

On October 15, 2008, our nation will observe National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD). This observance day provides us with an opportunity to raise awareness of HIV and encourage HIV testing in Latino communities. Attached please find a statement from Dr. Kevin Fenton, Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP), and a statement from Maria E. Alvarez, Acting Associate Director of the NCHHSTP Hispanic/Latino Executive Committee at CDC.

CDC is committed to reducing HIV/AIDS disparities in Latino communities. This requires expanding the breadth and reach of comprehensive prevention strategies, which includes increasing HIV testing among Latinos. Increasing the number of previously undiagnosed Latino men and women who know their HIV status is important so they can benefit from life-saving medical and prevention services. The Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP) has analyzed the 2005 national HIV counseling and testing data among Hispanics/Latinos attending publicly funded counseling and testing sites. This analysis showed that, in 2005, 20% of HIV tests were among Hispanics/Latinos. HIV testing among Hispanics/Latinos was 1.5 times more likely to identify previously undiagnosed individuals than among non-Hispanic whites. In addition, among Hispanics/Latinos, previously undiagnosed individuals were more likely to be identified among men who have sex with men and injection drug-using clients and where services were provided within non-clinical settings. More information on these data is presented in a special DHAP report, which will be available at [http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/hispanics/resources/reports/ct\\_hisp\\_pr\\_usvi/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/hispanics/resources/reports/ct_hisp_pr_usvi/index.htm).

I hope you will find the attached information helpful as you conduct NLAAD activities aimed at increasing awareness of the devastating and disproportionate effects of HIV/AIDS in the Latino community and inspiring community action in reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS among Latinos. For more information, including a Spanish language version of this email and attached statement, fact sheets, slide sets, and other resources, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/hispanics>.

Sincerely,

/Richard Wolitski/  
Richard Wolitski  
Director (Acting),  
CDC Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention