



SHARP News



National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day February 7, 2003

Sexual Health and Responsibility Program (SHARP)

Navy Environmental Health Center, Directorate for Population Health, 620 John Paul Jones Circle Suite 1100, Portsmouth VA 23708-2103
voice: (757) 953-0974 (DSN 377) fax: x-0688 homepage: www.nehc.med.navy.mil/sharp e-mail: sharp@nehc.nar.med.navy.mil
SHARPNews is compiled from various sources. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Navy

An excerpt from CDC's MMWR, February 7, 2003 / 52(05);81

"The third annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day will be February 7. The event will highlight the problem of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the black community and aim to expand black involvement in preventing HIV. Supported by CDC through the Minority AIDS Initiative, the effort is led by a coalition of nongovernment organizations committed to stopping the spread of HIV and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the black community. Blacks comprise approximately 12% of the population but account for more than half of all new HIV diagnoses each year. The 2001 rate of reported AIDS cases among blacks is 59.6 per 100,000 population, approximately three times higher than the rate for Hispanics and nine times the rate for whites".

SHARP Note:

HIV infections in the Department of the Navy mirror these national trends, with black Sailors and Marines also disproportionately infected. For example, during the three years from 2000 through 2002, 57% of the 285 newly diagnosed HIV infections among active duty enlisted Sailors and Marines have been among black members. During those years, the annual seroconversion rates (number tested compared to number positive) have been 4 to 6 times higher for black Sailors than for white Sailors. Likewise, the rates among active duty black enlisted Marines have been 3 to 9 times higher than for white Marines.

The Naval leadership and health care challenge is to discover the relevant factors and how to best address risk reduction effectively and without stigmatization.

Information about HIV/AIDS in the black community is available from CDC at <http://www.cdcnpi.org> and <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/od/nchstp.html>.

Additional information on National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is available at <http://www.blackaidsday.org>.