

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day

[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is observed each year to increase awareness of the disproportionate impact of HIV on the Hispanic or Latino population in the United States and dependent territories. This year's theme, *To End AIDS, Commit to Act*, was chosen to mobilize Hispanics or Latinos to commit to ending HIV in their communities.

In 2011, Hispanics or Latinos represented 17 percent of the total population in the United States, but accounted for 21 percent of the estimated diagnoses of HIV infection among adults and adolescents. Hispanic or Latino men who have sex with men are disproportionately affected. In 2011, an estimated 79 percent of diagnosed HIV infections among Hispanic or Latino males were attributed to male-to-male sexual contact. During this period, Latinas or Hispanic women accounted for 16 percent of all women diagnosed with HIV infection. Eighty-six percent of all diagnosed HIV infections among Latinas or Hispanic women were attributed to heterosexual contact.

This National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is a reminder that we have the power to take control of our health and protect ourselves against HIV. There are things you can do today to win the fight against HIV in our communities:

- Learn the facts about HIV.
- Get tested for HIV— an important prevention strategy recommended by CDC for reducing the spread of HIV.
- If you are sexually active, use condoms consistently and correctly to protect yourself and your partners.
- Talk to your doctor about pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, which is taking medicine daily to prevent HIV infection
- Also, talk to your doctor about post-exposure prophylaxis, or PEP, which is taking HIV medicine daily for 28 days after an isolated risky exposure to HIV.
- If you are a person living with HIV, get and stay in treatment.
- Speak out against stigma and other forms of discrimination associated with HIV. Speaking openly about HIV can reduce the stigma that keeps too many from seeking the support and the testing, prevention, and treatment services they need.

If we hope to end the HIV epidemic in the United States, we must slow the spread of HIV among Hispanics or Latinos—the nation's fastest growing ethnic population. Today is an opportunity for community-based organizations, public health and community leaders, parents, and business leaders, both within and outside the Hispanic or Latino communities, to work together to stop the spread of HIV. Remember that HIV is *completely preventable*. If we work together, we can achieve an AIDS-free generation in our lifetime.

[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.