Community Resource Coalition 2pm

August 27 – September 1 – Black Gay Pride

August – PLWA workshop Jerusalem House 6pm

August – PLWA workshop Edgewood House 1pm

August – PLWA Workshop Common Ground 11am

August+ – PLWA workshops Travelers Aid 11am

Please call office for monthly updates – 678-921-2706

# SAVE THE DATE:

OCTOBER 21-22, 2008 ■ ATLANTA, GA

## LEARN TO IMPLEMENT THE VOICES / VOCES INTERVENTION FOR HIV PREVENTION



This training will be implemented by the Border Health Foundation of Tucson, Arizona. Training facility hosted by Someone Cares, Inc., of Atlanta.

VOICES\* is a single-session, video-based program for the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. VOICES was designed to encourage condom use and improve condom negotiation skills among heterosexual African American and Latino men and women, aged 18 years and older, who are at very high risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

\*Video Opportunities for Innovative Condom Education and Safer Sex

#### CORE ELEMENTS INCLUDE:

- Viewing culturally-specific videos portraying condom negotiation
- Conducting small group skill-building sessions to work on overcoming barriers to condom use
- Educating program participants about different types of condoms and their features
- Distributing samples of condoms identified by participants as best meeting their needs

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact Rommie Bass (Executive Director of Someone Cares, Inc., of Atlanta) at 678-921-2706 or by email ([Someonecares11@aol.com](mailto:Someonecares11@aol.com)).

#### REGISTRATION

Registration is available online.

1. Go to [www.EffectiveInterventions.org](http://www.EffectiveInterventions.org)
2. Click on "Apply for Training" and then select "Voices."
3. Select the "Smyrna, GA" training and follow the steps.

<http://www.effectiveinterventions.org/go/apply-for-training/training-app&SessionTypeID=29>

## 3rd Executive Director's / Community Leader's Dinner



Hey Guys, thanks for coming out on 07/24/08 to the 3rd Executive Director's / Community Leader's Dinner. Your knowledge and skills are very important in shaping a successful coalition. The meeting was very productive and we are moving right along with establishing a vital need in the Atlanta community. Thanks to Dr. Gloria Taylor for facilitating the meeting and thanks to Jennie Trotter for agreeing to facilitate the next meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at Paschal's Restaurant. The minutes will be forwarded once Mrs. Garrett has prepared them. Thank you again for your time and talent.

August 6, 2008

## Latinos in Crisis



by Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.

*The Latino Commission on AIDS (LCOA) released a report on July 30 titled The Crisis of HIV/AIDS Among Latinos/Hispanics in United States, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. The report makes the case that HIV/AIDS "has reached a crisis level" for Latino people, which are the fastest growing population in the United States.*

Latino people represent about 15 percent of the U.S. population and its territories, but they were about 22 percent of the diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases in 2006. According to the report, Latino people were nearly three times more likely in 2006 to die of HIV/AIDS than non-Hispanic whites. Although they are the second most affected group behind African-American people, the report argues that Latino people often "are not consulted when decisions are made" by government on HIV/AIDS.

"The global community needs to be aware of these facts, our struggles and our commitment to advocate for a comprehensive response for those impacted by HIV/AIDS," says Dennis de Leon, LCOA president, in a statement. "I will continue advocating for all individuals to routinely test for HIV, for culturally competent prevention services and access to care, we all deserve that."

LCOA acknowledges in its report that important steps already were taken earlier this year. In January, a summit in Washington, DC, resulted in the creation of the National Latino AIDS Action Network (NLAAN), a coalition of individuals and organizations such as LCOA. NLAAN adopted a national action plan at the conclusion of that summit to guide its future efforts. In June, NLAAN released a document with federal policy recommendations.

The challenge now is making tangible progress toward implementation. The LCOA report intends to make progress on these issues by getting attention at the International AIDS Conference from August 3-8 in Mexico City.

"We need AIDS awareness both in Spanish and English in our community," says Guillermo Chacon, LCOA vice president, in a statement. "We need to reach every segment of our communities in rural and urban areas. We call for a commitment at all levels in confronting stigma associated with HIV/AIDS."

Other items discussed in the report include: improving access to care in Puerto Rico; developing programs that include faith-based Spanish-speaking groups; focusing on prevention efforts for young Latino gay men; and addressing stigma for gay and straight men and women.

The report cited three specific issues of concern: transnational HIV infection; late HIV testing; and HIV in Latino men who have sex with men (MSM).

Mexicans and Central Americans who migrate to the United States for work are considered at high risk for getting HIV, but the report challenges the assumption that they bring HIV with them ("[AIDS on the Border](#)" in the July/August 2008 issue of *POZ* magazine explores this issue).

People who are diagnosed with AIDS less than a year after they first test HIV positive are defined as late testers. Forty-two percent of Latino people in 2006 who tested HIV positive turned out to be late testers, which is a higher rate than any other ethnic or racial group. The report advocates making HIV testing routine.

Latino MSM are about 44 percent of all Latino AIDS cases, as reported in 2007 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The report urges the creation of "culturally competent programming" to reach Latino MSM.



For your Holiday Meals

### Volunteers Needed

S1C welcome all volunteers. We encourage you to volunteer with S1c which will give you an insight into how we serve the community here in Metro Atlanta. Your in-kind service help us keep the doors open.

### Our Mission

Our mission is to empower the African American and Latino MSM community, through HIV education and prevention methods, assisting them to take control of their lives in making sound sexual decisions. To broaden people living with AIDS knowledge base to help them make conscientious choices about available health care options, and enhance their skills to live a healthy and fulfilling life.



**Please Donate**

S1C is able to carry out our vital mission through your generous financial contributions. We are a 501(c) 3 agency. Your donations are tax deductible. Please give to help us, help others that are in need. Go to our website and make a donation through PayPal. Thank you.

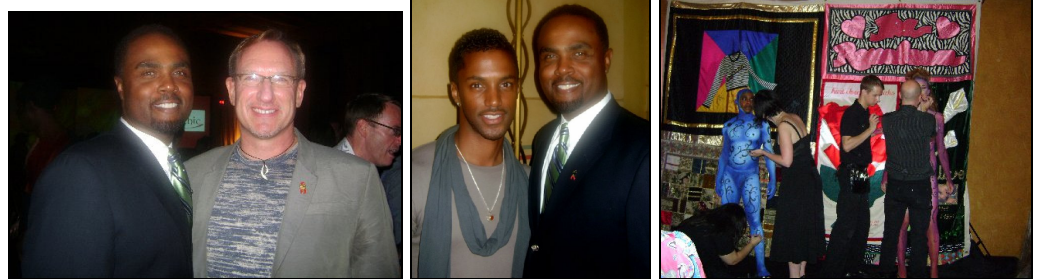
[www.someonecaresatl.org](http://www.someonecaresatl.org)



**May Donor Corner  
\$1000-\$5000 Level**



Darryl Stevens (Noah's Arc) at AID Atlanta's fundraiser....



Wow! Is all I can say about AID Atlanta's Premier Fashion Show Event. The fundraiser was held last night at the Fox Theater, in the Egyptian Ballroom. The fashion show was sponsored by Urban Chic, an Atlanta based high end boutique. The exquisite garments were modeled by local models that stepped high to the funky house music that filled the ballroom. Donors showed their approval of the urban wear, by loud cheers and applause that rang out as the models stepped onto the runway.

Between the ticket sells, silent auction, and the auctioning of prime flight seats, donated by Delta Airlines, the event raised close to \$100,000.00. The funds raised will assist the agency with HIV/AIDS prevention, medical and support services. The event was well attended by the Who's, Who of Atlanta. Actor Darryl Stevens (Noah's Arc) was one of the stars attending the event. Congratulations to Tracy Elliott and his staff for a job well done. Looking forward to next year's event.



## FREE HIV TEST



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THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF  
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HIV-1 AND HIV-2 RESULTS  
WITH ORAL FLUID

**FREE HIV testing** to all  
African American MSM.  
Please call the office to  
make an appointment.

**678-921-2706**

**S1C** now has a **Partner  
of Positive Support  
Group (PPSG)**. It is  
designed to meet the  
growing need to educate  
HIV negative partners on  
the difficult challenges  
faced in maintaining a  
healthy lifestyle and  
relationship.



# AIDS IN AMERICA:

Regional Meetings of the National Association of People with AIDS

**Atlanta, GA • August 15, 2008 at the Loudermilk Center • 9 a.m.– 6 p.m.**

**The National Association of People with AIDS is YOU.**

Come to the NAPWA Meeting in your region to:

- Learn the latest advances in treatment from the point of view of other positive people!
- Discuss your services locally!
- Find out what you can do about local AIDS policy and advocacy!
- Articulate your regional issues so that NAPWA can bring them to national service and policy tables!
- Get the chance to meet other positive people in your area!
- Be part of the National Association of People with AIDS!

**Whether you are living with HIV/AIDS, a service provider, or an ally, make your voice heard with NAPWA.**

Statement from the Advisory  
Committee of People with AIDS (1983)

**The Denver Principles** “We condemn attempts to label us as ‘victims,’ a term which implies defeat, and we are only occasionally ‘patients,’ a term which implies passivity, helplessness, and dependence upon the care of others. We are ‘People With AIDS.’”

**NATIONAL MINORITY  
AIDS COUNCIL**  
Building Healthier Communities

Building Leadership in Communities of Color to Address HIV/AIDS

ABOUT/CONTACT    CONFERENCES    PROGRAMS & TRAINING    PUBLIC POLICY    MEDIA    PUBLICATIONS    CBO TOOLS    JOBS    MEMBERSHIP



After 18 months of assurances by the Fontainebleau that its renovations would be completed by this coming September, NMAC just learned that the hotel will not be ready in time to accommodate the 2008 United States Conference on AIDS (USCA). Fortunately, we have been able to arrange an alternative venue for USCA: the Fort Lauderdale Convention Center, in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, which is located only twenty (20) miles north of Miami, FL. In addition, the meeting will take place on the exact same dates September 18-21, 2008.



LISTEN TO  
ALTERNATIVE  
PERSPECTIVES  
THE VOICE OF THE  
GLBTQ COMMUNITY  
AND OUR ALLIES  
ON  
WRFG 89.3FM  
TUESDAY 7PM TO 8PM

**HEPATITIS C Screening**



S1C is now partnering with  
ROCHE Laboratories to  
conduct Hepatitis C  
screening to High-at-Risk  
populations.



678-921-2706

**Inmates To Get Free Condoms In Solano County**

*Solano Prison Part Of Pilot Program*

POSTED: 4:49 pm PDT July 30, 2008  
UPDATED: 7:44 am PDT July 31, 2008

**VACAVILLE, Calif.** -- A controversial new pilot program providing free condoms for prison inmates is in its final planning stages.

The Solano State Prison is installing 10 condom distribution machines that will be stocked with 1,200 condoms a week.

The hope is that the condoms will limit the spread of sexually transmitted diseases among inmates.

"We know risk behavior is being reduced," said Mary Sylla of the Center for Health Justice. "We will eventually be reducing HIV infections by this measure."

A nonprofit group is supplying the prison with the machines and condoms, which comes out to costing a total of \$60,000.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has twice vetoed legislation that would have set up a statewide condom distribution, but last fall the governor ordered the Department of Corrections to conduct a one-year trial.

A union representing prison guard supervisors is opposed to the distribution of condoms.

The union said that condoms can be used as places to hide drugs or weapons. "They can put stuff in them (condoms) and use them to throw at staff or other inmates," said Chris Gold of the Prison Supervisor's Union.

It is also technically against the law for inmates to have sex, and the state said that won't change.

"Sexual activity in prisons is still illegal," said Terry Thornton of the California Corrections Department. "Inmates will be notified of that as well where the machines are located."

Smaller test programs have already been in place at county jails in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and supporters said so far there has never been a report of a condom being used as a weapon.

After the one-year trial run is complete, state officials will produce a report about whether the program was a success or not.

It will then be up to the governor to decide whether to expand the program statewide.

No taxpayer money will be used for the trial program.

**CONDOM MACHINES**

30: Condom Machines To Be Installed At Prison





## Global News

**August 11, 2008**

### **Improving HIV Prevention for Africans in England**

New data suggest that many Africans living in England do not feel in control of using condoms, discussing safe sex and avoiding HIV infection, Aidsmap.com reports.

According to a study developed by Sigma Research and the National African HIV Prevention Programme (NAHIP), more than a third of the 4,712 respondents identifying as African and living in England said that they did not feel in control of whether they contract HIV.

Just under a third of condom users polled said that they had experienced condom failure. Also just under a third of respondents would worry about the social stigma of carrying condoms.

Researchers suggest that interventions may help bolster confident condom use among this group and address behaviors that may cause condom breakage or failure.

“The findings clearly identify the kinds of HIV prevention that are most needed by African people living in England,” said the study’s lead researcher Catherine Dodds. “Having detailed information about which Africans need the most support will help the organizations that fund and deliver services to better target their scarce resources.”

**August 8, 2008**

### **Drug-Resistant HIV Found in China**

More than 17 percent of positive people in China possess a drug-resistant strain of HIV, Chinese researchers announced at the XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico City, Reuters reports.

Positive people can run out of options quickly as only seven of the more than 20 HIV drugs are available in China. The virus usually mutates into a drug-resistant form only after people have been on medication for some time. The mutant strain was found in Chinese families with low and unstable incomes.

The Chinese government estimated last year about 700,000 people are infected with HIV.

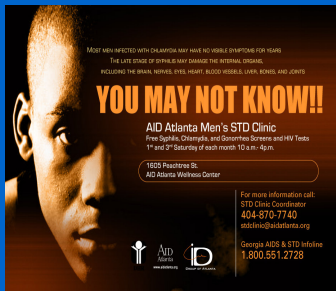
**August 6, 2008**

### **Experts Discuss Behavior Modification for HIV Prevention**

Experts at the XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico City on August 5 discussed ways in which behavior modification—such as delaying intercourse, using condoms, decreasing drug abuse, providing access to needle exchange programs and promoting male circumcision—could help countries worldwide with HIV prevention, *The New York Times* reports.

According to the article, experts claimed that most countries do not implement prevention programs where they are needed most, which they attribute to a shift in focus and resources from prevention to treatment as antiretroviral medications have transformed HIV/AIDS.

Researchers in the prevention and treatment field “need to get married today,” Myron S. Cohen, MD, of the University of North Carolina, told the Times. Stressing a more comprehensive two-pronged AIDS response, Dr. Cohen added, “We need to be one community.”



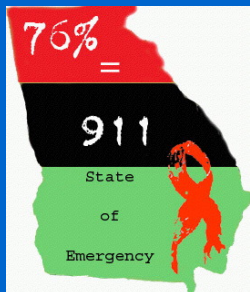
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#### New Client Advocacy Group

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Use your VOICE, It makes a difference.

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Fax: 678-921-2715  
someonecaresatl@aol.com  
www.someonecaresatl.org

## Politics

### ELECTIONS '08



#### Presidential Candidates McCain and Obama Respond to the Reported Increase in HIV Incidence

##### **Obama Responds to CDC Numbers on HIV/AIDS**

"We have now learned that 56,300 new HIV infections occurred in the United States in 2006, not 40,000 that had been previously cited. These new figures should bring new focus to our efforts to address AIDS and HIV here at home.

"As president, I am committed to developing a National AIDS Strategy to decrease new HIV infections and improve health outcomes for Americans living with HIV/AIDS. Across the nation, we also need to prevent the spread of HIV and get people into treatment by expanding access to testing and comprehensive education programs. This report also demonstrates the need for more timely data about HIV transmission so that we can effectively evaluate prevention efforts.

"Combating HIV/AIDS also demands closing the gaps in opportunity that exist in our society so that we can strengthen our public health. We must also overcome the stigma that surrounds HIV/AIDS a stigma that is too often tied to homophobia. We need to encourage folks to get tested and accelerate HIV/AIDS research toward an effective cure because we have a moral obligation to join together to meet this challenge, and to do so with the urgency this epidemic demands."

##### **Statement by John McCain on the CDC Report on HIV in America**

"The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) yesterday announced that in 2006 there were 56,300 new HIV infections in United States -- significantly higher than the previous estimate of 40,000 cases. More than a million Americans live with this devastating disease. As President, I will work closely with non-profit, government, and private sector stakeholders to continue the fight against HIV/AIDS. By focusing efforts on reducing drug costs through greater market competition, promoting prevention efforts, encouraging testing, targeting communities with high infection rates, strengthening research and reducing disparities through effective public outreach, we as a nation can make great progress in fighting HIV/AIDS."



## Medical News

### Having Children a Priority for Many Positive Women

A substantial number of HIV-positive women surveyed in a Johns Hopkins University study believe that it is acceptable for women living with the virus to become pregnant, with half reporting that they intend to start or continue having children, researchers reported at the XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico City. Many of the women, however, were unaware that antiretroviral (ARV) therapy, when used during pregnancy and delivery, can profoundly reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to the baby.

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## **EVENTS!**

# 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Atlanta Black Gay Pride Celebration

The world's largest Pride celebration  
for Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people

2008 theme  
"Time to Act"

August 27 - September 1, 2008

For official activities, travel and hotel information, visit  
[www.atlantablackgaypride.com](http://www.atlantablackgaypride.com)



## In Memoriam

### Another soldier has transitioned on...



**Ronald L. Johnson**, MA, MS, Director of Technical Assistance, was responsible for leading the management, development, and implementation of CAEAR Foundation technical assistance programs. He managed the technical assistance program budgets, attainment of program deliverables, and provides leadership to the technical assistance team.

We are extremely saddened to inform you that Ronald L. Johnson III, Director of Technical Assistance at the CAEAR Foundation, passed away August 9, 2008 in a fatal car accident. We are all in shock over this situation, and that someone as vibrant and life affirming as Ronald was taken so early and tragically from us. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Ronald's family and friends. Posted below are details about the wake and funeral services. When we have information on where to send memorial donations, we will post that information here as well.

Please join us in keeping Ronald's family in your thoughts and prayers.

**Wake:**

Friday, August 15, 2008, 7:00 - 8:00 PM,  
Southview Mortuary,  
2731 US Highway 41 South,  
Tifton, GA 31794  
(229)387-7046

**Funeral Service:**

Saturday, August 16, 2008, 1:30 PM,  
Friendship Missionary Baptist Church,  
Tifton, GA 31794  
(229)382 - 4635

**Someone Cares, The question now is, Do you?**

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