

Resources

The American Indian Community House, Inc. HIV/AIDS Project

www.aich.org/

134 W. 29th St., 4th floor
New York, NY 10001

212-598-0100

National Native American AIDS Prevention Center

www.nnaapc.org/

720 S. Colorado Blvd.
Suite 650-S
Denver CO 80246

720-382-2244

HIV Educators In Your Community

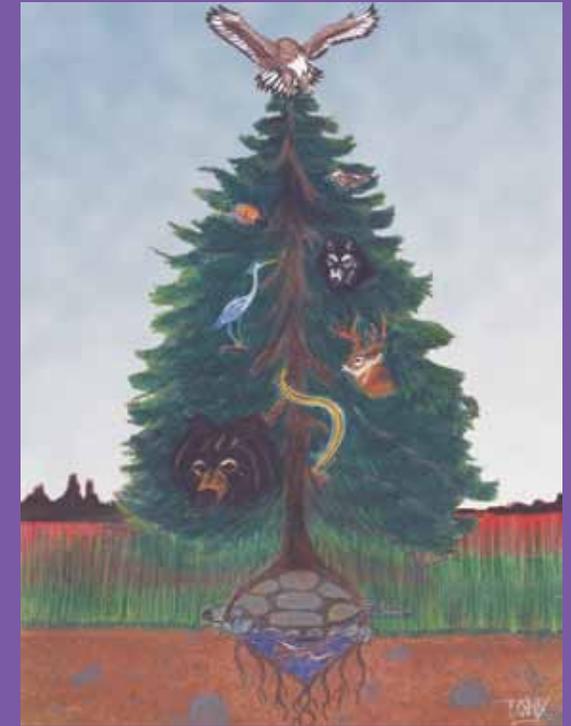
Native American Community Services of Erie and Niagara Counties coordinated a Native American training initiative that trained more than 75 native people to educate their communities about HIV and AIDS. Almost every Six Nations and Shinnecock community has Native American people who you can talk with about HIV and AIDS. It won't be hard to find out who in your area has knowledge about HIV and AIDS. Educators can tell you how HIV is spread, how to protect yourself, and where to get testing or treatment in your area. If you are living with HIV, educators can help lend support when you need it.

Local Contact:

Artwork by:

Tony Wheeler - cover
Mohawk

Jay Clause - other
Tuscarora



Protect Our Nations From HIV/AIDS

Developed by the New York State Department of Health in conjunction with Native American Community Services of Erie and Niagara Counties, Inc. and the American Indian Community House Outreach Education Coordinator Network.

We are a strong people. Our strength comes from within our communities, our families and ourselves. We have experienced problems and survived. Once again, our community is being challenged. A virus is threatening our circle of life. This virus is HIV. HIV knows no boundaries. It affects ALL people. It doesn't care if you are Native American or if you live on or off the reservation. We must learn about HIV and be prepared to protect our future generations.

What Is AIDS?

AIDS stands for **Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome**. It is a disease caused by a virus called HIV.

What Is HIV?

HIV stands for **Human Immunodeficiency Virus**.

HIV breaks down the body's immune system until it is unable to fight off infections and cancers.

How Is HIV Spread?

A person with HIV can pass the virus to others by:

- ☀️ having sex without a condom.
- ☀️ sharing needles or works to shoot drugs.

The virus can also be passed from an infected woman to her infant during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding.

A person with HIV can have it for many years without being sick or knowing he or she is infected. You cannot tell just by looking at someone if he or she has HIV.

Alcohol and other mood-altering drugs can increase the chance that you will have sex without a condom or share needles to inject drugs.

Sharing needles for tattooing or body piercing may also put you at risk for HIV infection.

How Is HIV Not Spread?

HIV IS NOT spread by:

- ☀️ insects or animals
- ☀️ the water you drink
- ☀️ the food you eat
- ☀️ the air you breathe
- ☀️ shaking hands, hugging, kissing, sharing food or eating utensils, and
- ☀️ being around someone with HIV/ AIDS

How Can We Protect Our Nation?

More than ever, it is important for Indian people to talk with each other about HIV and AIDS.

We have a responsibility unto the seventh generation - to the faces looking to us from the earth. Share the facts. Teach our children.

HIV testing is the only way to find out if you are infected with HIV. If you do not have HIV, you can protect yourself so you can stay that way. If you do have HIV, you can take action to protect your partners from becoming infected and get treatment to help you stay healthy.

If you want to be tested for HIV, you have a choice. You can get tested:

- ☀️ by your doctor or at a health clinic and your test result will be put in your confidential medical file.
- ☀️ at an anonymous HIV testing site where you will not have to give your name and no record will be kept.

For information about anonymous testing sites, call 1-800-541-2437.

The name of anyone who tests positive for HIV is reported to the Health Department, but this is kept completely confidential and is used to help track and limit the spread of AIDS in New York State.

