



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness and Information Day encourages action

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Feb. 7 is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness and Information Day. This annual observance day was created to raise awareness among African Americans about HIV/AIDS and its devastating impact on African American communities. The day is part of a national mobilization effort to get African Americans to learn more about the threat posed by the disease, get tested, get treated and make a commitment to fight HIV/AIDS.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness and Information Day is a day to remember those infected and affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic-especially African Americans who are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. Since 1981 when the first cases were diagnosed, AIDS has killed more than 20 million people, with African Americans accounting for 40 percent of those deaths.

As of Dec. 31, 2006, there had been 6,108 cases of HIV infection and 8,630 cases of AIDS reported to the Alabama Department of Public Health. This is a combined total of 14,738 cases reported, with African Americans representing 63.3 percent of this total while 26 percent of Alabama's population is African American.

In recognition of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness and Information Day, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has launched a Web site which offers information on prevention, testing, treatment, and vaccine research. The observance was created by a community-based coalition. To learn more about this group, visit www.blackaidsday.org.

For more information regarding Alabama's HIV/AIDS statistics or program information, please call 800-228-0469 or visit www.adph.org/aids.

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