



10 WAYS HEALTH DEPARTMENTS CAN PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL NATIVE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY (NNHAAD) March 20, 2010

Work with Native Americans, Alaska Natives and Hawaiian Natives and tribal communities to:

1. **Host a brown bag for health department staff to educate them** about the Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities in your state or locality – including those residing in cities, rural areas and tribal communities. Conduct discussions and/or cultural competency training with state and local health department staff to examine relevant issues and trends in Native American communities. NASTAD's [Technical Assistance Report: Activities to Address HIV/AIDS in Native American Communities](#) and [Native Americans and HIV/AIDS: Key Issues and Recommendations for Health Departments](#) may serve as frameworks to target discussions.
2. **Schedule a briefing with Native CBOs and agencies** on the programs and services for Native Americans in your state or locality. Support staff working with Native communities on outreach regarding NNHAAD events.
3. **Use NNHAAD activities as a catalyst for staff to include Native Americans in their programmatic work** whenever possible and necessary throughout the year. Support local planning groups that are organizing NBHAAD events. Offer office space to conduct meetings, announce local events on your website, in bulletins and newsletters, and provide awareness materials and supplies.
4. **Examine your collaboration with the [Indian Health Service \(IHS\)](#)** and other agencies providing services in Indian country. View the [podcast](#) by IHS' HIV/AIDS Program lead, Commander Scott Giberson
5. **Reach out to Native agencies to co-sponsor testing initiatives.**
6. **Issue a press release and organize a press conference.** Invite elected officials, community stakeholders and local media and encourage community leaders to speak. Link to [PSAs](#) from the Indian Health Service and customize [NNHAAD materials](#) for local use.
7. **Hold community suppers focused on HIV/AIDS awareness.** Sponsor, organize, and/or plan a health fair or community supper to educate the public on general health issues, focus on issues that affect/impact Native Americans and include information on HIV prevention, treatment and testing.
8. **Sponsor a walk and candlelight ceremony to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in Native American communities.**
9. **Invite elders in your communities to meet with you,** or partner with a Tribal AIDS Coordinator to do so.
10. **Consider honoring special guests and key champions for Native Americans and HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis with the [Native Red Ribbon HIV/AIDS Pendleton Blanket.](#)**

For more information, tips and resources to assist you in planning a NNHAAD event or activity visit: <http://www.happ.colostate.edu/nad.html>.